SOC 230-01

Social Problems

Class Meets: TR 9:30 – 10:45

Classroom: TTC 203

Professor: Dr. Jonathan E. May

Office Hours:

Office: Druien Hall 224

E-mail: [jemay@campbellsville.edu](mailto:jemay@campbellsville.edu)

Phone: (270)789-5122

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**Textbook:** No Textbook. Readings will be provided via Moodle or will be passed out in class.

**Description:**

This course investigates patterns, dynamics, and consequences of discrimination, economic deprivation, oppression, and populations at risk. It looks at the changing attitudes and practices of family, institution, and cultural values and also explores deviant behavior and the underlying effects on humanity.

**Student Learning Objectives:**

Upon completing this course, students should be able to…

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the various perspectives concerning how social problems are defined and address, including a Christian perspective.
2. Develop their own perspective on social problems by adopting a perspective or synthesizing two or more perspectives.
3. Differentiate between the perspectives by showing how they come to different conclusions about the same potential problem.
4. Apply multiple perspectives (including his/her own perspective) to the study of a social problem.

**Assessments/Requirements:**

Reading Assignments (20%)

Students will be assigned readings throughout the semester. Each reading will require a homework assignment that should be completed and brought to class the day the reading is to be discussed in class.

Exams (20%)

There will be a midterm and a final exam. These exams will test the general knowledge of the perspectives being studied and the issue being examined.

Issue Papers (30%)

During the class, students will be presented with readings and other materials on four different social problems. For each of these problems, they are to write a 3-4 page paper examining the problem and potential solutions from at least two different perspectives. The student’s lowest grade on an issue paper will be dropped.

Research Paper (20%)

Students will research a social problem of their choosing and critically examine that problem from at least three perspectives, including their own perspective. They will present their work in a 5-7 page paper as well as a short oral presentation (10-15 minutes) to the class. Students may work independently on this project or in pairs.

Class Participation (10%)

Students should work together and with the instructor to make the most out of this class. This grade is a subjective assessment of how much the student worked during the class sessions to enhance the learning of the entire class. Although there is no attendance grade in this class, low class attendance reduces one’s ability to participate in class and is therefore shown in this grade. A rubric for the class participation grade will be provided.

**Grading**

This class uses a 10-point scale:

90-100 = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

60-69 = D

0-59 = F

**Tentative Calendar / Course Outline:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week | Topic | Readings | Assignment Due |
| 8/29-8/31 | Perspectives on Social Problems |  |  |
| 9/5-9/7 | Perspectives on Social Problems |  |  |
| 9/12-9/14 | Problem 1: Rural Poverty |  |  |
| 9/19-9/21 | Problem 1: Rural Poverty |  |  |
| 9/26-9/28 | Problem 1: Rural Poverty |  |  |
| 10/3-10/5 | Problem 2: Opioid Addiction |  | Issue Paper 1 (10/5) |
| 10/10-10/12 | Problem 2: Opioid Addiction |  |  |
| 10/17 | **Midterm Exam** |  |  |
| 10/24-10/26 | Problem 3: Global Food Crisis |  | Issue Paper 2 (10/26) |
| 10/31-11/2 | Problem 3: Global Food Crisis |  |  |
| 11/7-11/9 | Problem 4: TBD |  | Issue Paper 3 (11/9) |
| 11/14-11/16 | Problem 4: TBD |  |  |
| 11/21 | TBD |  |  |
| 11/28-11/30 | Class Presentations |  | Issue Paper 4 (11/30 or 12/5)\* |
| 12/5-12/7 | Class Presentations |  |  |
|  | **Final Exam** |  |  |

\* Students who present 11/28 or 11/30 can turn in Issue Paper 4 on 12/5. Students who present 12/5 or 12/7 should turn in Issue Paper 4 on 11/30.

**Course Policies:**

Absences—Students who miss more than 8 class periods will be self-eliminated from the class, meaning they will no longer be allowed to stay in the class (see University Absence Policy). **ALL** absences are counted toward this number. Students who miss a significant number of absences (at least 6) for University business and/or extended illness may be allowed some leeway on a case-by-case basis.

Tardiness—Please come to class on time. Regular tardiness interferes with classroom activity and could affect your participation in a graded assignment. Students who show up late for a quiz or a test will be admitted but will **not** be given extra time to complete the assessment.

Late Work—Late assignments will be docked 10% per class period that the assignment is late. Assignments that are more than 5 class periods late **will not be accepted**. No late assignments will be accepted after the last class period before the final exam period.

Student Responsibilities—The student is responsible for all material covered in class and all out-of-class assignments. **Not being in class is NOT an excuse for missing work or not knowing about assignments.**

Problems—**I do understand that students have personal lives and emergency situations do arise. However, it is the student’s responsibility to notify me of problems IMMEDIATELY (i.e. BEFORE IT BEGINS TO AFFECT SCHOOL WORK).**

**Disability Statement:** Campbellsville University is committed to reasonable accommodations for students who have documented learning and physical disabilities, as well as medical and emotional conditions. If you have a documented disability or condition of this nature, you may be eligible for disability services. Documentation must be from a licensed professional and current in terms of assessment. Please contact the Director of Disability Services at (270) 789-5450 to inquire about services.

**Campus Security:** Cell Phone: (270) 403-3611; Office: (270) 789-5556

**Title IX Statement:** Campbellsville University and its faculty are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students. In order to meet this commitment

and to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and guidance from

the Office for Civil Rights, the University requires all responsible employees, which

includes faculty members, to report incidents of sexual misconduct shared by students

to the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Title IX Coordinator:

Terry VanMeter

1 University Drive

UPO Box 944

Administration Office 8A

Phone – 270-789-5016

Email – twvanmeter@campbellsville.edu

Information regarding the reporting of sexual violence and the resources that are

available to victims of sexual violence is set forth at: www.campbellsville.edu/titleIX

**Concluding Statement**

Because flexibility is a hallmark of good teaching, this syllabus is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion. I will make every effort to keep you informed of any changes, but it is your responsibility to keep up with them.