



University of International Business and Economics  
International Summer School

SOC 150 Social problems

**Term: May 28 – June 28, 2018**

**Instructor: Marianna Klochko**

**Home Institution: OSU Marion**

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**Class Hours: Monday through Thursday, 120 minutes each day**

**Office Hours: TBD**

**Discussion Session: 2 hours each week**

**Total Contact Hours: 40 contact hours (50-55 minutes each)**

**Credit: 4 units**

**Course Description:** This course will include an overview of concepts and main theoretical perspectives used in sociology and an application of these theories to the study of social problems. This course will require you to develop your critical analysis skills in viewing multiple social problems in the United States. This course may also briefly cover global social problems and compare them to those found in the U.S. The purpose of this course is to teach students how to examine social problems from a variety of sociological perspectives. It is also the goal of this course to show students the impact of social institutions and social interactions on human behavior in the development of or response to social problems.

**Prerequisite:** no prerequisite

**Course Goals:** It is expected that upon completion of this course all students will have either acquired or begun to:

- To begin to be able to gain the ability to think critically.
- To improve oral communication skills by being able to clearly defend, with evidence, one's opinions.
- To acquire a respect for the viewpoints of others.
- To develop the ability to hear and understand the strengths and weaknesses in the arguments of others and in one's own.
- To understand the problems associated with contemporary society.
- To examine societal problems by applying the "sociological imagination".
- To learn to write brief and concise, but thorough analyses.
- To improve and refine their writing and comprehension skills.

**Required Textbook:** *“Social Problems: a Down-to-Earth approach”* by James M. Henslin, 11<sup>th</sup> edition

**ISBN-10:** 0205965121

**ISBN-13:** 978-0205965120

**Grading Policy:**

Presentation	10
Term Paper	20
Exam (midterm)	25
Final exam	25
Participation	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

**Grading Scale:**

Assignments and examinations will be graded according to the following grade scale:

<b>A</b>	90-100	<b>C+</b>	72-74
<b>A-</b>	85-89	<b>C</b>	68-71
<b>B+</b>	82-84	<b>C-</b>	64-67
<b>B</b>	78-81	<b>D</b>	60-63
<b>B-</b>	75-77	<b>F</b>	below 60

**Class Rules:**

General courtesy and no use of iPhone and electronic devices during class lectures.

*General expectations:*

Students are expected to:

Attend all classes and be responsible for all material covered in class and otherwise assigned: any unexcused absence may impact a student's grade;

Complete the day's required reading and assignments before class;

Review the previous day's notes before class, make notes about questions you have about the previous class or the day's reading;

Refrain from texting, phoning or engaging in computer activities unrelated to class during class;

Participate in class discussions and complete required written work on time.

**Academic Honesty:**

Students are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty. Specifically, unless otherwise directed by the professor, students may not consult other students, books, notes, electronic devices or any other source, on examinations. Failure to abide by this may result in a zero on the examination, or even failure in the course.

Students are also expected to adhere to appropriate scholarly conventions in essays and research papers. This class includes writing assignment(s) in which students must give credit to all outside sources used by means of citations and a bibliography. Failure to do so may result in a zero on the paper assignment, or even failure in the course.

**Attendance Policy:**

Summer school is very intense and to be successful, students need to attend every class. Occasionally, due to illness or other unavoidable circumstance, a student may need to miss a class. UIBE policy requires a medical certificate to be excused. Any unexcused absence may affect the student's grade. Moreover, UIBE policy is that a student who has more than 1/3 of the class in unexcused absences will fail the course.

**Course Schedule:**

	Topic	Readings/Assignments
May 28	Welcome! What is a social problem?	Introduction to the course and course requirements; Chapter 1
May 29	Interpreting Social problems	Chapter 2
May 30	Sexual Behavior	Chapter 3
May 31	Alcohol and Drugs	Chapter 4
June 4	Drug use laws	“Should laws against drug use remain restrictive?” see supplement
June 5	Physical violence	Chapter 5
June 6	Crime	Chapter 6  “Is street crime more harmful than white –collar crime”- see additional materials
June 7	Economic Problems	Chapter 7
June 11	Racial-Ethnic relations	Chapter 8; <i>Exam review</i>
June 12	<b>EXAM</b>	
June 13	Bias in the media	“Does the media have a liberal bias?”
June 14	Gender and sexual orientation	Chapter 9
June 18	Medical care	Chapter 10
June 19	Family	Chapter 11
June 20	Urbanization & population	Chapter 12
June 21	Population crisis	Goldstone, Jack A. 2010. “The new population bomb: the four megatrends that will change the world”, <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , vol. 89 (1): 31-43  Longman, Philip. 2011. “The world will be more crowded-with old people”, <i>Foreign Policy</i> , 188: 1-3
June 25	The environmental crisis	Chapter 13
June 26	War, Terrorism and balance of	Chapter 14; Exam review



	power	
June 27	<b>PRESENTATIONS</b>	
<b>June 28</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	