

South Plains College: Common Course Syllabus

Discipline: Sociology

Course Number: Sociology 1306

Course Title: Social Problems

Semester Hour Credit: 3 Hours; 3 Lecture Hours; 0 Lab Hours (3:3:0)

This course satisfies a core curriculum requirement: Yes (Behavioral Science)

Prerequisites: none for campus; TSI reading compliance for Internet

Available Formats: Conventional and Internet

Textbook: Please see individual instructor's course requirements

Supplies: Computer and Internet access for Internet courses and campus classes.

Course Specific Instructions: Internet classes access Blackboard from South Plains College homepage on the first day of the semester. Campus classes may use Blackboard for course material, see instructor's course information sheet for specifics.

Course description: Application of sociological principles and theoretical perspectives to major social problems in contemporary society such as inequality, crime and violence, substance abuse, environmental issues, deviance, or family problems.

Course Purpose/Rationale/Goal: The purpose of the behavioral science component in the core curriculum is to enable the students to understand and apply sociological theories and concepts as they examine potential problems in human society. To master sociology, students will be able to identify and apply the concepts and principles in the study of group life, social institutions, and social processes.

Course Requirements: To maximize the potential to complete this course, students should attend all classes, log into Blackboard multiple times per week, read required textbook/course materials, complete required homework/assignments and/or examinations. See instructor's course information sheet for specifics.

Course Evaluations: Refer to Instructor's course information sheet for specifics coursework and grading.

Student Learning Outcomes/Competencies:

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.

Core Objectives:

- • **Communication skills**- to include effective written, oral and visual communication.
- • **Critical thinking skills**- to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- • **Empirical and Quantitative skills**- to include the ability to apply, analyze, and draw conclusions based on scientific and mathematical concepts.
- • **Social Responsibility**- to include the demonstrated intercultural knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
- • Texas Coordinating Board Approval Number..... 45.1101.52 25

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus.

When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first-class meeting.

Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of "X" as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of that policy.

It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

See instructor's Course Information Sheet for additions to the attendance policy.

Grade and Academic Discipline Appeals: South Plains College provides two procedures which allow students the opportunity to address grievances of an academic nature.

Appeal Restrictions: Only final grades or dismissal resulting from academic discipline will be considered. The instructor's teaching ability or expertise will not be considered during the hearing. No grade or disciplinary action can be formally appealed after a period of six (6) months from the date that the student is informed

Informal Appeal:

1. The student should schedule an appointment with the instructor of the course to discuss the final grade or disciplinary action.
2. If the student is still not satisfied, she should schedule an appointment with the appropriate departmental chairperson to discuss the situation. The chairperson may request that the instructor also be present.

3. If the student is still not satisfied, he/she should schedule an appointment with the Divisional Dean to discuss the situation. The dean may request that the chairperson also be present.
4. If the student is still not satisfied, he/she should be advised of the formal appeal process.

Formal Appeal:

1. If the student is not satisfied with the results of the informal appeal, s/he should provide the following information, in writing, to the Vice President for Academic Affairs:
 2. A request for a formal appeal hearing.
 3. A brief statement of what is being appealed.
 4. The basis for the appeal.
 5. Pertinent facts relating to the appeal.

The agenda of the appeals hearing will include only those factors documented in the student's appeal request letter. The Vice President for Academic Affairs will determine the date, time and place of the hearing, and notify the student accordingly.

The Hearing Composition of the appeals committee:

- • Vice President for Academic Affairs will preside over the hearing.
- • Faculty member of the student's choice.
- • Faculty member and student selected by the Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- • President of Student Government Association.
- • Dean of Students.
- • Other persons who should be available at the hearing:
 - • The student who requested the hearing.
 - • The faculty member involved.
 - • Anyone the student or faculty member wishes to be present to substantiate the case.
 - • Chairperson and Divisional Dean.

Hearing procedure:

The committee will hear the student's appeal during which the parties to the controversy and such representatives as desired will present all facts relating to the case. By majority vote, the committee will decide to sustain, amend or reverse the previous decision.

The decision of the committee is final and completes the academic appeals procedure. See South Plains College Student Guide for more information.

Non-Discrimination Policy:

South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, marital status, sexual orientation, military status, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. All SPC courses meet federal regulations under Title II of the ADA, Sections 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College - 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336, 806716-2360.

Equal Rights Policy:

All students are entitled to equal rights under the affirmative action and equal opportunity laws. Students are also protected against unjust or biased academic evaluation, but at the same time, they

are responsible for maintaining standards of academic performance established for each course in which they are enrolled. See South Plains College Student Guide.

For information regarding official South Plains College statements about intellectual exchange, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title V Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE Team, and Campus Concealed Carry, please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.

Course Information Sheet
Soci 1306- Social Problems
Instructor: Morgan Keener
Fall 2023

Phone: (806) 716-4320 (Plainview Campus)

Office: Plainview Campus: 101H

Office hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00-9:30; Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-2:30; and Fridays 9:00-11:00

E-mail: mkeener@southplainscollege.edu

Textbook: There is no textbook for this course. The instructor will provide free course materials.

How this Course is conducted:

This course is a blended course, which means that you will attend face to face, in a regular classroom setting, twice a week for lectures and instruction; **but** you will access Blackboard for all of your course work and for your grades.

Logging into Blackboard:

To access your course, go to <https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com/> or go to the SPC Homepage and click on the "Login to" link in the top right-hand portion of the page and then click on the Blackboard link on the pull-down or you can type or copy the address into the address window of your computer. I recommend that you bookmark Blackboard on your computer for quick access. You can also log into MySPC and there is a Blackboard link there. Once you reach the site you will click "Log In". The log-in screen will come up asking for your user name and password. Simply follow the instructions on the screen.

OTHER INFORMATION concerning Blackboard:

Open Computer Lab: There is an Open Computer Lab located on the Levelland campus in the Technology Center. It is available to all students, with priority given to those students enrolled in computer classes. Computers are also available on the Reese Center, Lubbock, and Plainview campuses. Check with libraries and labs for hours.

Technical Problems/Support: If you are having computer problems, you have to let me know. I will try to help you in any way that I can. Please remember that it is your responsibility to have a backup plan if your computer goes down. Please have this plan in place now and do not wait until it is a crisis situation. If you lose your

course work due to bad flash drives, Internet service down, computer crash, or your dog ate your homework, there is nothing I can do about it. **THIS IS YOUR WARNING TO HAVE A BACKUP PLAN IN PLACE.**

- **IMPORTANT:** Most tech issues are related to failure to update java, using the incorrect internet browser (try use Google Chrome or Firefox instead of Internet Explorer), and/or not deleting browsing history files daily. Most issues are related to computer issues, not Blackboard. Please note that this instructor does NOT recommend use of any handheld devices for taking this course. Cellphones are wonderful but not for course work done on the Internet.
- Reminder - **bookmark** the Blackboard login page on your computer.

SPC Technical Support Contact: Call (806) 716-2180 or email at Blackboard@southplainscollege.edu for student technical support. I am your course work support contact. Only call or e-mail technical support with questions about Blackboard or computer functioning. There is Technical Support information in the Start Here area of your Blackboard course. It contains links to Student Tutorials and the Student Orientation Course for Blackboard. Contact me for any course content information.

PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TURN COURSE WORK IN OR YOU MAY HAVE PROBLEMS! Remember the saying "TECHNOLOGY HAPPENS"!

Anti-virus Software: Please make sure that your computer has an up-to-date antivirus software program installed.

Academic Integrity: In addition to the policy in the Common Course Syllabus, it should be understood that students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will earn a zero on the work in question for the first offense and will be dropped from the course with an 'F' should a second offense occur. Any amount of dishonesty is subject to these consequences, whether a lot or a little; this can include but is not limited to one copied sentence of a written assignment, a missing citation, an entire paper copied from someone/somewhere else, one plagiarized post on a discussion board, one copied exam item, looking at the scantron of another student during an exam or an exam or other coursework completed by someone other than yourself. You have also committed academic dishonesty when sharing course content/items/answers. This includes sharing course content with classmates or future students as well as sharing course content on websites such as Quizlet, Course Hero, or similar "study applications." For further information and examples please see the Catalog, Student Guide, or refer to www.plagiarism.org

There is an APA Citation tutorial in the Applying the Sociological Imagination Essay section of your Blackboard course.

Smoke free environment: The following is the SPC policy on tobacco use.

South Plains College prohibits the use of any tobacco product, electronic cigarette, or vapor device throughout all indoor areas and within a 25-foot perimeter around all facility entrances, exits and HVAC air intake vents under the control of SPC, including sporting facilities and SPC vehicles. Included in this ban are tobacco products of all types (including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff and all other kinds and forms of tobacco prepared in such a manner to be suitable for spit tobacco use, smoking, or both). *This ban also includes herbal tobacco products and simulated tobacco products that imitate or mimic tobacco products such as e-cigarettes, vapor cigarettes, pipes or other types of inhalation devices.*

Attendance Policy: The following is in addition to the Common Course Syllabus:

Since this course is a virtual classroom, attendance will be taken according to the following:

- Participating in class discussions by posting to the discussion board before the due dates.
- Submitting assignments on or before due dates.

Note: Simply logging into the course or logging into the course and sending an e-mail is NOT considered attendance for this course. You MUST participate in the course by submitting work during any given week to be considered "in attendance".

"Participation" in this online class is **mandatory** – you must be active. There are numerous assignments which should force you to log-in continuously. I understand that each of you has your own schedule and will be logging-on at different times. That's fine. All that is expected of you is that you **GET THE WORK DONE!!**

Each assignment and discussion have a dictated due DATE and TIME. It is your responsibility to get the work done and submitted to me by the designated time/date. Therefore, since this is a virtual classroom, attendance will be taken according to completion/submission of Discussions, Quizzes, Assignments, and projects.

If you are unable to log-in or complete your work for any reason, **YOU MUST CONTACT ME ASAP!** Excuses such as "The network was down," or "I could not figure out how to send the assignment through the assignments function" are not acceptable. In short, plan ahead and **do not wait until the last minute to submit your assignments.** It is always okay to turn in assignments early although discussion board postings should be done with the calendar schedule.

It is the student's responsibility to drop the course on or before the last drop date of the semester to avoid failure. Administrative drops will not be made, unless student has discussed/made arrangements with me.

Technical help with Blackboard and Student Support Services: Links are provided on your Blackboard Home page under Start Here for Course Requirements.

Sensitive Nature of Humanities and Behavioral Science Courses

Given the dynamics of individual, relational, familial, societal, and cultural development and issues, behavioral studies courses address many sensitive issues; this course is no exception. Lifespan and relational issues occur in the context of sexual, racial/ethnic, political, religious/spiritual, economic/social class, and disability/challenge concerns. The discussion of such issues will increase the student's knowledge of developmental conditions in the modern world, but the information can be emotionally charged. It is also likely that the student will be exposed to diverse viewpoints; some viewpoints might differ from the student's personal views. If a student chooses to remain in class, then they will be expected to respect the diverse viewpoints represented in course material, as well as the viewpoints of their classmates. If the student is easily offended by discussion of such issues, then should consider whether to remain enrolled in the course.

Revelation of Personal Information

This course addresses topics that are personal in nature. Students are encouraged to participate in class discussion/presentations but are not required to share personal information with classmates. It is recommended that students use discretion in self-disclosure with classmates and the instructor. While it is expected that fellow classmates will be respectful and not disclose information that is shared in class, the instructor cannot guarantee confidentiality of information. Thus, students are responsible for the information that they share and should not share information they do not want others to know.

COURSE POLICY AND REQUIREMENTS

This is what you need to do to **earn** your grade:

Introduction module: Course agreement quiz – you must complete this to remain in the course

Course Work: *You are responsible for all of your readings and assignments.* It is required that you read/review each assigned chapter, as well as, complete the following chapter activities:

- Weekly discussions (*1 per chapter, complete after you are done reading*)
- Research Essay – written 3-5-page on related topic.
- Final Exam

All grades will be posted in Blackboard under the My Grades link.

The total possible points you can earn is 600. Your overall letter grade/percentage is based solely on the points you earn. Please reference the grading scale below.

Grading Scale:

A = 540 – 600

B = 480 – 539

C = 420 – 479

D = 360 – 419

F = 0 – 359

Grades are NOT rounded up, which means if you earn 899 points, you will receive an 89% or a B as your overall grade, no exceptions.

If you have any questions about any of the course work or anything about the course material do not hesitate to speak to me during office hours, before/during/after class, or via Blackboard e-mail.

Late work is accepted but not encouraged. Deadlines provide structure, and it is preferable that you stick to the course calendar. The deadline for all late work will be provided per instructor in Blackboard.

Extra credit opportunities will be made available during the semester. I recommend that you take advantage of those opportunities as they become available as I will not make extra credit available on individual request.

**Course Calendar
Fall 2023**

All assignments modules are due on Sundays by 11:59pm

Date	Day of the Week	Course Work
Aug 28	Monday	Classes begin
Sept 3	Sunday	Course agreement quiz Chapter 1- read and complete discussion assignment
Sept 10	Sunday	Chapter 2 – read and complete discussion assignment

Sept 17	Sunday	Chapter 3 – read and complete discussion assignment
Sept 24	Sunday	Chapters 4 & 5 – read and complete discussion assignment
Oct 1	Sunday	Chapter 6 – read and complete discussion assignment
Oct 8	Sunday	Chapter 7 – read and complete discussion assignment
Oct 15	Sunday	Chapter 8 – read and complete discussion assignment
Oct 22	Sunday	Chapters 9 & 10 – read and complete discussion assignment
Oct 29	Sunday	Chapter 11 – read and complete discussion assignment
Nov 5	Sunday	Chapter 12 – read and complete discussion assignment
Nov 12	Sunday	Chapter 13 – read and complete discussion assignment
Nov 19	Sunday	Chapters 15 & 16 – read and complete discussion assignment <i>You skip chapter 14.</i>
Nov 22-24	Wed – Friday	Thanksgiving Break
Nov 26	Sunday	Nothing due
Nov 30	Thursday	Last day to drop a class
Dec 3	Sunday	Written Research Essay
Dec 10	Sunday	Final Exam

This calendar is subject to change. Students will be notified in class and/or through Blackboard of any changes.