

Sociological Analysis of Social Problems

920:103:05

Mon. & Wed. 5:35pm-6:55pm

Hickman Hall 101

Spring 2013

Instructor: Monique Porow, M.S., M.A.

Office Hours: Monday 4:00pm-5:00pm and by appointment (016 Davison Hall)

Email: mporowru@aol.com

Sakai Site: [SASP 01:920:103:05 \(Sp13\)](#)

Required Text:

Julian and Kornblum. (2012) Social Problems, 14/e. Prentice Hall (ISBN-10: 0205832326)

There are several methods available for students to purchase the required text for this course. The following are viable options:

- The Rutgers University Bookstore
- New Jersey Books (108 Somerset Street)
- www.Half.com
- e-textbook from CourseSmart.com
- Amazon Kindle

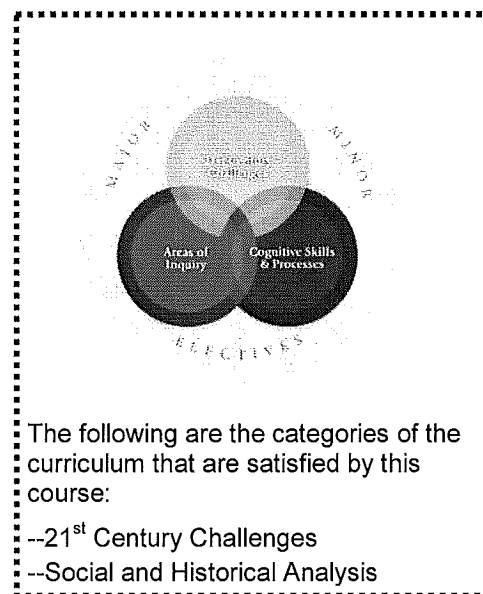
Course Description:

This course will introduce the student to an analytical framework through which social problems can be viewed. While utilizing this framework, we will attempt to analyze a wide variety of phenomena which are perceived and labeled problematic, and will examine institutions in our country that are presently in crisis. We will approach these "social problems" as social facts, however, we will also examine the process by which certain groups define such phenomena as matters of public concern.

Course Objectives:

I will structure class around active student participation rather than instructor lectures. Recognizing that different students learn best in different ways, the class will use a combination of readings, film, discussion, group activities and presentations to explore the material. Each week we will analyze a "social problem." While exploring each social problem, I will facilitate the process of each student:

- Becoming familiarized with issues of social justice across local and global contexts.
- Understanding the bases and development of human and societal endeavors across time and place.
- Identifying and critically assessing ethical issues in social science and history.
- Applying concepts about human and social behavior to particular questions or situations.



Course Requirements & Grading Policy:

Midterm- 30%	A: 91%-100%
Final -30%	B+: 85%-90.99%
Group Project-20%	B: 80%-84.99%
In Class Activities-10%	C+: 75%-79.99%
Participation-10%	C: 70%-74.99%
-----	D: 60%-69.99%
Total- 100%	F: 0%-59.99%

Midterm (30%)-This closed-book exam will be worth 30% of your grade. The exam will cover all of the material from assigned readings, lectures, films and classroom discussions given prior to the exam.

In-class activities (10%)- This will include assignments in class that will require students to demonstrate an understanding of the readings. These assignments will attempt to assess whether students grasp basic concepts from the readings as well as the lessons. These activities will often take place in groups.

Exams

The final will take place from
4:00pm-6:00pm
On Friday, May 10th
in Hickman Hall 101
<http://finalexams.rutgers.edu/>

Group Project/Presentation (20%)-The details of this assignment will be given in class.

Final (30%)-This closed-book exam will be worth 30% of your grade. The exam will cover all of the material from assigned readings, lectures, films and classroom discussions after the midterm. This means that the final is not cumulative.

Participation (10%) - This class is structured around active student participation, therefore students need to engage in the material in some form or another. Those who do not exercise appropriate "discussion etiquette" or "classroom demeanor" can expect to be penalized in this portion of their grade.

Extra credit assignments will not be given to poorly performing students.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

Missed assignments: Make-up exams will only be given in the case of **documented emergencies**. This means that in order to make up an assignment or request missed class-notes, you will need to provide documentation in addition to having reported the absence to the absence reporting system. This applies to every assignment in this course, including in-class activities. Furthermore, not taking the midterm, the final, or not participating in a group project will result in an automatic failure.

Email: Students are welcome to email me with questions and/or concerns throughout the semester. Every email should have "920:103:05" in the subject line and include an appropriate greeting and closing in the body of the email. I will not respond to email that are not formatted accordingly.

Discussion Etiquette: It is important that students feel comfortable expressing their thoughts about the topics that are discussed in class. These topics can be controversial at times, and many students often have strong feelings with which other students may not agree. Respect for fellow classmates is a requirement, and you are expected to be courteous at all times. To ensure that every student has the best experience possible, listen objectively, and respond respectfully. The opportunity to share these diverse perspectives enhances the learning environment!

Demeanor: Fortunately, most students understand what they're here for and how to conduct themselves in a college-level class. Unfortunately, some don't. When I close the door to begin class, I expect that private conversations will end and I will have your attention for the duration of the class. Among the things I expect you not to be doing in class: putting your head down or sleeping, talking to each other during class, or generally being disruptive. This includes the use of cell phones to make or receive calls or text messages, as well as surfing the internet on your laptop. **These behaviors will affect your participation grade, even if you contribute to classroom discussion.**

Academic Integrity: For whatever reason, the academic integrity of a student can occasionally come into question. In order to prevent this from occurring, please adhere to the University's policy on plagiarism. Cheating and plagiarizing on assignments forces me to take necessary steps to report this behavior to the Dean of Students. This is something I sincerely do not want to do, but will do if necessary. Here is a link to the university's current policy on academic integrity: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!! If you are having a problem, please come talk to me. Don't wait until it is too late for me to help you. I can be reached via email or during my office hours. Whether your problem is pertaining to my class, or another issue, I am sincerely more than happy to help you in any way that I can. Teaching is more than a job for me, however, once you have failed every assignment it is too late for an "intervention."

Reading Schedule

Week 1- Introduction

Wed. 1/23

Week 2-Chapter 1-Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems

Mon. 1/28

Wed. 1/30

Week 3– Chapter 2- Problems of Health and Healthcare

Mon. 2/4

Wed. 2/6

Week 4 –Chapter 4-Alcohol and Other Drugs

Mon. 2/11

Wed. 2/13-Topic submissions due

Week 5–Chapter 5-Crime and Violence

Mon. 2/18

Wed. 2/20

Week 6-Chapter 6-Poverty Amid Affluence

Mon. 2/25

Wed.2/27

Week 7-Chapter 7-Racism, Prejudice and Discrimination

Mon. 3/4-MIDTERM

Wed. 3/6

Week 8- Chapter 7-Racism, Prejudice and Discrimination (Cont.)

Mon. 3/11

Wed.3/13

Week 9- Spring Break- Enjoy!

Mon. 3/18

Wed. 3/20

Week 10- Chapter 7-Racism, Prejudice and Discrimination (Cont.)

Mon. 3/25

Wed. 3/27-Group Presentation Day #1

Week 11- Chapter 8- Gender and Sexism

Mon. 4/1-Group Presentation Day #2

Wed. 4/3

Week 12- Chapter 8- Gender and Sexism (Cont.)

Mon. 4/8-Group Presentation Day #3

Wed. 4/10

Week 13-Chapter 8- Gender and Sexism (Cont.)

Mon. 4/15- Group Presentation Day #4

Wed. 4/17

Week 14- Chapter 8- Sexuality and Homophobia

Mon. 4/22- Group Presentation Day #5 & Lesson

Wed. 4/24

Week 15- Chapter 11-Problems of Education

Mon. 4/29

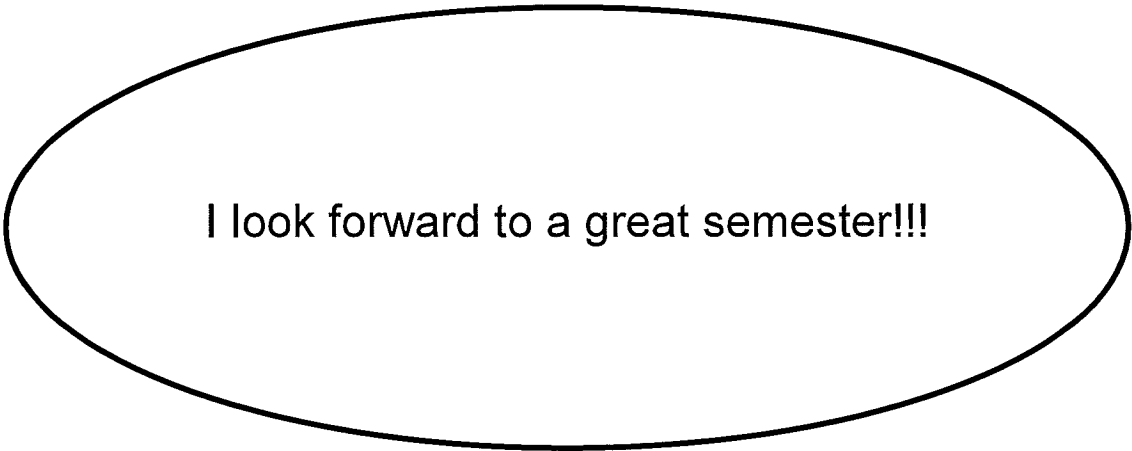
Wed. 5/1

Week 16-Wrap-up and review

Mon. 5/6- Review

Week 17-Final Exam

Fri. 5/10-Hickman Hall 101 (4:00pm-6:00pm)



I look forward to a great semester!!!