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Phone Numbers:	(210) 784-1911 or Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900

Texas A & M University San Antonio (TAMUSA)
Department of Sociology and Communication
COURSE SYLLABUS
SOCI – 1306
Social Problems

Instructor's Name	Dr. Dorothy Kalanzi
Instructor's Office	Online
E-mail Address	dkalanzi@tamusa.edu
Office Hours	TBA
Dept Phone #	Online
Meeting Location	TBA

E-MAIL

The best way to reach me is via E-mail provided above. Please feel free to E-mail me if you have questions or concerns. I check my E-mail daily. Try to be brief and on the point to accommodate other students who may wish to communicate with me at the same time. However, if you encounter technical trouble shooting issues contact TAMUSA Information Technology (IT) or Blackboard Support at <https://www.tamusa.edu/information-technology-services/index.html> or externally at: https://help.blackboard.com/Filter/Student/College_or_University. These departments should be more than glad to assist students. Be ready to provide your Blackboard user account information. You can also access Blackboard, IT, or other support services once you enter the course virtual classroom and click on "Blackboard or IT Help" for your convenience.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

SOCI 1306. Social Problems.

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, globalization, or family problems. This course meets the standards for the "Social and Behavioral Sciences" category of courses under the core curriculum. Required for all sociology majors, minors and for BAAS degrees with a concentration in sociology. This class is a prerequisite for SOCI 2330 and is a prerequisite option for many sociology electives. TSI Restriction(s): Reading, Math, and Writing Credits: 3 (3-0-0)

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Required Textbook – Social Problems, 14th Edition by D. Stanley Eitzen, Maxine Baca Zinn, and Kelly Eitzen Smith, Pearson. This textbook is available at the TAMUSA bookstore and online external bookstores.

REQUIRED ACCESSORIES

Students must have access to computerized equipment including a webcam. Please note that this course is entirely online. All quizzes/exams will be completed online utilizing Lock Down Browser and a webcam as proctoring systems. It is the students' responsibility to make sure they have access to the above on the first day of class. Consult with TAMUSA Blackboard tech or IT about the above software is necessary. Important to know is that, while on campus, TAMUSA has computers located across campus for your convenience.

COURSE RESTRICTIONS

Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.

COURSE OBJECTIVES for This Course (CO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Define social problems, its causes and consequences.
2. Analyze politically and economically structured social problems in United States in light of concepts of power, powerlessness, an dominance as forces of interest groups.
3. Discuss major social problems in developing societies and the role of developed nations in creating and maintaining them.
4. Explain urban, suburban, and rural social problems in the United States
5. Discuss global environmental problems in reference to the social economic systems.
6. Discuss structured social economic political problems and their effect on the marginalized in the United States.
7. Explain the nature of crime and society's reaction to criminal behavior in the judicial system.
8. Explain social problems resulting from the structure or work and the economy in the United states.
9. Discuss structured social, economic, and demographic trends that have caused familial changes in the United States
10. Discuss the structure of the education system in the United States and social inequality.
11. Explain the US health care crisis, social inequality of health, and health care delivery.
12. Discuss the nature of US national security threats, response and consequences of those threats.
13. Explain some social policies that could resolve some social problems.

ASSESSMENT AND PROCEDURES QUIZZES:

EXAMINATIONS: Assessments include **3 Examinations**. Each Exam will be worth **100 points**. Exam dates are clearly listed in the course schedule outline below. The format for each Exam will be discussed in advance. All Exams will be completed on Canvas using Respondus Lockdown Browser. Respondus Lockdown Browser is a system required by UTA

instructors to proctor students taking assessments online to promote academic integrity as per UTA policy expectation mentioned below. Please take UTA's academic integrity's policy seriously when you are taking Exams to avoid undesirable consequences. You can also plan to be each other's police to turn in cheating students. **MAKE UP POLICY:** All students are expected to take all 3 Exams as scheduled, UNLESS you have a legitimate written excuse such as a written documentation of death or a serious illness, court appearance, or absence on a college sponsored function. These are the only legitimate excuses for failure to complete any quiz on time.

DISCUSSION FORUMS: There will be **10 required graded discussion forums**. Every student is expected to contribute 2 discussion posts to each discussion forum. The total number of points for each discussion forum will be 10. The first post must be your original thought in response to the respective topic of a given forum (5 points). The second post must be a response to one other post from a different classmate (5 points). Therefore, the maximum score for each forum will be 10 points. All 10 forums will carry a maximum of 100 points. To get full points, each post must be at least 200 words. Also make sure each post meets the required specifications as well as sound content. Additionally, make sure you have two posts for each forum. All discussion posts must be submitted on Canvas to be graded.

Discussion Forum Due dates are clearly listed in the course outline. Late discussion posts will carry a penalty of 2 points. This is necessary because to maximize discussion points, other students will depend on your original post just like your success may depend on theirs. Further instructions to successfully complete discussion forums are clearly listed on the Discussion Forum Page within given modules.

As you respond to other people's posts, be open minded understanding that we all do not have to agree but can work together with unique perspectives on social issues. Respectful exchange of information enriches the learning process, and in real life may lead to better decision-making outcomes. Each student is encouraged to engage in discussion forums pertaining to text/lecture materials, movies, and other topics relevant to the course. I value your input as well as your contributions, and I will do my best to encourage them by working with you to create a climate that is conducive for your participation. I am sure that all of you will have something to contribute to enrich the learning process. I will treat your contributions with respect, and I expect you to do the same for your classmates.

DUE DATES: Discussion Forum Due dates are clearly listed in the course syllabus schedule below. Late discussion posts will carry a penalty of 3 points. This is necessary because to maximize discussion points, other students will depend on your original post just like your success may depend on theirs. I value your input as well as your contributions, and I will do my best to encourage them by working with you to create a climate that is conducive for your participation. I will treat your contributions with respect, and I expect you to do the same for your classmates. Further instructions to complete discussion forums are narrated in Blackboard modules.

EXTRA CREDITS: Additionally, there may be additional online written activities that could be awarded as extra credits based on the overall performance of the class. Extra credit activities are voluntary and not a requirement. All extra credit activities must be completed as scheduled.

MAKE UP POLICY: All students are expected to complete all assessments as scheduled UNLESS one has a legitimate written excuse such as a written documentation of death or a serious illness, court appearance, or absence on a college sponsored function. These are the only legitimate excuses for failure to complete assessments as scheduled. Other situations may be considered as per 'TAMUSA's Important Policies and Resources' found on the course Blackboard menu under "**Important Policies and Resources**". Make sure you understand these policies. Remember that it is your responsibility to contact me if you must reschedule completing assessments for any reason. At the same time, if you fail to complete the exam as scheduled for any reason, do not hesitate to consult with me should there be other situation to be considered.

READINGS: The readings for this class are not easy. It is extremely important that you have enough time to devote to your readings. Therefore, if you are not able to read the text and review your notes regularly you will not be successful in this class. It is vital to your success that you do your readings on a timely basis and engage in class discussions forums. I will not remind you of missed assignments or any other matter. If you must miss a deadline for accessing class material, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed from fellow students. If your score falls below 70% on any of the given assignments, don't hesitate to contact me about your performance for help.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Class participation specifically in the form of discussion forums or other online activities is essential for success in this course, not only because it enhances the overall learning process, but it may affect your final grade. Make sure you complete discussions as scheduled because other students will depend on your input to post their work.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to TAMUSA's academic integrity policy. Additionally, the use of Generative AI is prohibited in this course. Students are prohibited from using generative AI in discussion forums because these activities are intended to develop critical thinking, independent analysis, and original expression. Using AI-generated responses bypasses the cognitive effort required to evaluate ideas, engage meaningfully with peers, and articulate personal understanding. Reliance on AI undermines authentic learning, misrepresents student authorship, and prevents instructors from accurately assessing individual comprehension. For these reasons, and in alignment with course learning objectives, the use of Generative AI is strictly prohibited in this course.

All work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity. Suspected violations of TAMUSA's standards for academic integrity policy will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with the University's policy,

which could result in severe consequences that may include the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

GRADING SCALE

Your course grade will be based on the number of points you earn. Your responsibility is to earn as many points as possible. The best way to achieve this is to do as well as possible on your quizzes, do a good job on your written assignments, and be active in class. To give you an idea of where you stand at any point during the semester, the following grading scale will be used:

Assignment	Point Value	% Final Grade	Outcomes Assessed	Percentage
3 Examinations	300	75%		A = 100-90
10 Discussion Forums	100	25%		B = 89-80
Extra Credits (Tentative)	Cr	Cr		C = 79-70
Total Points	400	100%		D = 69-60 F = Below 60

DROP POLICY

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.**

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Support Services in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210, or at (210) 784-1335 or visit <https://www.tamusa.edu/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment call 210-784-1331 or visit Modular C,

Room 166 (Rear entrance). All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. **Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2')**. For more information and self-help resources, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://bit.ly/WLDCCenter>.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots’ Casa in-person room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

EMERGENCY EXIT PROCEDURES

JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio’s mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit:

<https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>. More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-operations-plan.pdf> and <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-action-plan.pdf>.

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FINANCIAL AID AND VERIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE

According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY

At the end of each term, you will be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey. You are strongly urged to participate. Your response will not affect your performance in this course as instructors do not see survey responses, except after grades have been submitted.

EOC STATEMENT

TAMUSA does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, or disability in the employment or the provision of services. See Policies and Resources file found on the course Blackboard menu under **“Important Policies and Resources”**.

PROJECTED TOPICS AND READING SCHEDULE

(This schedule may change at the discretion of the instructor. “As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. Dr. Dorothy J. N. Kalanzi)

	Readings	Assignments
Module 00 Jan 20 – Jan 25	Course Introduction	Discussion Introductions-Extra Cr
Module 01 Jan 26 – Feb 01	Ch. 01 - Sociological Approach to Social Problems	Discussion Forum 01 (Graded)
Module 02 Feb 02 - Feb 08	Ch. 02 - Wealth and Power: The Bias of the System	Discussion Forum 02 (Graded)
Module 03 Feb 09 - Feb 15	Ch. 03 - World Population and Global Inequality	Discussion Forum 03 (Graded)
Module 04 Feb 16 - Feb 22	Ch. 05 – Problems of Place, Urban, Suburban, rural	Discussion Forum 04 (Graded)
Module 05 Feb 23 – Mar 01	Ch. 06 - Threats to the Environment	Discussion Forum 05 (Graded)
March 09 EXAMINATION # 01 - Deadline at 11:59 p.m.		
Module 06 Mar 02 – Mar 08	Ch. 07 - Poverty	Discussion Forum 06 (Graded)
MAR 10 – MAR 16 - HAPPY SPRING BREAK		
Module 07 Mar 16 – Mar 22	Ch. 10 – Disability and Ableism	Extra Credit Discussion Forum
Module 08 Mar 23 – Mar 29	Ch. 13 - Economy and Work	Extra Credits Discussion
Module 09 Mar 30 – Apr 05	Ch. 14 - Families	Discussion Forum 07 (Graded)
April 13 - EXAMINATION # 02 - Deadline at 11:59 p.m.		
Module 10 Apr 06 – Apr 12	Ch. 11 - Crime and Justice	Discussion Forum 08 (Graded)
Module 11 Apr 13 – Apr 19	Ch. 16 - Health Care System	Discussion Forum 09 (Graded)
Module 12 Apr 20 – Apr 26	Ch. 15 - Education	Discussion Forum 10 (Graded)
Module 13 Apr 27 – May 03	Ch. 18 - Progressive Plan to Solve Social Problems	Extra Credit Discussion Forum
May 04 – May 6 - Review and – FINAL EXAMINATION – Online		
Examination Deadline is May 6th		
ALL EXAMS MUST BE COMPLETED BY 11:59 (Midnight) May 6th		
NO EXCEPTION		

Bravo!!! The course has concluded. All the best