SYLLABUS

Course Information
SOCl 1306.401: Contemporary Social Problems
Summer II 2015 (Jul. 6 – Aug. 7)
MON, TUE, WED, THU, & FRI 9:00am – 10:40am
Business Building (BUS) #259
https://blackboard.uttyler.edu/ (look for SOCI 1306 under “My Courses”)

Instructor Information
Spencer Acadia, Ph.D.
Office Location: Muntz Library (LIB) #221 (ask for me at the Circulation or Reference desks)
Office Hours: MON & THU 11:00am – 1:00pm, and by appointment
Phone: 903-566-7472
Email: sacadia@uttyler.edu (preferred method of contact)

Course Catalog Description
“An analysis of current problems that influence the well-being of individuals, institutions, and societies. A goal is to provide students with a perspective to evaluate conflicts in values, individual deviance, family instability, aging, environment, terrorism, drug abuse, and other contemporary issues. Possible solutions based on sociological theory are explored.”

Official prerequisites for enrollment in this course: You must be an enrolled undergraduate student.

Highly recommended prerequisites for enrollment in this course: You should have successfully completed two courses of university-level English composition.

Student Learning Outcomes
The overall objectives in this course are for you to:
1. Develop a critical understanding of what is meant by a “social problem”
2. Become familiar with the varieties of social problems through social and behavioral examples such as inequality, crime/violence, mental illness, substance use/abuse, urbanization, globalization, etc.
3. Demonstrate proficiency in explaining social problems using sociological theories
4. Understand how sociology is used to empirically study and address social problems
5. Examine social problems in the United States and internationally
**Teaching Strategies**
The successful completion of this course requires three exams, with a mix of multiple-choice and essay questions. Class time will be used for traditional lecture, discussion, and exam-taking.

**Evaluation and Grading**
In this course, you must complete the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
<th>Maximum Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>33.33%</td>
<td>150 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>33.33%</td>
<td>150 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #3</td>
<td>33.33%</td>
<td>150 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Credit</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>450 pts.</td>
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Your final course grade will be based on the number of points you have accumulated at the end of the semester. The final course letter grade you earn will be established according to the following distribution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>≥ 405 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>360 – 404 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>315 – 359 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>270 – 314 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>≤ 269 pts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A grade of “W” will be assigned if you drop the course or withdraw from the semester entirely. The University may change your “W” to an “F” if you drop or withdraw after a certain date—I have no control over this. If you need to drop this course, be aware of the proper dates and deadlines. Contact the Registrar’s Office for information on their website: [http://www.uttyle.edu/registrar/](http://www.uttyle.edu/registrar/), by email: enroll@uttyle.edu, by phone: 903-566-7180, or in person: ADM 221. I do not assign any incomplete (“I”) grades in summer courses.
**Reading Material**
The following book is **required** for this course:


You are not under any obligation to purchase or rent this book from a university-affiliated bookstore. This book is available for sale and rent from independent retailers, including online retailers.

A copy of the book is on reserve at the library; ask for it at the Circulation desk and show them your student ID card. The checkout period is 2 hours and it must be used inside the library—you may not leave the library with the book.

**Exams**
There are three exams in this course. Each exam is worth a maximum of 150 possible points, or 33.33% of your total grade. Each exam contains 50 multiple-choice questions (2 pts. each), plus 2 essay questions (25 pts. each) All exam questions will come from the course textbook and lectures. Exam reviews are posted on Blackboard to help you study. Exams #1 and #2 will be given in-person during normal class time. Exam #3 will be given in-person during the official final exam time (TBD). **Bring your own Scantron 886-E form to each exam.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam #1</th>
<th>Exam Date</th>
<th>Chapters Covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>MON, Jul. 27</td>
<td>7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #3 (Final Exam time)</td>
<td>FRI, Aug. 7</td>
<td>13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you miss an exam, you must have a reasonable, documented excuse and should notify me as soon as possible. I will allow you to do a make-up, but it must be taken within 48 hours (2 days) from the original exam day in my office at the library.

**Course Website**
The Blackboard website for this course is indicated below. You should visit the website often to access course documents and read announcements.
STEP 1: Go to the Blackboard website at: https://blackboard.utttyler.edu/.

STEP 2: On the login screen, type in your Patriots username and password.

STEP 3: After successful login, click on the “My Courses” tab at the top of Blackboard.

STEP 4: On this screen, look at your courses and click on the link SOCI 1306.401 Contemporary Social Problems. Use the panel on the left to navigate through course folders.

If you need Blackboard technical support, contact the University’s IT Support team by email: itsupport@utttyler.edu, by phone: 903-565-5555, or in person: BUS 101.

Course Policies

Attendance
Coming to class will expose you to lectures and discussions that will help you understand the material covered in this course, as well as give you the chance to interact with me and other students; therefore, it is important that you attend. You will not be penalized directly for missing class; however, it will be to your advantage to be present so that you can take lecture notes, take exams on exam days, and become better acquainted with your classmates and me.

If you are going to miss a class, it is not required that you let me know unless it is an exam day. You alone are solely responsible for keeping up with the course readings, and notes; I will not provide you with my notes or recapitulate any lectures for you.

Classroom Policies
If you come to class, you are expected to arrive on time. Coming in late is discouraged as it is a distraction to me and your fellow classmates.

Please show respect by not being noisy in class, sleeping, or engaging in any other disrespectful or bothersome behavior. I anticipate that you will pay attention and express interest in the course material during your time spent in class. The classroom is a serious place of learning designed for those who are genuinely interested in higher education.

Every student should treat each other with respect. I expect that you will be mindful of and courteous towards other students in this class and under no circumstances should you become argumentative, slanderous, harassing, or disrespectful in any way towards anyone in this class, in person or online.
Food and drink are allowed as long as they are consumed without distraction. Please keep food and drink quantity to a minimum—no large pizzas or 2-liter Coke unless you plan to share. I also like strawberry cupcakes.

All electronic devices—including cell phones, laptops, and tablets—should be silenced. Electronic devices are permitted in class, provided that they are silenced and used for class-related activities (e.g., taking notes). Please wait until after class to check your Facebook and take selfies.

**Important Course Dates**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MON, Jul. 6</td>
<td>Summer II 2015 semester begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>MON, Jul. 6</td>
<td>First day of this course</td>
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<tr>
<td>WED, Jul. 15</td>
<td>Exam #1 in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MON, Jul. 27</td>
<td>Exam #2 in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI, Aug. 7</td>
<td>Exam #3 in class (Official final exam time TBD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI, Aug. 7</td>
<td>Summer II 2015 semester ends</td>
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**Reading Schedule**

The following is a schedule of assigned chapters for each week of class.

You are advised to keep up with and take your own notes on the chapters as each week passes. Do not wait until the last minute to “catch up” on your reading!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 1</th>
<th>Ch. 1: Studying social problems in the 21st century</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MON, Jul. 6</td>
<td>Ch. 2: Wealth and poverty: U.S. and global economic inequities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUE, Jul. 7</td>
<td>Ch. 3: Racial and ethnic inequality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WED, Jul. 8</td>
<td>Ch. 4: Gender inequality</td>
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<tr>
<td>THU, Jul. 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI, Jul. 10</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 2</th>
<th>Ch. 5: Inequality based on age</th>
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<tr>
<td>MON, Jul. 13</td>
<td>Ch. 6: Inequality based on sexual orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUE, Jul. 14</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>WED, Jul. 15</td>
<td>Ch. 7: Prostitution, pornography, and the sex industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THU, Jul. 16</td>
<td>Ch. 8: Alcohol and other drugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI, Jul. 17</td>
<td>Ch. 9: Crime and criminal justice</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**WEEK 3**  
MON, Jul. 20  
TUE, Jul. 21  
WED, Jul. 22  
THU, Jul. 23  
FRI, Jul. 24  

Ch. 10: Health care: Problems of physical and mental illness  
Ch. 11: The changing family  
Ch. 12: Problems in education

**WEEK 4**  
MON, Jul. 27 (exam #2)  
TUE, Jul. 28  
WED, Jul. 29  
THU, Jul. 30  
FRI, Jul. 31  

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Ch. 13: Problems in politics and the global economy  
Ch. 14: Problems in the media  
Ch. 15: Population, global inequality, and the environmental crisis

**WEEK 1**  
MON, Aug. 3  
TUE, Aug. 4  
WED, Aug. 5  
THU, Aug. 6  
FRI, Aug. 7 (exam #3)  

Ch. 16: Urban problems  
Ch. 17: Global social problems: War and terrorism  
Ch. 18: Can social problems be solved?

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**POLICIES THAT MUST APPEAR IN EACH COURSE SYLLABUS**

Academic dishonesty is a violation of University policy and professional standards. If compared to a violation of the criminal law, it would be classed as a felony. Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating, plagiarism, or otherwise obtaining grades under false pretenses. The penalty for academic dishonesty in this class will be no less than immediate failure of the course and a permanent student record of the reason therefore. In most cases, a written record of academic dishonesty or an instructor’s report of same to an agency investigator during a background check will bar an individual from employment by a criminal justice agency as it is considered indicative of subsequent corrupt acts.

Many students have an inadequate understanding of plagiarism. Any idea or verbiage from another source must be documented. Anytime the exact words from another author are used they must be enclosed with quotation marks and followed by a citation. However, quotations should only be used on rare occasions. Student papers should be written in the student’s own words; therefore excessive quotations will result in a failing grade.

The *University Catalog* does not establish make-ups as a student right. Major tests are forecasted; therefore, no make-up opportunities are contemplated. Opportunities to make-up missed examinations will be provided only for exceptional reasons and must be documented (e.g., hospital records, obituaries). Make-up examinations may be in forms completely different from original examinations and will be scheduled at the convenience of the instructor.
The following University policies must appear on each course syllabus or be provided as an informational sheet (web-links to these policies may be used in the print or electronic syllabus)
http://www.uttyler.edu/academicaffairs/syllabuspolicies.pdf

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: http://www2.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar. Each semester’s Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar. Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract. The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include: Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit; Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date); Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade); Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment; Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid.

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA Coordinator, Cynthia Lowery Staples. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to cstaples@uttyler.edu

Students are provided technical support through Information Technology (www.uttyler.edu/it/) or call 903-565-5555.

Students may obtain assistance with writing and documentation at the Writing Center on the second floor of the Business Administration Building (BUS 202), contact at writingcenter@uttyler.edu or call 903-565-5995

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.
If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor’s directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.