



SOCI 1306.01NIN SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Course Syllabus: Fall 2017

"Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide responsible, exemplary learning opportunities."

Windell Doddy

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Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Online
	1:30 – 2:50	1:30 – 4:20	1:30 – 2:50	1:30 – 4:20		

The information contained in this syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.

Course Description: 3 credit hours.

Lecture/Lab/Clinical: Three hours of lecture each week.

This course is an analysis of a wide variety of deviant behavior prevalent in American society. It focuses on the characteristics of the deviants and societal responses to their behavior.

Required Textbook(s):

Social Problems and the Quality of Life. Lauer, Robert H. Lauer, Jeanette C. 13th edition.

Publisher: McGraw-Hill

ISBN Number: 978-0-07-802686-7

Recommended Reading(s):

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Describe how the sociological imagination can be used to explain the emergence and implications of contemporary social problems.
2. Explain the nature of social problems from at least one sociological perspective, e.g., critical, functional, interpretive, etc.
3. Identify multidimensional aspects of social problems including the global, political, economic, and cultural dimensions of social problems.
4. Discuss how "solutions" to social problems are often contentious due to diverse values in society.
5. Describe how the proposed "solutions" to a social problem, including social policies, may bring rise to other social problems.

Course Objectives:

1. Develop a sociological perspective on social behavior based on scientific procedure rather than on common sense;
2. Be able to define a social problem and be familiar with the key components of this definition;

3. Be familiar with the three sociological perspectives on social problems: functionalism, conflict theory and interactionism; including the following elements: the functionalist view of criminal deviance, social problems as social pathology; social disorganization theory; modern functionalism, the conflict theory of deviance, value conflict theory and labeling theory;
4. Understand the basic assumptions that sociologists make about social problems;
5. Be familiar with the major research strategies on social problems: demographic studies, survey research, field observation and social experiments;
6. Identify fundamental patterns of conflict that are present in social life on the interpersonal level and among groups and nations;
7. Begin to understand some of the underlying causes of “social problems” and to see how sociological data enter policy decisions and at the same time, understand the concept of social policy and how policy issues impact the sociological investigation of social problems;
8. Become a more informed consumer of social science data;
9. Improve communication skills, especially writing skills, for better expression of analyses of social life;
10. Learn not to over-generalize from personal experience and to apply the sociological perspective to our everyday lives; and, finally,
11. Develop a healthy skepticism regarding over-simplified explanations of human behavior, including sociological ones.

Lectures & Discussions:

The class format for this course will be largely lecture-discussion, with a few guest presentations and some audiovisual presentations. It is important to be on time for class. This course, at times, will focus on controversial issues; an open mind and a mature attitude are essential for this course of study. Please feel free to ask questions and make comments.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

Tests and Essays ----- 60%
Final Exam----- 40%

Tests/Exams:

There will be 3 major tests including the final exam. The final exam will be during finals week. The major tests will contain true-false questions, multiple choice, matching, completion recall, short answer questions such as distinguish between or compare and contrast, and an essay question (three topics: choose one).

FINAL EXAM -- 9:30AM -- Wednesday -- DECEMBER 13, 2017

Assignments:

Written assignments will be reaction papers to speakers or to films. They will be brief, usually no more than one page, and will be due at the beginning of the next class meeting. Tests may periodically be given, and they will be short and be taken from the current reading assignment or the current lecture notes. Be prepared to answer questions on the reading assignments and to defend your position on a given issue.

Student Responsibilities/Expectations:

The attendance policy has been established by the college, and will be followed in this course. Keep in mind punctual attendance is essential for successful completion of this course.

- ❖ ALL CELL PHONES must be turned OFF and in your pocket or purse. At NO time will it be on your desk or lap or anywhere except in your pocket or purse. Should you receive a call, your grade in this class may be affected.

- Tuesday, November 21, 2017 is the last day to drop with a W.

NTCC Academic Honesty Statement:

"Students are expected to complete course work in an honest manner, using their intellects and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty policy stated in the Student Handbook."

Academic Ethics

The college expects all students to engage in academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuit. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. Refer to the student handbook for more information on this subject.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with Shannin Garrett, Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in the College Connection. She can be reached at 903-434-8218. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the [NTCC website - Special Populations](#).

Family Educational Rights And Privacy Act (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.