



SOC 241 Modern Social Problems

O-Course

Course and Faculty Information

Course Description: Catalog: Race relations, poverty, unemployment, and other current issues. General studies social and behavioral (SB). Instructor: The range of possible topics in this area is immense we are going to explore poverty, population and environmental implications in relationship to society.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Instructor: Dr. Kathy Thomas

Contact Information:

Office: Santa Catalina (SANCA) 252K

Telephone: Cell (480) 330-6581 or Office 480-727-1490

E-Mail: Kathy.thomas@asu.edu

Office Hours: By appointment, Zoom, Phone or Office

College Contact: This course is offered by the [College of Integrative Sciences and Arts](https://cisa.asu.edu) (CISA). For more information about the college, visit our website: <https://cisa.asu.edu>. If you have questions about this course, please speak with your instructor. If your instructor is unable to address your questions, please send your inquiry to cisa@asu.edu.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify the characteristics of a social problem.
- Compare the four sociological perspectives.
- Identify the role of social policy, advocacy, and innovation in addressing social problems.
- Explain the different definitions of poverty.
- Explain the evolution of U.S. welfare policy.
- Describe how the sociological perspectives address age, aging, and inequality.
- Compare how the sociological perspectives explain social problems related to work.
- Explain how a population is affected by its age distribution or ethnic composition.
- Analyze consequences of gentrification.
- Describe the social determinants of health.
- Explain how the different sociological perspectives account for alcohol and drug problems.
- Define drug abuse and drug addiction.
- Identify the consequences of gender inequality

Explain how each sociological perspective addresses sexual orientation and inequality.
Explain the relationship between human activity and environmental problems.
Review the different sociological perspectives on environmental problems.
Define the issues that you feel are most important for us to address to prepare for the future.

Course Objectives

I would like each of you to become familiar with the modern social problems that are related to poverty, increasing populations and the environment. In relationship to poverty we will explore how your access to clean drinking water and the quality of food you eat are dependent on your economic level. Plus, we will explore the public health implications associated with poverty, increasing population and its impact on the community. Examples will be provided from both US and global sources.

Textbooks, Required Readings and Materials

Social Problems: Community, Policy and Social Action by [Anna Leon-Guerrero 6th edition](#), 2019, Sage Publications.

Additional learning materials will be posted in Canvas.

The book is available in the ASU Downtown Campus bookstore. The book will be supplemented by articles and video clips that underscore the general themes of the course that I will post on blackboard. You may submit an online request on ASU campus bookstore webpage and ask that they send the book to you or the campus that is closest to you.

Course Access

Your ASU courses can be accessed by both my.asu.edu and asu.instructure.com; bookmark both in the event that one site is down.

Additional Requirements

This course requires the following technologies:

- Web browsers ([Chrome](#), [Mozilla Firefox](#), or [Safari](#))
- [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) (free)
- Webcam, microphone, headset/earbuds, and speaker
- Microsoft Office ([Microsoft 365 is free](#) for all currently-enrolled ASU students)
- Reliable broadband internet connection (DSL or cable) to stream videos.

Note: A smartphone, iPad, Chromebook, etc. will not be sufficient for completing your work in an online environment. Although you will be able to access course content with mobile devices, you must use a computer for all assignments, quizzes, and virtual labs completed in Canvas.

Student Success

To be successful:

- check the course daily
- read announcements
- read and respond to course email messages as needed
- complete assignments by the due dates specified

- communicate regularly with your instructor and peers
- create a study and/or assignment schedule to stay on track
- access [ASU Online Student Resources](#) or [CISA Academic Resources](#)

Grading

Your grade will be determined based on the following grading schema:

The final course grade will be based on the total points earned in the course. All course grades will be assigned on a straight percentage basis. I will not be awarding + or – grades.

Final Grades:

90 - 100% = A

80 - 89% = B

70 - 79% = C

60 – 69% = D

Less than 59 % = E

Students in this course may request the Y grade option. The Y grade is considered “satisfactory” and equivalent to a C or better. Only students who earn a final grade of C or better are eligible for the Y grade. If your final grade is below a C based on the grading requirements outlined by this course syllabus, then you are not eligible for the Y grade and the D or E grade will be posted.

The Y grade will fulfill prerequisite requirements of a C or better, but the grade is not used for computing the GPA.

Before requesting the Y grade, you should consider that this option may have implications for your degree program, financial aid, or scholarship requirements. You should review your major map for current and future course requirements prior to requesting the Y grade. Some classes require a grade higher than a C to count for the major or as a prerequisite for future required coursework.

If you are planning to apply to graduate or professional programs, the satisfactory Y grade in a core or prerequisite course may be less advantageous to your application than a letter grade.

Students who would like to request the Y grade option must send an email to the instructor no later than **February 1st**.

Grading Procedure

Students are graded primarily on the degree to which they meet learning outcomes, not how much time and effort is put forth in the course. Proper grammar and spelling are expected; points can be lost for improper grammar and spelling. The final course grade will be based on the total points earned in the course. All course grades will be assigned on a straight percentage basis.

Grades reflect your performance on assignments and adherence to deadlines. Grades on assignments will be available within **48 hours** of the due date in the Gradebook.

Late or Missed Assignments

Notify the instructor **BEFORE** an assignment is due if an urgent situation arises and you are unable to submit the assignment on time. During COVID I have not been marking any assignments late.

Communicating with your Instructor and Classmates

Classroom Community

To build a course climate that is comfortable for all, it is important that students (1) display respect for all members of the class – including the instructor and students; (2) pay attention to and participate in all interactive student partner/instructor sessions and activities; and (3) observe the rules of appropriate online behavior (also known as *netiquette*). This term is defined by the instructor and includes keeping course discussion posts and oral communication with other students (or the instructor) focused on the assigned topics. Students must maintain a cordial atmosphere and use tact in expressing differences of opinion. In addition, they must avoid racist, sexist, homophobic, or other negative language that may unnecessarily exclude course members. This is not an exhaustive list of behaviors; rather, it represents examples of the types of things that can have a dramatic impact on the course environment. Your final grade may be reduced each time you engage in the types of negative behaviors indicated above.

Chat

The Chat tool in Canvas allows students and teachers to interact in real time. Use Chat only for informal course-related conversations unless your instructor informs you otherwise. Chat is not ideal for questions about assignments; instructors are not required to monitor it and conversations may be buried or lost.

Email

ASU email is an [official means of communication](#) among students, faculty, and staff. Students are expected to read and act upon email in a timely fashion. Students bear the responsibility of missed messages and should check their ASU-assigned email regularly.

All instructor correspondence will be sent to your ASU email account.

Course Outline

Module 1 Identifying and studying social problems from a sociological perspective

Module 2. Social class and poverty as a social problem

Module 3 Work & the economy along with urbanization

Module 4. Health and medical care as well as drug and alcohol abuse

Module 5 Gender and sexual orientation. This includes the different perspectives, consequences, and ways of responding to gender inequalities.

Module 6 Natural environment

Module 7 Prepare for the future

Point distribution/ Deadlines (A total of 410 points may be earned.)

Academic Integrity 0 points January 16

Discussion Board (20 Points) January 16

Syllabus Quiz (10 Points) January 16

Writing Assignment 1- Journal entry (20 Points) January 23

Quiz 1 100 points January 30

Writing Assignment 2 -Journal entry (20 Points) February 6

Quiz 2 100 points February 13

Writing Assignment 3- Journal entry (20 Points) February 20

Quiz 3 (100 points) February 27

Assignment Details

There is a syllabus quiz, two discussion boards, three journal entries, and three quizzes. The syllabus quiz may be taken an unlimited number of times. Specific details on the assignments follow. Each unit includes additional readings or videos that pertain to the topic at hand. Please mark the due dates in your calendar and be sure to submit assignments on time or early. You are free to begin your readings and move forward in the course. Weekly reading assignments, videos, and quizzes can be accessed through the Modules tab on the left side of the screen within Canvas.

Journal Entries

There are three (at least 800 words) writing assignments for a personal journal that will be required. You will write your thoughts on the materials that you were required to view for class. The goal is to help you to make concrete connections between class material and your personal observations.

Be sure to answer the question: What have the materials covered in class this week prompted me to consider? Journal writings will not be graded for quality, as a paper would be. If you have completed all assigned journal entries in a sincere manner, you will receive full credit for the journal in your final grade. That credit will be lessened only if you are lacking certain journal entries, or your entries are unacceptably brief or intentionally do not address the topic. The journal will not be judged negatively for unintentional errors in writing or punctuation. In other words, the journal is one place where a better writer will not necessarily get a better grade. The journal rewards effort and participation. It provides an opportunity to succeed no matter where you are starting from if you sincerely dedicate yourself.

Journal entries are used as tools for student reflection. By consciously thinking about and comparing issues, life experiences, and course readings, students are better able to understand links between theory and practice and to generate justifiable, well-supported opinions. This kind of writing assignment is meant to be interactive, as students engage with ideas and experiences that bring about questions, comparisons, insights, criticisms, speculations, and tentative conclusions.

Discussion Forum

There are two required discussion board assignments. The first assignment is to post a information about yourself, and the second requires that you discuss a social issue and post a photo or video related to a social issue. Additional details for the assignment are posted in Canvas.

Quizzes

The quizzes cover two modules each. The questions are based on the assigned reading and videos for the course and should be reflected in your answers. Answers found on the web may not match what was presented in the readings. The exam may contain short answer, multiple choice and multiple answer questions.

- You will only be able to take this exam one time.
- The quiz is not timed, but needs to be submitted by the due date.
- If you lose your Internet connection during this exam, sign in and try to access the exam again. If you are unable to enter, contact the IT help desk.

- The exam is open book, open note, but you should not discuss the exam with your friends.
- Ask any questions covering the material before starting the exam. I cannot help you on the material after you begin the exam.
- Your answers should be based on the required materials for the course, not answers you can find on the Internet. The two may not always agree.
- Short answer questions required additional time to grade. Please allow 48 hours after the due date before checking for your exam score.
- Be sure that you understand multiple answer questions before beginning the exam. Multiple answer questions have several correct response choices, but ALL choices must be identified for the answer to be correct.

Submitting Assignments

For your own protection, you should keep a copy of everything you hand in, and you should keep your graded assignments at least until grades are finalized at the end of the semester in the event you wish to contest any grades.

All assignments, unless otherwise announced by the instructor, **MUST** be submitted to the designated area of Canvas. Do not submit an assignment via email.

Assignment due dates follow Arizona Standard time. Click the following link to access the [Time Converter](#) to ensure you account for the difference in time zones. Note: Arizona does not observe daylight savings time.

Course Time Commitment

Coursework includes all learning activities including reading, watching videos, studying, and completing assignments. Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) requires 45 hours of coursework per credit for college-level courses, which translates to:

- 1 credit hour = 45 total hours
- 2 credit hours = 90 total hours
- 3 credit hours = 135 total hours
- 4 credit hours = 180 total hours
- 5 credit hours = 225 total hours

ASU courses range in length from 6 weeks to 15 weeks. Below is a breakdown of the 135-hour required time commitment for a three-credit course divided among weeks for courses of various lengths.

Course Length	Time on Coursework per Week for a 3-credit course	Total Time Requirement for a 3-credit Course
6 weeks	22.5 hours	135 hours
7.5 weeks	18 hours	135 hours
8 weeks	17 hours	135 hours
15 weeks	9 hours	135 hours

Drop and Add Dates/Withdrawals

If you are unable to take this course for any reason, be aware that there is a limited timeline to [drop or add the course](#). Consult with your advisor and notify your instructor to add or drop this course. If you are

considering a withdrawal, review the following ASU policies: [Withdrawal from Classes](#), [Withdrawing as a Financial Aid Recipient](#), [Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal](#), and a [Grade of Incomplete](#).

Grade Appeals

Students must first speak with the instructor of the class to discuss any disputed grades. If, after review, a resolution is not achieved, students may proceed with the appeal process. Student grade appeals must be processed in the regular semester immediately following the issuance of the grade in dispute (by commencement for fall or spring), regardless whether the student is enrolled at the university. Complete details are available in the [CISA Grade Appeals policy](#).

Academic Integrity

Academic honesty is expected of all students in all examinations, papers, laboratory work, academic transactions and records. The possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, appropriate grade penalties, course failure (indicated on the transcript as a grade of E), course failure due to academic dishonesty (indicated on the transcript as a grade of XE), loss of registration privileges, disqualification and dismissal. For more information, see provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity.

If you fail to meet the standards of academic integrity in any of the criteria listed on the university policy website, sanctions will be imposed by the instructor, college, and/or dean. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an academic evaluation or assignment, plagiarizing, academic deceit (such as fabricating data or information), or falsifying academic records. Turning in an assignment (all or in part) that you completed for a previous class is considered self-plagiarism and falls under these guidelines. Any infractions of self-plagiarism are subject to the same penalties as copying someone else's work without proper citations. Students who have taken this class previously and would like to use the work from previous assignments should contact the instructor for permission to do so.

If you have any questions about your work and the academic integrity policy, please discuss your assignment or concerns with your instructor, teaching assistant, or your college Academic Integrity Officer in advance of submitting an assignment. Student resources on Sun Devil Integrity and strategies for completing your work with integrity and avoiding plagiarism are available here: [ASU Student Resources for Academic Integrity](#) or provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity for more information.

Harassment Prohibited

ASU policy prohibits harassment on the basis of race, sex, gender identity, age, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, Vietnam era veteran status, and other protected veteran status. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including termination of employees or expulsion of students. Students are encouraged to report harassment to instructors and the Dean of Students Office.

Student Conduct

ASU and the College of Integrative Sciences and Arts expects and requires its students to act with honesty, integrity, and respect. Required behavior standards are listed in the [Student Code of Conduct and Student Disciplinary Procedures](#), [Computer, Internet, and Electronic Communications policy](#), [ASU Student Academic Integrity Policy](#), and outlined by the [Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#). Anyone in violation of these policies is subject to sanctions. [Students are entitled to receive instruction free from interference](#) by other members of the class. An instructor may withdraw a student from the course when the student's behavior disrupts the educational process per [Instructor Withdrawal of a Student for Disruptive Classroom Behavior](#). The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities accepts

[incident reports](#) from students, faculty, staff, or other persons who believe that a student or a student organization may have violated the Student Code of Conduct.

Students must refrain from uploading to any course shell, discussion board, or website used by the course instructor or other course forum, material that is not the student's original work, unless the students first comply with all applicable copyright laws; faculty members reserve the right to delete materials on the grounds of suspected copyright infringement.

Title IX

Title IX is a federal law that provides that no person be excluded on the basis of sex from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Both Title IX and university policy make clear that sexual violence and harassment based on sex is prohibited. An individual who believes they have been subjected to sexual violence or harassed on the basis of sex can seek support, including counseling and academic support, from the university. If you or someone you know has been harassed on the basis of sex or sexually assaulted, you can find information and resources at <https://sexualviolenceprevention.asu.edu/faqs>.

As a mandated reporter, I am obligated to report any information I become aware of regarding alleged acts of sexual discrimination, including sexual violence and dating violence. ASU Counseling Services, <https://eoss.asu.edu/counseling>, is available if you wish to discuss any concerns confidentially and privately. ASU online students may access 360 Life Services, <https://goto.asuonline.asu.edu/success/online-resources.html>.

Student Accessibility and Inclusive Learning Services (SAILS)

Qualified students with disabilities who will require disability accommodations in this class are encouraged to make their requests to the instructor at the beginning of the semester either during office hours or by appointment. Note: Prior to receiving disability accommodations, verification of eligibility from the Student Accessibility and Inclusive Learning Services is required. Disability information is confidential.

Student Accessibility and Inclusive Learning Services (<https://eoss.asu.edu/accessibility>)

Email: Student.Accessibility@asu.edu

SAILS Phone: 480-965-1234

SAILS FAX: 480-965-0441

Tutoring

Free tutoring support is available in person and online for most courses. Services are offered through ASU's University Academic Success Programs for currently enrolled students.

- Tutoring is available in math, business, science, statistics, and engineering courses.
- Writing tutoring is available for any writing project at any stage of the writing process.
- Supplemental Instruction (SI) facilitates collaborative study groups for selected courses.
- Graduate academic tutoring is available for writing and statistics.
- Academic skills tutoring can help with critical reading, study skills, note taking, and more.

- Resources are available through our YouTube channel, Zoom recordings, and handouts.

Visit <https://tutoring.asu.edu> or call (480) 965-9072 for more information about these services, to view our schedules, or to book an appointment.

Statement on Inclusion

Arizona State University is deeply committed to positioning itself as one of the great new universities by seeking to build excellence, enhance access, and have an impact on our community, state, nation, and the world. To do that requires our faculty and staff to reflect the intellectual, ethnic, and cultural diversity of our nation and world so that our students learn from the broadest perspectives, and we engage in the advancement of knowledge with the most inclusive understanding possible of the issues we are addressing through our scholarly activities. We recognize that race and gender historically have been markers of diversity in institutions of higher education. However, at ASU, we believe that diversity includes additional categories such as socioeconomic background, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, veteran status, nationality, and intellectual perspective.

Mental Health

As a student, like anyone else, you may experience a range of challenges that can interfere with learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, substance use, feeling down, difficulty concentrating, and/or lack of motivation. These emotional health concerns or stressful events may diminish your academic performance and/or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. ASU Counseling Services provides counseling and crisis services for students who are experiencing a mental health concern. Any student may call or walk-in to any ASU counseling center for a same-day or future appointment to discuss any personal concern. Here is the website: eoss.asu.edu/counseling. After office hours and 24/7 ASU's dedicated crisis line is available for crisis consultation by calling 480-921-1006.

Establishing a Safe Environment

Learning takes place best when a safe environment is established in the classroom. In accordance with [SSM 104-02](#) of the Student Services Manual, students enrolled in this course have a responsibility to support an environment that nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engaged, honest discussions. The success of the course rests on your ability to create a safe environment where everyone feels comfortable to share and explore ideas. We must also be willing to take risks and ask critical questions. Doing so will effectively contribute to our own and others' intellectual and personal growth and development. We welcome disagreements in the spirit of critical academic exchange, but please remember to be respectful of others' viewpoints, whether you agree with them or not.

All incidents and allegations of violent or threatening conduct by an ASU student (whether on- or off-campus) must be reported to the ASU Police Department (ASU PD) and the [Office of the Dean of Students](#). If either office determines that the behavior poses or has posed a serious threat to personal safety or to the welfare of the campus, the student will not be permitted to return to campus or reside in any ASU residence hall until an appropriate threat assessment has been completed and, if necessary, conditions for return are imposed. ASU PD, the Office of the Dean of Students, and other appropriate offices will coordinate the assessment in light of the relevant circumstances.

Prohibition of Commercial Notetaking Services

In accordance with [ACD 304-06 Commercial Note Taking Services](#), written permission must be secured from the official instructor of the class in order to sell the instructor's oral communication in the form of

notes. Notes must have the note taker's name as well as the instructor's name, the course number, and the date.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to complete the course evaluation. The feedback provides valuable information to the instructor and the college and is used to improve student learning. Students are notified when the online evaluation form is available. The results are always anonymous and cannot be reviewed by the instructor/department until after final grades have been posted.

Trigger Warning

Please note that some course content may be deemed offensive by some students, although it is not my intention to offend anyone. In addition, some materials that we link with online might also be considered offensive, troubling, or difficult to review in terms of language or graphics. I attempt to provide warnings when introducing this kind of material; yet, if I forget to do so, or if something else (in my materials or posts from fellow students) seems offensive, please contact me at kathy.thomas@asu.edu, or the faculty head, [Dr. Nicholas Alozie, alozie@asu.edu](mailto:Dr.NicholasAlozie@asu.edu).

Academic Affairs Manual

For a complete guide to Arizona State University course policies, please refer to the [Academic Affairs Manual \(ACD\)](#).

Syllabus Disclaimer

The syllabus is a statement of intent and serves as an implicit agreement between the instructor and the student. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. Remember to check your ASU email and the course site often.