

# **COURSE SYLLABUS**

## ***SOC 218*** ***Introduction to Social Problems***

**University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**  
**CRN #96809 (3 Credits)**

**Summer 2016, Online**  
**June 6<sup>th</sup> to August 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Instructor: Dr. Michael Dzieszinski**

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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Via email anytime, by appointment in my office, or Skype
<b>Email:</b>	dzesins@hawaii.edu
<b>Class Meeting Times:</b>	course is conducted online, Mon – Sat
<b>Course Websites:</b>	laulima.hawaii.edu revel.pearson.com

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### **I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course explores significant social problems in contemporary society, examines the process of how these social problems arise in society, and considers possible solutions. As an introduction to this topic, the course will focus on understanding how and why social problems develop and the controversies that accompany them. In order to undertake this task, the course will be organized into three main units. 1) The first unit of the course will consider different theoretical perspectives as well as social science research methods used to identify and understand social problems. We will use these theories and research methods to develop a deeper insight on the topics to be covered in units 2 and 3 of the course. 2) The second unit of the course will examine specific social problems associated with well being, and the social inequality issues that surround them. 3) The third unit of the course will discuss institutional and organizational policies that develop as a result of social problems and the outcomes of those social policy approaches.

### **II. STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

When students complete this course, they should be able to:

- 1) Describe and understand the basic theoretical approaches applied to social problems.
- 2) Identify social problems and offer analysis on the core reasons the issue has developed.
- 3) Evaluate social problems from differing viewpoints and perspectives and identify the strengths and flaws of each stance.
- 4) Understand how social problems and their processes interacts with, and can maintain, social inequalities in society.
- 5) Apply sociological analysis of social problems to policy making and its outcomes in society.
- 6) Become practiced writing social science papers and using the American Sociological Association (ASA) citation style.

## Method of Instruction – Online

An online format has several advantages over a classroom environment.

### 1) *Advantages*

One advantage of an online course is that every student has full access to the class source material via an Internet connection any time of day, at his or her convenience, without the hassle of commuting to campus or finding a parking spot. Another advantage, is instead straining to see a projector in a classroom, sharing a textbook, or needing to photocopy, most all of the materials you will need to complete this course are available on *laulima.hawaii.edu* and *revel.pearson.com*. In fact, you need not even sit a conventional desktop PC, you can use a smart phone or tablet to access and participate in the course while on the go.

### 2) *Considerations*

There are also considerations for an online course. One is that you should have reliable access to an Internet connection with decent bandwidth, as you will need it to watch online video. Further, you will need to be able to log in several times a week in order to satisfy the requirements for this class. **Missed deadlines will not be excused by “my internet was down”**- you should make arrangements for Internet access alternatives *before* critical deadlines. Another consideration is you should have a working knowledge for basic Internet usage and computer software. *See below for a list of required computer software for this class, all of which are free to download.*

### 3) *Responsibilities*

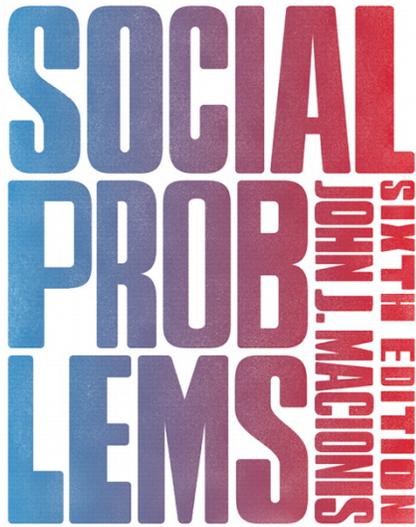
It should be noted that an online course has the same responsibilities as a course conducted in a regular classroom. As with a classroom, there is a class participation component for this online course. And with an online format, participation takes the form of assigned text and videos, chapter quizzes, and weekly forum discussions with your online classmates about the assigned readings and topics.

If you show up late in a regular classroom, say the day after a scheduled class, the room will be empty- no one will be there to hear your input. The same applies to this online course, **weekly assigned materials such as Revel chapter quizzes and Laulima forum participation are time critical**. If you try to post your work the week *after* it was assigned, access will be locked out and you not receive credit.

This is because the rest of the class has moved on to the next week’s content. It’s unreasonable to expect your classmates to respond to late forum posts. Would you expect the entire class to show up again the day after the scheduled classroom session because *you* didn’t show the first time?

***Although this class is online, there are real consequences for action or inaction in the class: if you do not log into the course and do the assigned work each week, you will receive a failing grade on your transcripts.***

### III. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/MEDIA



**Author:** Macionis, John J

**ISBN:** 013390959 (Book and Digital Bundle)

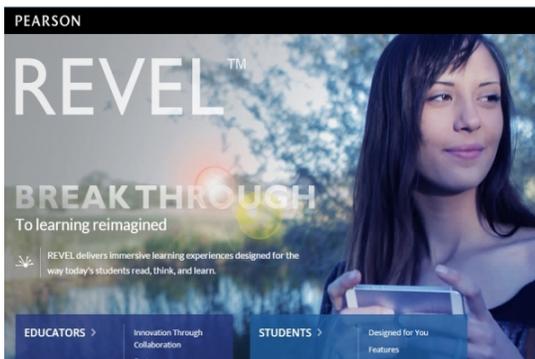
**TITLE:** *Social Problems*, Books a la Carte Edition Plus REVEL 6/E

**Edition:** 6.0

**Copyright Year:** 2015

**Publisher:** Pearson

**Required or Optional:** Required



#### IMPORTANT:

This ISBN is a textbook/web bundle *that includes the 1) Macionis Text, 2) Access keycode to REVEL (Pearson portal) and 3) Macionis eText.*

*To complete weekly quizzes, a significant part of your course grade, you MUST access the publisher's Revel web portal, meaning you must purchase Revel access.*

Each chapter of the Macionis textbook, *The Sociology Project 2.0*, is written by leading sociologists in that field of study. Often they will be featured in videos within the chapter. What better way to learn about sociology than from experts who are passionate about an area of study? Further, each chapter of Macionis introduces a core sociological concept as applied to contemporary issues and events in the world. The Pearson Revel website provides an eText version of Macionis, as well as integrated study guides, section mini-quizzes, and the final chapter quiz.

#### **Macionis Chapters and a 10-Week Online Course**

The Macionis textbook has 17 chapters of content while this summer class is only 10 weeks long. A primary goal of a survey course in the field of sociology, such as social problems, is to help the student become familiar with the core topics in contemporary sociology. And, it is hoped, armed with this knowledge, encourage further interest in specific areas of study. For this reason, and to avoid burnout by covering too much material, we will only cover 10 chapters of the Macionis textbook that represent foundational areas of sociological study.

Although we are essentially only covering the two-thirds of the Macionis textbook in this course, it is my hope that if you choose to take future sociology courses, that you will explore those topics that I was forced to omit this semester, particularly if an area skipped was of special interest to you. The Sociology department at UH offers courses that focus on many areas of study in sociology: education, health and medicine, crime and deviance, as

well as social movements. I encourage students to skim the unassigned chapters as primers if they are considering taking those topics at the 200 to 400 course level.

***Macionis chapters are short!***

Before panic ensues on heavy reading assignments, I should point out here that the Macionis chapters are short and laden with pictures and graphics. For example, Chapter 1, minus info-graphics and pictures, *is roughly only 22 pages of text*. Further, should you need help with a topic or concept, the chapter material is heavily supplemented with online videos and interactive study guides at the Revel web portal.

***Watch the chapter numbering!***

Because I tried to save students money by ordering the standard Macionis text, all of the original 17 chapters are found in the paper Macionis 2.0 textbook, along with the original chapter numbering. In this course syllabus, before diving in to read, *please check that the Macionis textbook chapter title and number matches the schedule for that week!* You should be careful to double check after Chapter 6, as we start skipping chapters the last four weeks of the term. The course schedule at the end of the syllabus clearly outlines the Macionis chapters we will use for each week of the course.

## Online Components to SOC 218

This course is administered via the UH online web portal <[laulima.hawaii.edu](http://laulima.hawaii.edu)> with the majority of course materials to found at the textbook publisher's REVEL web site <[revel.pearson.com](http://revel.pearson.com)>.

1. *You will need your UH email address and password* in order to sign into **laulima.hawaii.edu**. Please get into the habit of checking Laulima at the start of the week for any course announcements. Also make sure to check your UH email account each week as vital or time-critical announcements will be emailed to you there.
2. *You must buy the Macionis textbook bundle in order to gain access to **revel.pearson.com***. The Macionis eText and interactive course content *is located at the REVEL web portal*. This includes the e-textbook, assignment calendar, audio and video resources, study guides, chapter section mini-quizzes, and final chapter quizzes.
3. Once a student has purchased the Macionis textbook bundle, the provided online access code will allow registration on the Pearson Revel site. To set up REVEL and eText access, you will need to register at: <<https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/xtwcli>>.
4. The REVEL website should walk you through the signup process. Should you need further help, please watch this video: <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pavN9npktBI>>
5. You'll need a multi-platform web browser that is up-to-date. Check for software updates within the browser if you are not sure.
  - a. Firefox [www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/](http://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/)
  - b. Chrome [www.google.com/chrome](http://www.google.com/chrome)
  - c. Safari [www.apple.com/safari/](http://www.apple.com/safari/)
6. *I have found Firefox to pre-configured best to properly display text, Java, and video on Revel*, but you still might to adjust some browser preferences for proper playback. Should you need help configuring your browser's cookies, extensions, and permissions so that REVEL sound and video plays properly, check this Pearson help page for further details on registration access and browser configurations: <[http://247pearsoned.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/1636](http://247pearsoned.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1636)>

### III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

#### Weekly Work Flow

##### Deadlines

##### **Phase One**

Begin Monday



##### **Phase Two**

COMPLETE BY:  
Midnight, Thursday



##### **Phase Three**

COMPLETE BY:  
Midnight, Friday

##### Task

- Check the Weekly Schedule on *laulima.hawaii.edu*.
  - Log into the Macionis REVEL site at *revel.pearson.com*
  - **Read the assigned Macionis chapter** either in REVEL or on paper.
  - **Listen to the in-chapter audio and watch the videos** on REVEL.
  - **Study the interactive chapter activities** in REVEL chapter sections.
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- **Take the online chapter section mini-quizzes** as you progress through the chapter online in REVEL. All section mini-quizzes should be complete by Thursday, midnight.
  - **Shared Writing Exercise.** Each week the class will have a shared writing exercise. **This will be located in the Laulima Forums** and will be graded. This is the online equivalent to a class discussion session, where after posting your initial response to the topic question, you can further explore ideas or questions about the textbook concepts within an open class discussion. Your first post is due by Thursday, midnight.
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- **Make sure to fully utilize the REVEL Conclusion section of the chapter each week.** *This is a video and flashcard review of the chapter to help you prepare for the final chapter quiz.*
  - **Take the online final chapter quiz in REVEL** by Friday, midnight.
  - On Laulima, read everyone's first forum responses in Phase Two and **respond to at least TWO other students in the forums** by Friday, midnight.

##### **Task One: Check the Weekly Schedule in Laulima**

- The start of each week, *you should first log into laulima.hawaii.edu to review the class schedule calendar and check for any class announcements.*
- Log into the Revel site at *revel.pearson.com*
  - On the bottom of the Revel interface is a calendar. Navigate to the dates listed to see what has been assigned. *You will typically see new material on Monday, chapter content due Thursday, and the chapter quiz due on Friday.*
  - Weekly assigned materials are also listed in this syllabus, and on the left Laulima menu labeled Schedule.
    - Chapter readings and exercises **are listed on Mondays.**
    - The first Laulima forum post, and Revel chapter mini-quizzes, are **due by Thursday.**
    - The Revel final chapter quiz, and the two follow up Laulima forum posts, **are due by Friday.**

**Task Two: Studying the Chapter Materials in Revel**

- Once logged into Revel, click on a date on the calendar strip on the bottom of the interface to navigate to that day's assignments.
- A week before the due date of chapter materials, the chapter sections will unlock in the calendar strip on the bottom of the main Revel interface window.
- Click the calendar date to show available chapter sections in the main Revel window.
- Next, click a chapter section to expand it and load the course material in the main Revel window. Clicking on a chapter section (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, etc.) will load the interactive Macionis eTextbook and along with it's nested videos and audio. *Make sure to watch and listen to all supplemental materials.*
  - **On Mondays**, click the chapter introduction to review:
    - Chapter Learning Objectives and
    - The chapter's "Big Questions." Throughout the chapter, try to discover those answers, because at the end of the chapter you will find "The Big Questions Revisited."
  - **You have until Thursday, midnight** to read either the textbook or the Revel eText of the chapter.
    - You can also listen to chapter audio, but you should scan the Revel eText chapter for questions, charts, information boxes, and required in-line chapter videos not found in either the paper textbook or the audio file.
    - Make sure to watch the chapter videos found throughout the chapter eText in Revel.
  - **You have until Friday, midnight** in Revel to navigate the Chapter Conclusion section in order to review chapter videos and flashcards for terms and concepts before you must take the final chapter quiz on Friday.

**Task Three: Chapter Section (1.1, 1.2, 1.3 etc.) Mini-Quizzes and the Final Chapter Quiz in Revel**

- As you finish each section of a chapter (1.1, 1.2, 1.3...) you must take short 3-5 question mini-quizzes to test your comprehension. These should also help you prepare for the final chapter quiz due on Fridays.
- Complete reviewing the chapter Conclusion section (the last chapter section before the final quiz). Ideally, after reading the chapter you should review the videos and flashcards in the Conclusion section order to see what weak spots you'll need to concentrate on when you take the final chapter quiz.
- Finally, take the Final Chapter Quiz, ***this is due by each Friday, midnight.***

**Task Four: Laulima Forum Participation**

- **First post:** After reading the Macionis chapter, log into **laulima.hawaii.edu**. On the left menu, navigate to the Forums.
  - Apply your newfound mastery of the chapter topic to the weekly topic with a forum post in the single clearly marked forum thread on the Laulima site. Your first post should be at least a couple paragraphs.
  - *Note: forum posts are your primary class participation grade in an online class and 25% of your final course grade.* Don't skip this task thinking you'll pass the course with better than a "C".
  - **This initial post is due in the Laulima forums by Thursday, midnight.**
- **Follow up posts:** read your classmates' initial posts and provide feedback to at least TWO other students in the same forum thread. *You should contribute in the same single forum thread where everybody in the class is also commenting.* Short single sentence responses like "I agree", "I think so too" are not feedback. Short responses will not count towards the participation score.
  - **Post your two follow up responses to other students in Laulima by Friday, midnight.**

## IV. GRADING CRITERIA

### There are 4 components to your grade in this course:

- 1) **Revel Final Chapter Quizzes (10 Chapter Quizzes).** Each student must take the Revel Final Chapter Quiz by Friday of each week at 11:59 PM Hawaii time.
  - **The 10 Chapter Exams in Revel comprise 35% of the course grade.**
- 2) **Revel Mini-quizzes (Chapter Section quizzes).** Each student must complete all of the weekly assigned section quiz materials in the Revel Course Schedule.
  - **The mini-quizzes in the 10 Revel Content Units comprise 15% of the course grade.**
- 3) **Laulima Weekly Forum Shared Discussion posts.** Students are required to contribute to a discussion about the weekly chapter on the Laulima site forums. The discussion forum presents the opportunity for online classmates to directly interact and collectively discuss/analyze the weekly topic.
  - **Weekly discussion Forum participation in Laulima comprises 25% of the course grade.**
    - a. *Due Thursday of each week, each student must first contribute a forum post* relevant to the discussion about the assigned topic of that week. Content should be at least a few paragraphs in length. You may, of course, write your first post as early as Sunday.
    - b. *After the first batch of forum posts, each student should respond to at least TWO other students in the weekly discussion forums by Friday.* You should confine your posts to the one threaded discussion about the weekly topic. You are encouraged to post more than the minimum three required posts, each week as a lively debate on weekly topic is the point of this participation assignment.
    - c. **To summarize:** Your first post is due on Thursday and TWO follow-up responses by *Friday*. Posts should indicate you are actively reading the assigned material and other students' posts. Further, your posts should respond to the weekly topic in a meaningful way. Terse responses such as "I agree" and "I think so too" are not meaningful forum discourse and will receive no credit.
    - d. *If your posts are time-stamped the week the topic was assigned, you receive full class participation credit. However, if you did not post the week of the assignment, trying to post on past-due topics later in the semester will grant no participation points for that week. Further, most weekly threads lock and do not allow new posts after the assigned week has passed.*
- 4) **Midterm and Final Essay.** In addition to the online weekly content, I'd like to see if you can synthesize what you have studied in the class into a cogent academic discussion.
  - **The Midterm and Final Essay, together, comprise 25% of your course grade.**
  - **The Mid-term essay paper should be a minimum of 500 words, and the Final Essay 750 words.**
  - **You will pick one social issue topic taken from the assigned chapters.** The Midterm will draw from chapter material covered in weeks 1-5, and the Final Essay will draw from chapter material covered in weeks 6-10.
  - **Essay guidelines:**
    - The essay paper is not a summary of the reading material assigned, nor a copy/paste of the weekly Laulima forum discussions.
    - The essay should have the flow of a social science paper: a clear thesis statement related to a sociological problem, a body of 2-3 examples to support your argument, and a conclusion that uses the sociology chapter material you have learned to perform an analysis of the social issue and perhaps offer some logical solutions.
    - The paper should indicate that the student has read/watched the weekly materials by citing theories in the text that support the essay argument.

- In addition to the assigned chapter materials, you can cite outside material as sources to support your arguments, provided they are properly cited in the ASA citation format within the paper\*.
- To post your completed essay, log into **laulima.hawaii.edu**, and navigate to the left menu titled Essays. Find the appropriate link and attach your completed essay as a PDF or .doc file before the listed deadline. *The .doc format is preferred by the instructor.*

*\* Note: Guidelines for the American Sociological Association’s (ASA) format for research papers and citation can be found as a PDF at <Laulima/SOC 218/Resources/ASA Style Guide Lite For Research Papers.PDF>*

## Grading

The final grade for the course will be based on the total number of points earned in the four components of the course. The weight assigned for each component is as follows:

Component	Number	x Point Value	= Total points	Grade %
Quizzes*	10	35	350	35
Forum Posts	30 (min.)	8	250	25
Mini-Quizzes*	10 chapters	10	150	15
Midterm Essay	1	100	100	10
Final Essay	1	150	150	15
<b>Total Possible</b>			<b>1000</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Note that the point values assigned in Revel for quizzes are not directly imported into the final UH course grade, just the letter grade. *For example, Revel chapter quizzes are worth 75 points at the Pearson web portal. A 63/75 score on a Revel chapter quiz is a B+. That B+ will be recorded in the UH grade book as a rounded up score of 30/35.*

### Final Grades

97-100%	A+	82-84%	B	69-71%	C-
93-96	A	79-81	B-	65-68	D+
89-92	A-	75-78	C+	62-64	D
85-88	B+	72-74	C	59-61	D-
				0-58	F

## University Policies

### 1) KOKUA – Students with Disabilities

For students with disabilities who may feel the need for assistance during the semester, please feel free to contact me in private. Further, we can work with the KOKUA Program to offer additional assistance. If you are not familiar with the KOKUA program, here is their contact information:

<http://www.hawaii.edu/kokua/>

### 2) Academic Integrity - Cheating & Plagiarism

Students in this course are expected to comply with the University of Hawaii’s Policy on Academic Integrity. *“The integrity of a university depends upon academic honesty, which consists of independent learning and research. Academic dishonesty includes cheating and plagiarism. The following are examples of violations of the Student Conduct Code that may result in suspension or expulsion from UH Manoa.”*

The original source, and further detail on these policies, can be found here:

<http://www.catalog.hawaii.edu/about-uh/campus-policies1.htm>

It is the responsibility of each student to know the University of Hawaii code of conduct, and in relevance to this class, the rules regarding and the consequences of cheating and plagiarism. Ignorance of these rules will not excuse any misconduct. To quote from page 6 of the University of Hawaii Student Code of Conduct:

*“Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any document that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or dry labbing, which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of the course or from previous terms or fabricating data to fit the desired or expected results.”*

The original source, in full, is here:

[www2.honolulu.hawaii.edu/sites/www2.../policies-student-conduct.pdf](http://www2.honolulu.hawaii.edu/sites/www2.../policies-student-conduct.pdf)

**VI. COURSE SCHEDULE****Chapter   Content****Part I. Sociology's Basic Approach**

- 1      Sociology: Studying Social Problems
- Seeing Patterns: The Sociological Imagination
  - Social Problems: The Basics
  - Analyzing Social Problems: Sociological Theory
  - Finding the Facts: Sociological Research
  - Responding to Social Problems: Social Policy
  - Politics: Constructing Social Problems & Defining Solutions

**Part II. Problems of Social Inequality**

- 2      Poverty and Wealth
- Economic Inequality in the United States
  - The Rich and Poor: A Social Profile
  - Problems Linked to Poverty
  - Responding to Poverty: The Welfare System
  - Politics and Poverty: Constructing Social Problems & Defining Solutions
- 3      Racial and Ethnic Inequality
- Race and Ethnicity
  - Patterns of Majority-Minority Interaction
  - The Social Standing of U.S. Minorities
  - Prejudice & Discrimination
  - Theories of Race & Ethnic Inequality
  - Politics, Race & Ethnicity: Constructing Social Problems & Defining Solutions
- 4      Gender Inequality
- What is Gender?
  - Gender and Social Institutions
  - Gender Stratification
  - Theories of Gender Inequality
  - Feminism
  - Politics and Gender: Constructing Social Problems & Defining Solutions

**Part III. Social Problems of Deviance, Conformity, and Well Being**

- 6      Crime, Violence, and Criminal Justice
- Understanding Crime
  - Other Dimensions of the Crime Problem
  - Violence
  - The Criminal Justice System
  - Explaining Crime: Biological and Psychological Theories
  - Explaining Crime: Sociological Theories
  - Politics and Crime: Constructing Social Problems & Defining Solutions

**Chapter   Content**

- 7      Sexuality
- What is Sex?
  - Sexual Attitudes in the United States
  - Sexual Orientation
  - Sexual Issues and Controversies
  - Theories of Sexuality
  - Politics and Sexuality: Constructing Social Problems & Defining Solutions
- 8      Alcohol and Other Drugs
- What is a Drug?
  - The Extent of Drug Use
  - Types of Drugs
  - Drugs and Other Social Problems
  - Social Policy: Responding to the Drug Problem
  - Theories of Drug-Related Problems
  - Politics and Drugs: Constructing Social Problems & Defining Solutions
- 9      Physical and Mental Health
- Health and Illness: A Global Perspective
  - Health Policy: Paying for Care
  - Health Care in the United States: A System in Crisis?
  - Mental Health and Illness
  - Theories of Health and Illness
  - Politics and Health: Constructing Social Problems & Defining Solutions

**Part IV. Problems of Social Institutions**

- 11      Work and The Workplace
- Structural Changes in the U.S. Economy
  - Other Problems in the U.S. Workplace
  - New Information Technology: The Brave New Workplace
  - Theories of Work & Work-Related Problems
  - Politics and the Workplace: Constructing Social Problems & Defining Solutions
- 13      Education
- Problems of Education: A Global Perspective
  - Problems with U.S. Education
  - Theories of Educational Problems
  - Politics and the Education: Constructing Social Problems & Defining Solutions

*\*Please note that details and assigned readings for this syllabus may be revised. The final revision of the course syllabus will be provided on the first day of class.*