Course Syllabus:

SOC 1306.01W – GLB/U.S. Social Problems
Course Syllabus:
Spring 2015

Instructor: Louis Lufkin
Class Times: Monday-Sunday
Class Location: eCollege (online)

Office Location: Ferguson SS 207
Office Hours: *** By Appointment ***
Office Phone: 903-886-5325
Office Fax: 903-886-5330
University Email Address: Louis.Lufkin@tamuc.edu

Course Information

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Course Description:
A critical discussion of the sociological perspectives on studying descriptions, causes, and prevention of social problems such as crime, mental illness, drug abuse, environmental degradation, poverty, terrorism, and declining quality of life in today’s world.

Student Learning Outcomes:
This course is intended to enable you to:

1. Demonstrate creative thinking by linking content and insights from multiple disciplines.
2. Communicate, in written, oral, or visual means and in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
3. Interpret, test, and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data.
4. Demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues.
TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

The following hardware and software are necessary in order to use eCollege:

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login to ECollege, click on the ‘myCourses‘ tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

For those of you who are not familiar with eCollege, I suggest you take the tutorial offered online. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact the folks in Technology Services.

ACCESS and NAVIGATION

This course will be completed using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To log in to the course, go to: https://leo.tamuc.edu/login.aspx.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu. Once you log in to eCollege, click on My Courses and select SOC 1306 – GLB/US Social Problems.

Please note that this course is completely online instruction; and as such, aspects of the course (including assignments / discussions / comments / exams, etc.) may be turned in / completed through eCollege. Your grades will also be available in eCollege.

After logging in to the course, students will notice that the weekly/unit content area is located on the left navigation bar. These weekly/unit content areas are identified as Week 1, Week 2, etc. (this corresponds to the course schedule located in the syllabus.)

Student should access course materials by clicking on the proper weekly/unit content area. Students should read the weekly overview that contains information about what is to be covered in class, along with a series of weekly tasks (these tasks correspond to the links available in each weekly unit and to what appears in the syllabus).

Students should then click on the Lecture link and take the time to read/view any material/presentations I have posted. The lecture/presentation is an attempt to integrate information from the course readings and includes information from the text/readings as well as other information that I consider important to your understanding of the subject matter.

Students will complete and submit any on-line assignments by clicking on the Assignments link that will be visible if an assignment is scheduled for that week. Students should be sure to submit any assignments according to established instructions and to submit any assignments into the properly named / numbered drop box, if any. Any assignments are answered and grades are calculated within the eCollege system.
Students will complete assigned exams by clicking on the **Exam** link that will be visible, if an exam is scheduled for that week. Exams are answered and grades are calculated within the eCollege system.

### COMMUNICATION and SUPPORT

**Interaction with Instructor Statement:**

My primary form of communication with the class will be through announcements on eCollege, and e-mail. Any changes to the syllabus or other important information critical to the class will be disseminated to students via Announcements and your official University e-mail address available to me through MyLeo. It will be your responsibility to check your University e-mail regularly.

Students who wish to discuss an issue with me personally should do so through e-mail or through my (in person) office hours.

**Students who e-mail me can expect a reply (at MY earliest convenience) within 24 hours Monday-Thursday. Students who e-mail me during holidays or over the weekend, i.e. Friday-Sunday, can expect a reply (at MY earliest convenience) on the next regularly scheduled business day. This will be strictly adhered to!!**

**eCollege Student Technical Support:**

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- **Chat Support:** Click on ‘Live Support’ on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.
- **Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.
- **Email:** helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

**Help:** Click on the ‘Help’ button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e. How to submit to dropbox, How to post to discussions etc…)

**For assistance with the library:** To access the Library databases and Library tutorials you must open a separate browser session. Minimize your eCollege session and open another browser window going to the Library's web site directly: [http://www.tamuc.edu/library](http://www.tamuc.edu/library) not from within eCollege.

**Policy for Reporting Problems with eCollege:**

Should students encounter eCollege-based problems while submitting assignments/discussions/comments/exams, the following procedure **MUST** be followed:

- Students must report the problem to the help desk. You may reach the helpdesk at helpdesk@online.tamuc.org or 1-866-656-5511
- Students **MUST** file their problem with the helpdesk and obtain a helpdesk ticket number
- Once a helpdesk ticket number is in your possession, students should Email me to advise me of the problem and to provide me with the helpdesk ticket number
- At that time, I will call the helpdesk to confirm your problem and follow up with you

**PLEASE NOTE:** Personal computer/access problems are not a legitimate excuse for filing a ticket with the helpdesk. I strongly encourage you to check for compatibility of your browser BEFORE the course begins and to take the eCollege tutorial offered for students who may require some extra assistance in navigating the eCollege platform. ONLY eCollege-based problems are legitimate.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

This course consists of a series of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the outcomes for the course. Each week you will work on various combinations of assignments, activities, discussions, and readings.

Due to the technical nature of the materials being presented, it is highly recommended that the student take notes over the readings, online lectures, discussions, videos and assignment activities. **Accessing all weekly content items is required!!!**

Grading

A total of 350 points are attainable in the course. The breakdown of points is as follows:

- Discussion Posts 5 @ 20 pts = 100 points
- Mid Term Exam 1 @ 100 pts = 100 points
- Final Exam 1 @ 150 pts = 150 points

= 350 points total

The final grades in this course will be calculated according to the following scale:

- A 315-350 points
- B 280-314 points
- C 245-279 points
- D 210-244 points
- F 209 points and below

The student’s grade in this course will be a direct result of the student’s personal dedication to the course requirements. **There will be no curving of grades.**

**Special Note:** When checking grades on eCollege, the system only gives a percentage of the total assignments the student has ‘attempted’. Please compare grades with the course syllabus for the most accurate information.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Attendance Policy

Each week’s content items will not be accessible until Monday, 12am, of each week, according to the University schedule. It is each student’s responsibility to access the weekly course content items and complete any assignments, activities, and exams as outlined in this syllabus.
Discussion Posts

There will be five (5) Discussions, regarding one (1) social problem each; worth 20 points per Discussion. The Social Problem used in the Discussions will be voted on by the class during week 1. The Discussion dates will then be assigned by the professor and posted along with the remaining Course Outline/Calendar, for weeks 2-17. The professor will divide the class into three groups; each group will be responsible for contributing a particular part of the Discussion. Each Monday of the assigned week, the professor will email all class members a list of who is in which of the three groups for THAT week. The groups will rotate responsibilities for each of the Discussion topics. Again, each time, the professor will email all class members to advise which group they are in for THAT Discussion week.

The Discussions will use the following format:

• One-third (1/3) of the class will consider XYZ social problem, then compile a list of “ideal” solutions to the social problem (due on Tuesday of the assigned week)
• One-third (1/3) of the class will then compile a list of “realities” that would have to be dealt with in order to improve the social problem (due on Wednesday of the assigned week)
• One-third (1/3) of the class will finally list possible workable solutions that, although not ideal, might benefit some individuals and groups that experience the social problem (due on Thursday of the assigned week)

The Discussions will be on eCollege. The Discussions must be completed by the due date and time or no points will be assessed.

The Discussions will be graded according to the following guidelines:

• Minimum 250 words (3 pts)
• Proper grammar, diction, spelling, and punctuation (3 pts)
• Use of, at least one (1) outside source other than course text book, i.e. Scholarly Journal, Peer reviewed Scholarly Article, or Main Stream News Paper or Periodicals (3 pts)
  ○ SPECIAL NOTE: DO NOT just Google the topic and then copy and paste material from, ‘whichever website’; I gave you the above examples for a reason!!!
• Discernible, cogent conversation and discussion on the prompted topic (11 pts)

Mid Term Examination

There will be a Mid Term Exam, consisting of 50 questions, and worth a total of 100 points. The Mid Term Exam will be completed on eCollege and will be multiple choice and true/false format. It is the student’s responsibility to complete the exam by the due date and time.

Final Examination

There will be a Final Exam, consisting of 102 questions, and worth a total of 150 points. The Final Exam will be completed on eCollege and will be 100 multiple choice and true/false format questions worth 1 point each and 2 essay questions worth 25 points each. It is the student’s responsibility to complete the exam by the due date and time.

Academic Dishonesty

The University will strictly enforce policies regarding academic dishonesty. If you are found in violation of these policies, you will be reported to both the Department Head, as well as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. These administrators may impose penalties, separate of my actions.

Penalties for academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, receiving a failing grade, failing the course, and/or dismissal from the university.

Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to the following acts:
**Cheating** - Copying another’s work, using unauthorized Materials during assignments or exams, Perpetrating the work of another as your own, etc.

**Plagiarism** - Failure to site the work of another in your own Submissions, perpetrating the work of another, etc.

**Student Behavior**

As stated in the student handbook: “All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment”. (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct, for more information.

**Make-up Work – Drop Policy**

Each student will be allowed one (1) makeup ONLY!!! Use this wisely. Makeups will be done only during dead week (the week before finals). It is each student’s responsibility to contact me, prior to dead week to request the make-up…once dead week begins, NO REQUESTS WILL BE ACCEPTED!!!

If a student is failing, it is the student’s responsibility to drop or withdraw from the course by the appropriate dates, according to the university calendar.

**University Specific Procedures:**

**Students with Disabilities:**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library
Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu
### COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week #</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Weekly Content Items / Activities / Assignments</th>
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| Week 1 | 1/20-1/25  | Syllabus / Introductions / Ch. 1 / Syllabus Acknowledgement Quiz
***email the votes for your Discussion topics*** |
| Week 2 | 1/26-2/1   | Will be completed by the professor, once all of the class has voted on the Discussion topics. |
| Week 3 | 2/2-2/8    | The revised Course Outline/Calendar for the remainder of the course will be compiled according to the elected topics, then emailed to all class members prior to week 2. |
| Week 4 | 2/9-2/15   | |
| Week 5 | 2/16-2/22  | |
| Week 6 | 2/23-3/1   | |
| Week 7 | 3/2-3/8    | |
| Week 8 | 3/9-3/15   | **Mid-Term Exam** (due, 3/11, 11:59pm) |
| Week 9 | 3/16-3/22  | **SPRING BREAK** |
| Week 10 | 3/23-3/29 | |
| Week 11 | 3/30-4/5  | Will be completed by the professor, once all of the class has voted on the Discussion topics. |
| Week 12 | 4/6-4/12   | The revised Course Outline/Calendar for the remainder of the course will be compiled according to the elected topics, then emailed to all class members prior to week 2. |
| Week 13 | 4/13-4/19  | |
| Week 14 | 4/20-4/26  | |
| Week 15 | 4/26-5/3   | |
| Week 16 | 5/4-5/10   | Dead Week (Make-up work to be completed with prior approval from the professor) |
| Week 17 | 5/11-5/12  | **Final Exam** (due 5/13, 11:59pm) |

Every effort will be made to adhere to the course schedule as noted above. However, circumstances may require changes to the schedule. In that case, changes will be announced via university e-mail, or on eCollege. The professor reserves the right to change the schedule if necessary and depending on the progress of the class. I highly recommend that you follow the schedule outlined above VERY CAREFULLY so that you are sure to complete readings as assigned and turn your assignments in on time.