



**KENNEBEC VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FAIRFIELD & HINCKLEY, MAINE**

Approval Date: 4/27/05

Rotation: Spring

Year: 2018

COURSE NUMBER: SOC204
COURSE TITLE: Social Problems
CREDIT HOURS: 3
CLOCK HOURS: 45

PREREQUISITES: SOC101
CO-REQUISITES: None

INSTRUCTOR: Samuel R. Brown, Ph.D.
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OFFICE: Cheshire, CT
OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday

TEXTS:

Social Problems – Continuity and Change. This is a free text available at the following link:
www.saylor.org/site/textbooks/Social%20Problems%20-%20Continuity%20and%20Change.pdf

OTHER MATERIALS:

There are no other materials.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an introduction to sociology and social science through the study of prominent social problems. We will examine a diverse sample of social problems, including social stratification/inequality, crime, drug abuse, prostitution, infectious disease, family violence, racial/ethnic conflict, and war. We will explore factors underlying social problems as well as attempts to resolve them. This course emphasizes an evolutionary, cross-cultural, and interdisciplinary perspective.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. describe an integrated theoretical approach to social problems.
2. develop a broad sociological imagination and insight into various structural and cultural elements of social problems.
3. describe social problems on a local, regional, national, and global level.
4. evaluate personal values, beliefs, and attitudes regarding social issues.
5. identify the "human" aspect of social problems regarding how social issues impact individuals.
6. describe social problem research methodology.
7. practice pro-social community action with real-world impact.

COURSE CONTENT:

Thinking about Social Problems
Physical and mental health and health care
Alcohol and other drugs
Crime and social control
Family problems
Poverty and economic inequality
Work and unemployment
Problems in education
Race, ethnicity, and immigration
Gender inequality
Sexual orientation and the struggle for equality
Population growth and aging
Environmental problems
Science and technology
Conflict, war and terrorism

COURSE ACTIVITIES:

Participation

It is expected that students will participate in the class each week by contributing to the threaded discussion questions, completing assignments in a timely fashion, and asking questions of your classmates and the facilitator. Participation will be monitored. Please be respectful of your classmates in these discussions. Derogatory comments, inflammatory remarks, violent references, etc. will not be tolerated.

Discussion Boards

There are three discussion board forums for the class—Lecture Questions (LQ)—based on the text, Discussion Questions (DQ)—based on readings available through the Course Documents link, and Research Paper. You should respond to the posts of at least two other students each week. **For example, you could respond to someone's Lecture Question response and to someone's Discussion Question response, you could respond to the Lecture Question responses of two other students, or you could respond to the Discussion Question responses of two other students.** Please note that participation points are only given for the current week.

Your responses are due by 11:59pm on Sunday of each week. There is no length requirement for the LQ's. The length requirement for the DQ's is 1,600 characters/letters (that is about two paragraphs).

There is one ungraded discussion board entitled Sam's Speakeasy. Please use this section to post questions you have about how to complete an assignment, something about the course you do not understand, or use it as a place to ask questions in general of each other. If you would like to ask the Instructor a question, please put Question for Sam in the subject line. Responses and questions posted here will NOT count toward weekly participation points.

Quizzes

There are two quizzes -- each is worth 15 points. The first quiz will deal with ethical reasoning and the second will deal with civic engagement.

Research paper

For your research paper please select one of the topics that we will be covering in the coming weeks or a related topic.

Requirements: The research paper must be typewritten (Times New Roman font, size 12), double-spaced and 4-5 pages. A title page is not necessary. If you have posted the outline and bibliography to the Discussion Board they do not need to be included with your paper. However, if you have added or deleted sources from your

bibliography since it was posted please included the revised bibliography with your paper.

You are required to use at least four articles that are in one of the databases available on the KVCC library website. You are not permitted to use articles outside of these databases. For help in accessing the databases or for general searching techniques please call the KVCC library at (207) 453-5004. APA or MLA style may be use for in-text citations and the bibliography. No abstract is required for the research paper.

You are not permitted to use books for the research paper unless the complete book is in electronic form, in which case put [e-book] next to the citation in your bibliography. A bibliography is a listing of the bibliographic citations of the sources that you will use for the research paper. For each source list the author of the article, title of the article, title of the journal, date, etc.—an example appears below.

APA format

Authors last name, Authors initials (Year of publication). Article title. Journal title, Volume number (Issue number), page of article. Retrieved from Name of the database.

Sample citation using APA format

Curley, A. M. (2005). Theories of urban poverty and implications for public housing policy. Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare, 32 (2). Retrieved from Academic Search Premier database.

The outline should contain headings for the major points in the paper and subheadings for the minor ones. Headings may be ordered by indentation, numerals and/or letters.

You may use footnotes, endnotes or include (author/date) in the text.

The research paper will be evaluated on content, grammar, and composition. Points will be deducted if you include paper books, Internet sites or sources other than what is found in databases that are part of the library website.

Please submit the paper using the Research paper link. All other parts of the paper (topic, bibliography, outline, first paragraph) should be submitted to the Research Paper forum on the Discussion Board.

GRADING:

- *Lecture Questions (160 points)
- *Discussion Questions (300 points)
- *Participation (320 points)
- *Quizzes (30 points—each of the two quizzes is worth 15 points)
- *Research paper (140 points)
- Choice of topic (10 points)
- Bibliography (10 points)
- Outline (10 points)
- First paragraph (20 points)
- Total points = 1,000 points

GRADING SCALE:

- A (950-1000 points)
- A- (900-949 points)
- B+ (870-899 points)
- B (830-869 points)
- B- (800-829 points)
- C+ (770-799 points)
- C (730-769 points)

- C- (700-729 points)
- D+ (650-699 points)
- D (600-649 points)
- F (Less than 600 points)

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

The class will not meet in person. All work will be conducted with the aid of e-mail, electronic databases and discussion boards on Blackboard. Attendance is made up of participation in online discussions and the completion of assignments. A student will be considered “in attendance” if he or she has addressed at least one of the required activities during a given week. Attendance will be reported to the college based on this policy.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Lecture Questions
Lecture Questions are worth two points each.
2. Discussion Questions
Discussion Questions are worth twenty points each.
3. Participation
Participation is worth twenty points each week. Students will participate in online discussions posted on the Discussion Board, responding to the posts of at least two other students per week.
4. Quizzes
Quizzes are worth 15 points each for a total of 30 points
5. Research paper
The Research paper is worth a total of 190 points – Choosing a topic: 10 points; Bibliography: 10 points; Outline: 10 points; First paragraph: 20 points; Final paper: 140 points

INSTRUCTOR POLICIES:

Receiving extra credit and credit for late assignments

I will grade your assignments as receiving zeroes, for administrative purposes, if they are not posted by the deadline of 11:59pm each Sunday. Post late assignments to the Discussion Board. They will be graded the week after they are posted. You will receive the grades that you would normally have received and will not be penalized for lateness. Please note that participation credit may NOT be made up—it is only given for the current week. For extra credit you may revise any DQ or LQ responses for which you did not receive full credit. The deadline for all late assignments and extra credit is the last day of class as noted on the syllabus.

Completing assignments ahead of time

You will not be penalized for completing assignments before they are due. This includes commenting on the responses of other students.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week 1. January 22 – 28, 2018.

Chapter 1: Understanding Social Problems

Go to Sam’s Speakeasy on the Discussion Board and post your biography so that classmates may have a chance to reply to it and become further acquainted with you. I would suggest that you cover these areas in your bio: work, education, family, pets, leisure interests, etc.

Week 2. January 29 – February 4, 2018.

Chapter 2: Poverty

Submit the topic you have chosen for your research paper to the Research paper forum on the Discussion Board.

Week 2 Quiz (Research Paper topic selection) 15 points:

Before taking this quiz please select a topic for your research paper from one of the topics that we will be covering in the coming weeks or a related topic. Post your topic selection to the Week 2 Research Paper Discussion Forum.

Week 3. February 5 – 11, 2018.

Chapter 3: Racial and Ethnic Inequality

Week 4. February 12 – 18, 2018.

Chapter 4: Gender Inequality

Submit the bibliography for your research paper to the Research paper forum on the Discussion Board.

Week 5. February 19 – 25, 2018.

Chapter 5: Sexual Orientation and Inequality

Week 6. February 26 – March 4, 2018.

Chapter 6: Aging and Ageism

Submit the outline for your research paper to the Research paper forum on the Discussion Board

Week 7. March 5 – 11, 2018.

Chapter 7: Alcohol and Other Drugs

Spring break: March 12 – 18, 2018

Week 8. March 19 – 25, 2018.

Chapter 8: Crime and Criminal Justice

Submit the first paragraph of your research paper to the Research paper forum on the Discussion Board

Week 8 Quiz (Board of Education) 15 points:

This quiz will focus on key issues facing a School Board in your state, its role in the governance of the public schools, and how improvements may be made in the operation of the school system. Before taking this quiz please attend a regularly scheduled meeting of a local public Board of Education or School Board.

Alternatively, you may find an article about a local Board in a newspaper using the Maine Newsstand database available on the library webpage—see a KVCC librarian for help with accessing and searching the database.

Week 9. March 26 – April 1, 2018.

Chapter 9: Sexual Behavior

Week 10. April 2 – 8, 2018.

Chapter 10: The Changing Family

Week 11. April 9 – 15, 2018.

Chapter 11: Schools and Education

Research paper is due. Submit using the Research paper link.

Week 12. April 16 – 22, 2018.
Chapter 12: Work and the Economy

Week 13. April 23 – 29, 2018.
Chapter 13: Health and Health Care

Week 14. April 30 – May 6, 2018.
Chapter 14: Urban and Rural Problems

Week 15/16. May 7 – 12, 2018.
Chapter 15: Population and the Environment
Chapter 16: War and Terrorism

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (2016/2017)

Kennebec Valley Community College welcomes students with disabilities, and in accordance with state and federal laws, KVCC is committed to assisting students with disabilities to achieve their educational goals.

In order to receive reasonable accommodations for this course:

- Students must contact the Director of Learning Commons at 453.5084 or cjohnson2@kvcc.me.edu
- Students must provide current, appropriate documentation of their disability
- Students must make a timely request for accommodation to the Director of Learning Commons
- Accommodations will not be provided until the faculty member receives a letter requesting accommodations. This letter is created with the director of learning commons and is supported by the documentation of stated disability
- Requests for accommodation(s) must be renewed each semester for each course

To begin this process, please contact Christy Johnson, Director of Learning Commons at cjohnson2@kvcc.me.edu or 207.453.5084

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION (2017):

Kennebec Valley Community College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and employer. KVCC does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services or activities. Students requesting classroom accommodation should be forwarded to the Director of the Learning Commons, Lunder Library, phone: 453-5084

Complaints about College decisions related to disability accommodations or discrimination must be forwarded to the Dean of Student Affairs, Enrollment Services Center, 92 Western Avenue, Fairfield, ME 04937, phone: 453-5822.