



WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
Virtual Campus
School and Behavioral and Social Sciences
Spring 2009

Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, lifelong learning, and service to God and humankind.

SOCI 3304- Social Problems (CRIJ/JUAD 3304)

Instructor: Beth Durbin, MSW

Class Time and Location: Virtual Campus

Office Hours: 9:00 am to 9:00 pm (Alaska time)

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Catalog Description: Social problems including causes, interrelationships, and program of ameliorations.

Prerequisite: None, however SOCI 1301 is recommended

Textbook: 1. Understanding Social Problems, 6th Edition, By L. Mooney, D. Knox & C. Schacht & 2. Study Guide – Understanding Social Problems, 6th Edition by Lori Ann Fowler

Course Outline: Social Problems will cover the identification, research, and theories regarding today' social problems. The primary social problems we are facing nationally and globally will be discussed. Students will exam and present potential solutions to the problems.

Course requirements:

Your grade will be based on your performance on the following:

Discussion Board: Regular attendance and participation in online discussions/activities are important and strongly encouraged to facilitate the

learning process. Assigned reading is to be completed prior to online interactive sessions for which the reading was assigned. At least one discussion question will be assigned per week that will require students to share their ideas and concepts with other students. Students are encouraged to share constructive information with the instructor and fellow classmates. Students are required to comment to the teachers discussion question by Wednesday at 9:00 pm (CST) and then respond to two other comments by Sunday at 11:59 pm (CST) to receive the full credit weekly.

Homework: The homework is activities that come out of the Study Guide. The homework assignments need to be sent through digital drop box on Blackboard by Saturday midnight(CST) of that week.

Project 1-3: watch 3 movies related to a topic that is discussed in the text. Write a 2-4 page paper on the movie and discuss how these films relate to social problems in our text. Be specific. Here are some examples of films: Pursuit of Happiness, One Flew over the Cookoo's Nest, Girl Interrupted, The Grapes of Wrath, Losing Isaiah, Philadelphia, Crash, Glass House, Mommy Dearest, Hotel Rwanda, etc. See schedule to see when each film is due during the term.

Exams: The exams will be multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. The midterm will cover chapters 1-7 and the final exam will cover chapters 8-16. .

Course Outcome Competencies: Upon successful completion of this course, each student will understand and be able to describe:

- Define social problems from the major three sociological perspectives
- Identify issues in society as it relates to wealth, social class, race/ethnicity and gender
- Critically analyze social problems and their affect on society
- Discuss strategies and interventions to decrease to ameliorate various social problems

Method of determining course grade:

Grade Weight: (based on 700 points possible)

Discussion Board: 50 points
Project 1: 100 points
Project 2: 100 Points
Project 3: 100 Points
Homework: 150 points
Mid Term: 100 points
Final Exam: 100 points

The University has a standard grade scale:

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F= below 60, W = Withdrawal, WP = withdrew passing, WF = withdrew failing, I = incomplete. An incomplete may be given within the last two weeks of a long term or within the last two days of a microterm to a student who is passing, but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required work for reasons beyond the student's control. A grade of "incomplete" is changed if the work required is completed prior to the last day of the next long (10 to 15 weeks) term, unless the instructor designates an earlier date for completion. If the work is not completed by the appropriate date, the I is converted to an F.

Attendance: Although you are not physically in attendance in a classroom for a Virtual Campus class, you are expected to complete all assignments in the specified timeframe and to participate in interaction with the instructor and other students when and in the manner specified in this syllabus.

Additional attendance policies: Exceptions will be made for TDY and deployments provided the instructor is notified ahead of the time.

Instructor's policy on Academic Dishonesty: Intellectual, integrity and truthfulness are fundamental to scholarship. Scholars, whether they are performing as students or as teachers, are engaged in a search for truth. Plagiarism is a form of cheating and also a form of theft. Plagiarism occurs when a student fails to give proper credit when information is either quoted or paraphrased. Carelessness is no excuse. As such, it is a breach of scholarly responsibility. It is also unethical and in some cases, illegal. Looking at or copying someone else's test, answer sheet, and/or paper are counted as cheating. Plagiarism may result in an "F" in the course.

Service for the Disabled: It is University policy that no otherwise qualified disabled person be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the University. Students should inform the instructor of existing disabilities at the first class meeting.

Tentative Schedule:

Week 1- Feb. 23 - Introduction/Course Review

Reading Assignment:

Chapter 1

Discussion board question

Homework: Study Guide Page 8 – Social Problems Alphabet

Week 2 - March 2 - Reading Assignment:

Chapter 2 and 3

Discussion board question

Homework: Study Guide Page 27 – Chap. 2 - Eating disorder group activity - answer 2 out of 5 questions. Page 49 - Chap. 3 - Drug Abuse – answer 3 out of the 6 questions

Week 3 - March 9 - Reading Assignment:
Chapter 4 and 5

Discussion board question

Homework: Study Guide Page 54 – Chap. 4 – Crime and Punishment – answer 2 of the 4 questions. Page 89 - Chap 5 – Molestation – answer 2 out of 4 questions

Project 1 due

March 16 – No Class – Spring Break

Week 4 - March 23 - Reading Assignment:
Chapter 6 and 7

Discussion board question

Homework: Study Guide Page 110 & 111 – Chap. 6 - Poverty – Answer 1 question in Part I and 1 question in Part II. Page 133 - Chap. 7 – What is that job worth? – Answer 3 of 6 questions.

Week 5 - March 30 - Mid term exam

Week 6 - April 6 - Reading Assignment:
Chapter 8 and 9

Discussion board question

Homework: Study Guide Page 155 – Praise vs. Encouragement – Individual Activity. Chap. 9 Page 180 & 181 – Is race still an issue of concern in this country? Visit 1 of 3 websites and answer questions pertaining to site.

Project 2 due

Week 7 - April 13 - Reading Assignment:
Chapter 10 and 11

Discussion board question

Homework: Study Guide Page 204 – Chap 10 -Female Genital Mutilation – Answer 2 of 4 questions. Chap. 11 – Page 224 – Child Molestation & Pornography – answer 2 of 3 questions

Week 8 - April 20 - Reading Assignment:
Chapter 12 and 13

Discussion board question

Homework: Study Guide Page 246 – Chap. 12 – Suicide Pacts Among Adolescents – Answer 2 of 4 questions. Chap. 13 – Page 266 – Population & Urbanization Critical Thinking – Answer 1 of 3 questions.

Week 9 - April 27 - Reading Assignment:

Chapter 14 and 15

Discussion board question

Homework: Study Guide Page 293– Chap. 14 – Environmental Critical Thinking – Answer 2 of 3 questions. Page 318 Chap. 15 – Science & Technology Critical Thinking – Answer 2 of 3 questions
Project 3 due

Week 10 – May 4 - Reading assignment

Chapter 16

Discussion board question

Week 11 - May 11 - Final Exam