

**SOCIAL PROBLEMS**  
**Sociology 264.01**  
**3 Credit Hours**  
**Fall, 2009**

**Location:** CHSS 110

**Class Meeting Times:** MWF 9:00 – 9:50

**Instructor:** Caron Charlton Cates

**Office Location:** CHSS, Room 270-S

**Instructor Contact Information:** Phone: 936-294-1961 (office); 936- 294-1512 (dept.); 936-294-3573 (fax) E-Mail: [SOC\\_CCC@shsu.edu](mailto:SOC_CCC@shsu.edu)

**Office Hours:** Mon/Wed/Fri - 11:30-1:00, 3:00 - 3:30 just prior or after class, (**or by appointment**)

**Required Text:** Macionis, John J. 2008 Social Problems (3rd ed.), Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson, Prentice Hall.

**Course Description:**

This course applies sociological principles and concepts in the examination of major social problems in the United States and worldwide. Of particular interest will be those issues concerning social inequalities relative to poverty, racism, and sexism. Other major social issues such as violence and crime, global inequalities and environmental pollution will also be areas of focus.

The student will learn to incorporate the sociological perspective in his/her analytical reading. The sociological perspective requires that the student accept at least two fundamental assumptions: (a) we are all products of our social environment, and (b) we must take a critical stance toward all social forms.

A critical examination of society allows us to see how social arrangements perpetuate social problems. This course will allow the student to find the usefulness of the sociological perspective in explaining and resolving social problems. The course will also help students establish knowledge which will provide a good foundation for advanced courses, or individual study, leading to expertise with respect to these problems

**Attendance:** I will take roll according to university policy. Tardiness will be not accepted. Students who are not present before 5 minutes after the start of class will be counted absent. Students who miss three or more classes will be penalized 3 points off of their final average grade for each class missed starting with their third absence. Students who do not miss any class days and are not late to any classes will earn an additional 5 points toward their total accumulated points. EX: 355+5= A, 315+5=B

### **Religious Holidays:**

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

### **Visitors in the Classroom:**

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

### **Instructor Evaluations:**

Students are asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, and then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. **NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.**

### **Exams and Grades:**

There will be four multiple-choice exams (100 pts each) during the semester. They will cover the chapters assigned during the weeks preceding the exam. These are not comprehensive exams. Make sure to attend class on exam days. Scheduling of academic or non-academic activities during any of the exam periods will not be considered a sufficient reason for granting a makeup exam.

You will also be responsible for a class project that will be turned in on November 24th. The details and outline of the project will be discussed on the first day and be available on blackboard. This project will be worth 25 points.

### **Study Tips:**

Read chapters prior to class carefully so that you understand it and it is meaningful to you. Make a list of questions from the written material. Later, ask yourself to see if you can answer your questions, if not go back and reread the material. Sociology has her own language, check to be sure you understand key terms of each chapter, listed in the glossary. Complete study guides prior to tests. The SAM Center is available for students with academic difficulty. If you fail the first test, I recommended that you contact the SAM center at 294-4444 for assistance. There will be no cell phones or headphones allowed on exam days.

A total of 425 possible points will be available. Grades will be assigned according to the

425 -382 - A

381 - 340 - B

339 – 296 - C

295 – 255 - D

254 - 0 - F

### **Make up Exams:**

Make up exams will be allowed **ONLY IN EXTRAORDINARY CASES**. In the event that a student could not attend one of the regularly scheduled exams, s/he must notify Ms. Cates prior to the exam. Additionally, s/he must justify his/her absence through verifiable documentation. Remember that make up exams are usually more difficult than regularly scheduled exams. It is in the student's interest to take regularly scheduled tests.

Lectures: Lectures will be held on M-W-F from 9:00 – 9:50. Before each lecture period, the student is to study the assigned readings in order to have a framework for understanding the material presented in the lecture. If a lecture is missed, it is important to obtain notes from another student.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

SHSU expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of the academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Cheating on an exam, quiz and/or assignment

is an act of dishonesty. Students who cheat will automatically receive the grade of 0 (zero) in the exam, quiz or assignment in question. Students who cheat more than once will receive an automatic F in the class. This statement is in accordance with SHSU Policy Statement 810213.

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:**

As the instructor, I reserve the right to ask any student or students to leave class if I believe that their behavior is disruptive to the class and the learning environment. In other words, come to class prepared and be respectful to other students. Any other behavior will not be tolerated. First offense will be a verbal warning, second offense written warning, and third offense 2 point deduction, fourth – 4 point, fifth -6 point etc.

For class discussion to run smoothly, all beepers and cell phones must be turned off during class time. I also ask if you hold a position which requires you to wear a firearm, such as police officers, you must remove your firearms prior to coming to class; in other words, no guns or other “types on weapons” in class.

**Course Outline is subject to change.**

Aug 24th - Introduction

Aug 27 – Sept 16 Chapters 1-4

**September 7<sup>th</sup> - Holiday**

**TEST ONE (Sept – 18th)**

Sept 22 – Oct 7 Chapters 5-8

**TEST TWO (Oct - 9th)**

Oct 13th – Nov 4th Chapters 9-13

**TEST THREE (Nov - 6th)**

November 25, 26, 27

**WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY. Thanksgiving holidays for students and faculty.**

Nov 17th – Dec 10th – Chapters 14 – 18

**Final Exam during Exams Week – University Schedule**