

Social Problems I : Course Syllabus

Social Problems I : A World in Crisis

Course Description:

Students will learn more about the challenges facing societies and the relationships between societies, governments, and individuals in these areas. Each unit will focus on a particular area of social concern, often with a global view, and examine possible solutions at both a structural and individual level.

Unit 1: Analyzing Social Problems

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * **Understand social problems and what elements are commonly found in social problems.**
- * **Review the different stages of a social problem.**
- * **Discuss some of the issues in studying social problems.**
- * **Examine the two types of social problems.**
- * **Discuss two approaches to social problems.**

Assignments:

Analyzing Social Problems: Unit Text Questions

Homework

10 points

Analyzing Social Problems: Online Social Problems Lab Questions

Homework

10 points

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| <i>Unit 1 Discussion Assignment 1</i> | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |
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| <i>Unit 1 Discussion Assignment 2</i> | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |
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| <i>Unit 1 Quiz – Analyzing Social Problems</i> | <i>Quiz</i> | 15 points |
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Unit 2: Mass Media

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * **Understand what makes up the mass media.**
- * **Discuss how the media affect what is seen as a social problem.**
- * **Learn how gatekeeping, agenda setting, and framing affect the perceptions of social problems.**
- * **Examine how the media was used in the Rwandan genocide.**
- * **Investigate claims that the media are connected to social problems like violence and racism.**

Assignments:

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| <i>Mass Media: Unit Text Questions</i> | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |
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| <i>Mass Media: Online Social Problems Lab Questions</i> | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |
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| <i>Unit 2 Discussion Assignment 1</i> | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |
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Unit 2 Discussion Assignment 2**Discussion**

5 points

Unit 2 Quiz – Mass Media**Quiz**

15 points

Unit 3: Poverty**Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * **Understand the different ways of defining poverty and deprivation.**
- * **Understand the extent of poverty in North America and around the world.**
- * **Examine the possible causes of poverty.**
- * **Investigate the costs of poverty for individuals and society.**
- * **Discuss potential ways to decrease poverty.**

Assignments:**Poverty: Unit Text Questions****Homework**

10 points

Poverty: Online Social Problems Lab Questions**Homework**

10 points

Unit 3 Discussion Assignment 1**Discussion**

5 points

Unit 3 Discussion Assignment 2**Discussion**

5 points

Unit 3 Quiz – Poverty**Quiz**

15 points

Unit 4: Education**Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * **Understand some of the social problems affecting the educational system.**
- * **Discuss the benefits of desegregation and the issues in implementing desegregation.**
- * **Understand what tracking is and the effects that this practice can have.**
- * **Examine school violence and some of the solutions that have been suggested.**
- * **Investigate some of the solutions that have been suggested for educational problems.**

Assignments:

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| <i>Education: Unit Text Questions</i> | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |
| <i>Education: Online Social Problems Lab Questions</i> | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |
| <i>Unit 4 Discussion Assignment 1</i> | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |
| <i>Unit 4 Discussion Assignment 2</i> | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |
| <i>Unit 4 Quiz – Education</i> | <i>Quiz</i> | 15 points |

Social Problems I Midterm Exam

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * **Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.**
- * **Take a course exam based on material from the first four units in this course (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)**

Assignment:

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| <i>Social Problems I Midterm Exam</i> | <i>Exam</i> | 50 points |
| <i>Midterm Discussion Assignment</i> | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |

Unit 5: Health Care**Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * **Understand the global AIDS epidemic and the patterns of transmission.**
- * **Discuss the abortion and euthanasia controversies.**
- * **Investigate how health is related to economics.**
- * **Examine some of the problems in the United States health care system.**
- * **Discuss how health care might become more equal throughout society.**

Assignments:

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| <i>Health Care: Unit Text Questions</i> | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |
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| <i>Health Care: Online Social Problems Lab Questions</i> | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |
| <i>Unit 5 Discussion Assignment 1</i> | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |
| <i>Unit 5 Discussion Assignment 2</i> | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |
| <i>Unit 5 Quiz – Health Care</i> | <i>Quiz</i> | 15 points |

Unit 6: Crime

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * **Review the different types of crime in society.**
- * **Discuss the history of crime and how urbanization affects crime rates.**
- * **Investigate theories on why individuals commit crimes.**
- * **Understand how social issues like poverty influence crime rates.**
- * **Think about how to decrease crime rates in society.**

Assignments:

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| <i>Crime: Unit Text Questions</i> | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |
| <i>Crime: Online Social Problems Lab Questions</i> | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |

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| <i>Unit 6 Discussion Assignment 1</i> | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |
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| <i>Unit 6 Discussion Assignment 2</i> | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |
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| <i>Unit 6 Quiz – Crime</i> | <i>Quiz</i> | 15 points |
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Unit 7: Population & the Environmental Crisis

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * **Examine the effects that overpopulation has on individuals and society.**
- * **Investigate how many people the earth can support and feed.**
- * **Discuss different ways to reduce population growth globally.**
- * **Learn how cultural values and practices influence environmental problems.**
- * **Discuss the social consequences of environmental issues.**

Assignments:

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| <i>Population & the Environmental Crisis: Unit Text Questions</i> | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |
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| <i>Population & the Environmental Crisis: Online Social Problems Lab Questions</i> | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |
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| <i>Unit 7 Discussion Assignment 1</i> | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |
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Unit 7 Discussion Assignment 2**Discussion**

5 points

Unit 7 Quiz – Population & the Environmental Crisis**Quiz**

15 points

Unit 8: War and Terrorism**Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * **Examine various theories on what causes war.**
- * **Understand the costs of war for individuals, societies, and countries.**
- * **Discuss how the arms race began and what form it currently takes.**
- * **Investigate some of the different types of terrorism.**
- * **Look at the weapons that terrorists might use and what effects they might have on individuals and society.**

Assignments:**War and Terrorism: Unit Text Questions****Homework**

10 points

War and Terrorism: Online Social Problems Lab Questions**Homework**

10 points

Unit 8 Discussion Assignment 1**Discussion**

5 points

Unit 8 Discussion Assignment 2**Discussion**

5 points

Unit 8 Quiz – War and Terrorism**Quiz**

15 points

Social Problems I Final Exam**Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * **Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.**
- * **Take a course exam based on material from units five to eight in this course – the last four units. (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)**

Assignment:

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| <i>Social Problems I Final Exam</i> | <i>Exam</i> | 50 points |
| <i>Class Reflection Discussion Assignment</i> | <i>Discussion</i> | 10 points |

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