# **CRITICAL THINKING ABOUT SOCIOLOGICAL ISSUES SYLLABUS 79529**

**MW 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM**

**[Live Lecture Link](https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/92784895100?pwd=UnBmQ285cHRtTTFvL0dORXpXbzdadz09)**

**Password: 949386**

**Instructor:**Antoniette Aizon, PhD, MAOB

**Email:**[antoniette.aizon@scccd.edu](mailto:antoniette.aizon@scccd.edu)

**Office Phone:**(559) 675-4802 – must leave a message with name, contact number and class you are in

**Office Hours:** MWF 9:30 – 10:30 and TTh 11:30 – 12:20 Via [ConferZoom](https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/91778183612?pwd=NDVpNmtpWVRKaEM1N1NHQUk0ODA2dz09) **Password: 6754802**

**Office Location:**R5A (currently not located on Campus)

## **CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

This course will discuss contemporary social problems in society. The course reviews various explanation of causes, consequences and possible solutions for contemporary sociological issues using theoretical perspectives. The course applies critical thinking skills using inductive and deductive reasoning to analyze and discuss the issues while strengthening social awareness.

Advisories: Sociology 1A and English 1A or English 1AH

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

**Great news**: your textbook for this class is available for **free** online!

[Social Problems: Continuity and Change](http://open.lib.umn.edu/socialproblems/), ISBN: 978-1-946135-23-0

[Critical Thinking](https://myscccd-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/personal/aa024_scccd_edu/Documents/Course%20Materials/Sociology/SOC%201B%20Sociology%20Critical%20Thinking%206.11.18/Textbooks/Critical%20Thinking%20Reading%20Textbook.pdf?csf=1&e=qijF32)

You have several options to obtain the Social Problems: Continuity and Change book:

* [View online](http://open.lib.umn.edu/socialproblems/)(need connection to the internet)
* Download a PDF (does not use internet after you download the PDF File) [Social Problems - Continuity and Change Textbook.pdf](https://myscccd-my.sharepoint.com/courses/39985/files/5156722/download?wrap=1)
* [Order a print copy](https://catalog.flatworldknowledge.com/catalog/editions/barkansoc-social-problems-continuity-and-change-1-0) (Flatworld for $59.95 digital and hardcopy)

The online view is preferable due to the dynamic and seamless read.

You can use whichever formats you want. Web view is recommended - the responsive design works seamlessly on any device.

## **LEARNING GOALS**

1. Identify, define and apply the elements of critical thinking.
2. Evaluate social problems from both a macro-sociological and a micro-sociological perspective, and discuss which perspective is most useful under different conditions.
3. Support a position regarding a social problem using a logical argument and evidence.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the major social problems concerning the United States.
2. Place local, regional, and national social problems in a global context.
3. Identify and distinguish between causes and consequences of social problems.
4. Analyze social problems using sociological approaches and concepts.
5. Analyze and interpret qualitative and quantitative information about social problems.
6. Identify and evaluate policies that address social problems and assess the policies' impact on society.

## **COURSE ORGANIZATION AND REQUIREMENTS**

Students will be required to complete weekly assignment write ups, an essay, debate, and final presentation. For ease of access, the course is organized in Modules, hit the Modules tab to help navigate this course.

### **Readings**

Students are expected to have read the assigned chapter(s) prior to Tuesday of the week and complete the homework write up with the due date specified in the Modules tab or Assignments tab (Tuesday before 11:59PM – PST). **No late work will be accepted.**

### **In Class Participation**

**Students are expected to attend class as designated by the schedule through the live lecture link provided. There will be in-class participation points that are awarded based on in-class activity or discussion. Points are awarded at random.** Students who cannot make it to the live lecture will have an option to answer the discussion question posted for attendance / participation and earn points for missed participation.

### **Attendance**

**Attendance is taken in Discussions for that lecture day with the student hitting Reply and typing in the Word of the Day. If you are unable to attend the live lecture, you can still be counted as present and earn in class participation if taken that day by completing the topic essay question.**

If you missed class, you are expected to complete the essay question posted for the meeting day discussion assignment in Canvas. **Failure to post your short answer will result in being marked absent and no participation points if given that day.** **Not meeting the minimum word requirements and posting requirements will result in 0 participation points.**

*Discussion Posting Requirements (due Thursdays for Tuesday class or Saturday for Thursday class before 12 noon):*

* Minimum of 250-words to 500-words (must have footnotes; word count is based on the body, excludes salutations, the paraphrasing the question, footnote references)
* Must provide scholarly in text citation (textbook, other scholarly/peer-reviewed sources found in the school's library database with a limiter of "scholarly / peer-reviewed" box checked, internet sources ending in .gov) – Minimum of 1 scholarly reference

### **Essay**

The essay assignment is an argumentative essay based on critical thinking concepts of meaning and argument. Student must pick one of the 15 topics proposed. Further Directions on the essay is posted in Canvas.

### **In-Class Debate**

The class will be divided into debate group and topic suggestions will be solicited in mid-September. The topic must be based on sociological concepts that affect our current society and the debate will be based on logic and value concepts in critical thinking. Further Directions on the Debate are posted in Canvas. Once the debate teams and topics are assigned, the debate groups will have their own discussion forum in Canvas to work collaboratively on the debate.

**Points for the argumentative presentation is earned by participating / collaborating in the discussions and research for your topic (each member will anonymously provide participation rating) and covering the items being requested in the presentation; 75% will be based on the project itself and 15% will be based on the group’s evaluation.**

### **Final Presentation Project**

A group presentation will be your final and will be presented during Finals week. The class will be divided into groups and will require a Final Proposal to be submitted. The presentation will tie in all aspects of critical thinking with the solution being grounded in creativity. Details of the final presentation project and proposal are posted in Canvas.

**Points for the argumentative presentation is earned by participating / collaborating in the discussions and research for your topic (each member will anonymously provide participation rating) and covering the items being requested in the presentation; 75% will be based on the project itself and 15% will be based on the group’s evaluation.**

## **COURSE TIMELINE**

***Dates in red mean no school***

**Dates bold means something major due**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week | T | Th | Content | Major Assignment Due |
| 1 | 8/11/2020 | 8/13/2020 | What is Critical Thinking |  |
| 2 | 8/18/2020 | 8/20/2020 | Chapter 1: Understanding Social Problems |  |
| 3 | 8/25/2020 | 8/27/2020 | Chapter 2: Poverty |  |
| 4 | 9/1/2020 | 9/3/2020 | Meaning and Argument Analysis |  |
| 5 | 9/8/2020 | 9/10/2020 | *\*\*\*Students will pick from the area of topics* |  |
| 6 | 9/15/2020 | **9/17/2020** | *\*\*\*Students will pick from the area of topics* | **Essay** |
| 7 | 9/22/2020 | 9/24/2020 | Logic |  |
| 8 | 9/29/2020 | 10/1/2020 | *\*\*\*Students will pick from the area of topics* |  |
| 9 | 10/6/2020 | 10/8/2020 | *\*\*\*Students will pick from the area of topics* |  |
| 10 | 10/13/2020 | 10/15/2020 | Values |  |
| 11 | 10/20/2020 | 10/22/2020 | *\*\*\*Students will pick from the area of topics* |  |
| 12 | **10/27/2020** | **10/29/2020** | *\*\*\*Students will pick from the area of topics* | **Debate** |
| 13 | 11/3/2020 | 11/5/2020 | Fallacies |  |
| 14 | 11/10/2020 | 11/12/2020 | *\*\*\*Students will pick from the area of topics* |  |
| 15 | 11/17/2020 | 11/19/2020 | *\*\*\*Students will pick from the area of topics* |  |
| 16 | 11/24/2020 | ***11/26/2020*** | Creativity |  |
| 17 | 12/1/2020 | 12/3/2020 | *\*\*\*Students will pick from the area of topics* |  |
| 18 |  | 12/10/2020 | **Final Presentation 1:00 PM - 2:50 PM** |  |

**Topics to Pick From**

**Chapter 3: Racial and Ethnic Inequality**

**Chapter 4: Gender Inequality**

**Chapter 5: Sexual Orientation and Inequality**

**Chapter 6: Aging and Ageism**

**Chapter 7: Alcohol and Other Drugs**

**Chapter 8: Crime and Criminal Justice**

**Chapter 9: Sexual Behavior**

**Chapter 10: The Changing Family**

**Chapter 11: Schools and Education**

**Chapter 12: Work and the Economy**

**Chapter 13: Health and Health Care**

**Chapter 14: Urban and Rural Problems**

**Chapter 15: Population and the Environment**

**Chapter 16: War and Terrorism**

## **POSSIBLE POINTS**

Chapter Homework (chapters vary in points: total points = 100)

Participation – points will vary depending on the activity (total points = 150)

Essay – 75

Debate – 75 points

Final Project Presentation – 75 points

## **GRADING SCALE**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Letter Grade | Points |
| **A** | 475 – 427.5 |
| **B** | 427 – 380 |
| **C** | 379.5 – 333 |
| **D** | 332.5 – 285 |
| **F** | 284.5 – Below |

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

Last Day to Drop with a refund: 8/21/2020

Last Day to Drop without a "W": 8/28/2020

Last Day to Drop with a "W": 10/9/2020

## **COURSE POLICY**

The policy will **NOT** change for the purpose of improving a student’s grade or reducing a student’s workload during the semester. Students should contact the instructor to make special arrangements for course work due to disabilities, family emergencies, or health problems. Students need **official verifiable documentation** to make special arrangements for exams.

**Incomplete - NO** incomplete is given without a prior written agreement with the instructor.

**Late Assignments -**Late work is **NOT** accepted. In instances when a student fails to submit an assignment by the deadline, the student will earn a zero grade for that task.

### **Drop Policy**

Students are absent if they fail to attend the live session or respond to a discussion post during for the scheduled meeting times. Students who do not attend or post during the **first day of class and during the first week of class** will be **dropped** from the course - **NO EXCEPTIONS**. After the first week of instruction, students are responsible for dropping themselves from the course. However, **if you fail to attend more than 3 classes in a row or 6 classes in a 2-month period (**did not respond with the word of the day or reply to the posting**), you may be dropped from the course prior to the Withdrawal Date (Week 9).**

Should the class be cancelled due to faculty, a notification will be posted on Canvas. It is the student's responsibility to check Canvas prior to the start of class to be alerted of any cancellation.

### **Email Protocol**

When emailing your professor please observe the following protocols. Remember the context in which you are operating. You are not text messaging friends or chatting on Facebook. You are sending a **professional communication** to the person who is **evaluating your work**.

* **Preferred** way of communication is through **Canvas Inbox**.
* Please observe common rules of spelling and punctuation. Use capital letters where appropriate and run **spell check**. Again, you are not text messaging friends or chatting on Facebook. Please do your best to communicate in a **professional manner**.
* I am available, via email, Monday -Friday and will generally respond to emails within 48 hours.
* **If you use your SCCCD email,** please **sign**your email and use your **full name and the class number** in which you are registered. By using your school email, this would cut down any issues of phishing or your email being blocked by the spam filter. I will not respond to emails on the weekends or holidays.
* **For technical assistance with Canvas call (559) 499-6070**.

### **Academic Honesty**

Academic honesty is highly valued at SCCCD. A student must always submit work that represents his or her original words or ideas. If any words or ideas are used that do not represent the student's original words or ideas, the student must make clear the extent to which such sources were used using quotation marks or a freestanding indented block quotation followed by the appropriate citation in accordance with the APA manual (6thedition).

Words or ideas that require citations include, but are not limited to, all hardcopy or electronic publications, whether copyrighted or not, and all verbal or visual communication when the content of such communication clearly originates from an identifiable source. Scholastic dishonesty is any act that violates the rights of another student in academic work or that involves misrepresentation of a student’s own work. Scholastic dishonesty includes:

1. **Completing**individual work, assignments, or exams for other students;
2. Having a tutor or **friend complete**a portion of your assignments;
3. Having a **reviewer make**extensive revisions to an assignment;
4. **Copying**work submitted by another student;
5. **Plagiarizing**, which means misrepresenting other’s work as the student’s own work;
6. **Using information**from online or other information services without proper citation;
7. **Depriving**another student of necessary course materials or resources;
8. **Interfering**with another student’s work; or
9. **Cheating**, **lying**, **tampering**, **bribery**, or **theft**related to coursework.

**PLEASE NOTE:** For any assignment or exam in which a student has cheated, plagiarized, or otherwise engaged in scholastic dishonesty the student will **NOT** receive points and **reported**for misconduct.

### **Classroom Conduct**

The goal of this course is to provide an open dialogue between educator and students. It is in the utmost respect that students listen to other’s opinion, provide a healthy discussion but must not take any offense if other students or faculty have differing point of view. The purpose for an open exchange is to allow students to expand their critical thinking skills.

**Rude, sarcastic, obscene, disruptive, or disrespectful language and behavior have a negative impact on everyone’s learning. Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to, receiving pager or cell phone calls during class, texting during class, leaving class early and coming to class late, doing assignments for other classes, reading unrelated course materials in class, engaging in personal conversations, and sleeping.**

Other disruptive behavior such as threats, physical contact (touching) or violence, pranks, jokes, epithets, derogatory comments, vandalism, or verbal, graphic, or written conduct directed at an individual or individuals because of their race, ethnicity, gender, pregnancy, color, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or U.S. veteran status are **NOT** tolerated.

Even if actions are not directed at specific persons, a hostile environment may be created when the conduct is sufficiently severe, pervasive or persistent to unreasonably interfere with or limit the ability of an individual to work, study, or otherwise to participate in activities of Madera Center. Should any student officially enrolled for credit or audit in a class disrupt the instructor's ability to ensure a safe environment, control the class agenda, and/or deliver the approved curriculum, the instructor has the right to ask that the disruptive action to cease **immediately**. If the disruption continues, the instructor can pursue various forms of intervention, including **suspension** from class, use of student **disciplinary regulations**, and/or **police intervention**.

For additional information on code of conduct, please refer to Student Code of Conduct.

## **Students with Disabilities**

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (e.g. Braille, large print, electronic text, ext.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. If you need additional services please contact the DSP&S office at (559) 675-4864.

Please submit your accommodation paperwork as soon as possible via email attachment to [antoniette.aizon@scccd.edu](mailto:antoniette.aizon@scccd.edu).

**This syllabus is intended to give you the student guidance in what may be covered during the semester and will be followed as closely as possible. However, as the professor, I reserve the right to modify, supplement and make changes as the course needs arise.**

Have a wonderful semester and feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Dr. Aizon