

Midland College
Master Syllabus

SOCI 1306: SOCIAL PROBLEMS

CORE CURRICULUM COURSE

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT: For Online courses, students **MUST** actively participate by completing an academic assignment by the official census date. Students who do not do so, will be dropped from the course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The study of how social structure and the culture of society contribute to social problems and their consequences.

TEXT: Will be current. Students should contact their instructor prior to purchasing the text and supplies to confirm required course materials.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Gain a basic knowledge of Social Problems and the elements of a social problem.
- Enable students to distinguish between personal and social problems.
- The students will analyze social problems using the various sociological perspectives, including functionalism, conflict and interactionist perspectives.
- Enable students to understand the problems of institutions: Economy, Government, Education, and Family.
- Enable students to understand problems of inequality: Poverty, Minorities, Men and Women, Old and Young.
- Enable students to understand problems of conformity and deviance: Crime and Delinquency, Drug use, Sexual Behavior.
- Enable students to understand problems of a changing world: Urbanization, Population, The environment, War and Terrorism.

Inclusion of Core Curriculum Objectives:

Critical thinking skills – Sociological concepts and theories are presented, compared, analyzed, and evaluated. This is accomplished through the formal or informal evaluation of class discussion, student projects, written assignments and exams.

Communication skills – Students in all sections are required to successfully participate in one or more of the following at the discretion of the instructor:

- Written papers
- Essay questions on exams
- Group projects
- Class presentations
- Class discussions

- Video presentations
- Interpretation of graphs, tables, models, and diagrams.

Students are evaluated on their performance on these activities.

Empirical & Quantitative skills – Research design and data analysis is the topic of an entire chapter of the textbook. This topic is discussed in class and appears on tests for the course. In addition, research on sociological topics is presented throughout the course.

Social Responsibility – This course includes social psychological concepts such as conformity, altruism, obedience, bystander effect, and social roles. Intercultural differences in human behaviors are also presented. These concepts are included in assignments and student knowledge of them is evaluated in exams. Students will observe, research, or participate in a voluntary organization to gain a better understanding of social responsibility.

Student Responsibilities and Class Policies:

- Students are expected to attend class regularly and read the material in the textbook.
- Students will take tests (covering text material and lecture notes) and turn in assignments on time.
- Students should reduce distractions in the classroom by refraining from private discussions with other students and by turning off cell phones, iPods, and beepers during class. No texting.
- A schedule of classroom activities will be given to each student at the beginning of the semester.
- Cheating policy: Students are expected to complete their own work and academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. (See MC Catalog & Handbook for college policy.) The minimum penalty for academic dishonesty will be failure on that assignment. Information should be put in your own words and references should be cited. Quoted material must include quotation marks and cited sources.
- Instructors cannot drop students with a “W”. This must be accomplished officially by the student in the registrar’s office.

Evaluation of Students:

Final grades will be determined according to the following criteria:

- Tests will consist of questions based on assigned reading material and lectures. A variety of testing methods may be used including essay exams, multiple choice and short answer questions. Some evaluation must be completed through writing. It is the student’s responsibility to know their individual instructor’s grading policy.
- The grading system used in class will be discussed during the first week of the class. Grades are determined by the method determined by the instructor.

- Make Up exam policy is at the discretion of the instructor, except when the student is absent on official College business or activity. The testing center may be used for make-up exams.

Course Schedule: Each instructor will include a class schedule here outlining the topics for the course.

Non-Discrimination Statement:

Midland College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following individual has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Tana Baker

Title IX Coordinator/Compliance Officer

3600 N. Garfield, SSC 131

Midland, Texas 79705

(432) 685-4781

tbaker@midland.edu

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit the ED.gov Office of Civil Rights website, or call 1 (800) 421-3481.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement:

Midland College provides services for students with disabilities through Student Services. In order to receive accommodations, students must visit www.midland.edu/accommodation and complete the Application for Accommodation Services located under the Apply for Accommodations tab. Services or accommodations are not automatic, each student must apply and be approved to receive them. All documentation submitted will be reviewed and a “Notice of Accommodations” letter will be sent to instructors outlining any reasonable accommodations.

Division Information: *Social & Behavioral Sciences; MHAB 176; 685-6829*