

COURSE: SOC 205

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Harrill

COURSE TITLE: Social Problems

CREDIT: 3.0 sem. Hrs.

TEXTBOOK: **SOCIAL PROBLEMS**. Kornblum and Julian (10<sup>th</sup> ed.)

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED READING: Joel Best. **Damned Lies and Statistics: Untangling Numbers From the Media, Politicians, and Activists**. (Berkeley, California: University of California Press, 2001). ISBN: 0-520-21978-3.

OFFICE HOURS: posted on door (Room 526)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a survey of current social problems in America, stressing the importance of social change and conflicts as they influence perceptions, definitions, etiology, and possible solutions. (3-0-3)

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

To develop a sociological vocabulary related to social problems.

To cognitively grasp the concepts mentioned in the formal course description.

To develop an understanding of the complexity of social problems and the difficulties involved with their possible resolution.

To develop a general understanding of the ways social opinion, concerning perceived societal problems, is manipulated by the mass media.

### EVALUATION and REQUIREMENTS

There will normally be four exams given. Each exam will be preceded by a formal review to be done at the end of the class prior to the actual test date. One of these four may be dropped. Each will count as 33 1/3% of your final grade.

There will be no make-up tests (without a doctor's/hospital's excuse – and then only when the emergency couldn't have been predicted ahead of time). Failure to take a test will result in a "0" (but remember your lowest grade will be dropped anyway). This means only one test can be missed without seriously hurting your overall grade.

If you know ahead of time that you need to miss a class day when an exam is scheduled, and you have a valid reason for the absence, you may be allowed to take the test in the Success Center prior to the class taking theirs. Contact your instructor should this need arise.

You will be required to read/note/underline an additional book to pass this course. This book will normally be turned in on the date of the third test. However, you can have until the end of the course to do it (without a grade of "incomplete" being given). Failure to turn in an

acceptable book will mean you fail the course (no matter what your grade on the tests). This requirement is made because of the absolute centrality of the books content to understanding the course's content. NO EXCEPTION!!!

A personal copy of the required book is on reserve in the NETC Library. You are encouraged to check this out to learn how to underline/highlight your own book and to develop an understanding of how to make marginal notes. Please see your instructor if you have any questions.

#### TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEKS 1,2,3 Chapter 1: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems  
Chapter 2: Problems of Physical Health  
Chapter 3: Mental Illness  
Review!

TEST # 1

WEEKS 4,5,6,7 Chapter 4: Sex-related Social Problems  
Chapter 5: Alcohol and Other Drugs  
Chapter 6: Crime and Criminals  
Chapter 7: Violence  
Review!

TEST # 2

WEEKS 8,9,10 Chapter 8: Poverty and Affluence  
Chapter 9: Prejudice and Discrimination  
Chapter 10: Sex Roles and Inequality  
Chapter 11: An Aging Society  
Review!

TEST # 3 (START TURNING-IN BOOKS)

WEEKS 11,12,13,14 Chapter 13: Problems of Education  
Chapter 14: Problems of Work and the Economy  
Chapter 15: Urban Problems  
Chapter 16: Population and Immigration  
Chapter 17: Technology and the Environment  
Chapter 18: War and Terrorism  
Review!

TEST # 4

**Dr. Harrill's**  
**Supplementary Course Information**

**E-mail address:** jharrill@netc.edu

**Office and Phone:** Office #526 Telephone: 843-921-6962

**Assessment Scale:** A=100-90; B=89-80; C=79-70; D=69-60; F=below 60

**Prerequisites:** none

**Attendance:** Regular attendance is expected in this class. Every three “lates” count as a full class absence. If you come into class and I have called the roll for that day, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO NOTIFY ME AFTER CLASS OF YOUR PRESENCE THAT DAY. You have only 6 absences in a class that meets two days each week (and will normally be dropped upon reaching a seventh absence). You have 9 absences in a class that meets three days each week (and will normally be dropped on reaching a tenth absence). These absences are for whatever reasons (including medical appointments, hospitalizations, children’s illnesses, car problems, death in the family, etc.).

**Important Note:** While textbook purchases are not normally required in my on-campus courses, copies of each text are usually available for students to read “free” at the NETC Library circulation desk.