San José State University  
Department of Sociology  
SOCIOLOGY 80, Social Problems, Section 3, Spring 2017

Instructor: Mark Pasion  
Office Location: DMH 237A  
Telephone: I do not check voicemail… please email directly  
Email: markpasion@att.net  
Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 8:30 – 9:00 am  
Class Days/Time: SOCI 80-03 (27941) Monday & Wednesdays 10:30-11:45 am  
Classroom: DMH 227  
GE/SJSU Studies Category Core GE Area D3

Faculty Website and MySJSU  
Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, lecture outlines, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on my faculty web page at http://www.markpasion.com. You are responsible for regularly checking this site to learn of any updates. Your course exams will be taken in class, and your exam & assignment grades will be posted to (markpasion.com). You will have timely access to your grades throughout the semester. Official final grades will be posted by Admissions & Records to your MySJSU account.

Course Description  
This course will discuss and analyze social problems from a critical perspective, using sociological analysis. We will examine the definition(s) of social problems, including how and why some issues are socially constructed and defined as social problems, while others are not. Some of the selected contemporary social problems to be studied and discussed will be racism, sexism, poverty, homophobia, and other issues related to discrimination and diversity. In addition other issues will include environmental degradation, demographic changes, education, crime, homelessness, and other social, political, and economic issues.

Course Goals and Specific Learning Objectives  
Goals: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the study of current social problems facing American society today. During our studies we will introduce and apply some core sociological theories and concepts to better contextualize and understand social problems, to further develop our sociological imaginations, and to discuss and devise social solutions. This will be approached in the context of using value systems, social groups, economic structures, and political institutions. The specific learning objectives are as follows”

GE/SJSU Area D3 Specific Learning Objectives and Activities designed to meet these objectives  
After completion of this course the student should be able to:

• Identify and analyze the social dimension of society as a context for human life, the processes of social change and social continuity, the role of human agency in those social processes, and the forces that engender social cohesion and fragmentation. [GE] Activities designed to Assist you in meeting this objective:
Lectures, readings, class discussions, and exams.
Writing assignments & small group discussion
Class Exercise or Video & class discussion

• Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts. Activities designed to Assist you in meeting this objective:
  Lectures, readings, class discussions, and exams.
  Small group discussion.
  Writing assignments are specifically designed to meet this objective

• Identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them. Activities designed to Assist you in meeting this objective:
  Lectures, readings, class discussions, and exams.
  Writing assignments & small group discussion
  Class Exercise or Video & class discussion

• Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues. Activities designed to Assist you in meeting this objective:
  Lectures, readings, class discussions, and exams.
  Writing assignments & small group discussion
  Class Exercise or Video & class discussion

• Apply multidisciplinary material to a topic relevant to policy and social action at the local, national, and/or international levels
  Small group discussion
  Writing assignments are specifically designed to meet this objective

Required Texts/Readings

Students should use the 6th edition, because that is the edition that exams are derived from. Options include new or used textbooks; loose-leaf editions, renting a textbook, or using an E-book.

Students interested in an E-book, can purchase directly from the publisher at (www.mypersonstore.com)

Textbooks are also offered at our campus bookstore for convenience, but there is no requirement that class textbooks be purchased from the campus bookstore. The textbook is also available from other sources, if you so choose. Be sure to purchase the proper edition of your textbook.

Reading should be done prior to coming to class. (Usually 1 - 2 chapters per week) Students will be better prepared to discuss the material, and better prepared for asking questions about material that needs more explanation. See reading schedule on Class Calendar page. Students are expected to use the proper edition of the assigned textbook. Older editions may not contain all the information that is listed on your exam study guides, and students that use the wrong textbook will be solely responsible for obtaining the missing information.

Classroom Protocol

Office Hours: My designated office hours are for you to come and talk with me about this course. This is your opportunity to come and talk to me outside of class.

This is primarily a lecture-based class. Classes consist mainly of lectures and discussions. These may be supplemented by some videos, homework, and small group work. Taking class notes during lecture is encouraged. Lectures are designed to clarify and expand upon the required readings. Student participation is highly encouraged, and all perspectives are welcomed.

Classroom Technology Policy:
• Cell phones should be put away during class hours….they should not be on the desk
• Cell phones can be a distraction to the student and to other classmates
• If a student must text, email, or answer the phone, they should do so outside of the classroom
• Laptops should be for class work only…. Please do not misuse this privilege.
• Students that violate the technology policy may be asked to leave the classroom
**Class Attendance & Participation:** Attendance to class sessions is an important part of the learning process. Sharing ideas with other class members, class discussions, and instructor lectures are fundamental to classroom education. Participation is an essential feature for learning. Participation may include active listening, note taking, small group discussions, classroom discussion and in-class exercises, homework and writing assignments. Small-group and open class discussion are useful venues to explore a variety of social issues and topics. Attend and participate in these activities. These assignments are designed to encourage regular class attendance, and to give students incentive to stay current with the class readings and their sociology studies. Excessive tardiness to class and/or leaving early before class has ended is rude behavior, to the instructor, and to other members of the class. Participation in class discussion is encouraged, but talking when others are speaking is also disruptive behavior. Please be courteous, rather than engage in the manner described.

* Also, there are times when we may discuss sensitive topics during class, or topics of controversy for which people may have extremely divergent views. Open discussion and debate is encouraged, but maintaining an atmosphere of mutual respect towards all that are in the class is of the utmost importance.

**Grading Policy and Assignments**

Your grade is composed of four elements

1. **Writing**
   This course requires a minimum writing assignment for 1500 words in the language and style appropriate for this discipline. This is a GE class requirement, and all students must comply. Papers must be turned in by hand during class (not by email). One e-mailed paper may be accepted during the semester due to illness or emergency.

   **Writing Assignment:** (20 pts. each writing) (Approx. 15% of final grade) (40 points total)

   - Writing #1 due: March 6
   - Writing #2 due: May 3

   Students will be writing a series of short papers concerning social issues. A writing handout will be available that explains the assignment in full detail. Please see faculty website (www.markpasion.com) for the writing handout. Students will answer specific questions as it pertains to the topic. The response must be meaningful. Grading is based upon the critical analysis of the topic as it relates to the questions answered. Deadline dates, and a more detailed description of the writing assignment is explained in the writing handout.

   *Late papers will lose credit for every class meeting that they are late; papers over one week late will not be accepted unless prior arrangements are made in advance*

   For some excellent handouts on specific writing issues see: http://www.sjsu.edu/writingresources/handouts/index.htm

   SJSU Writing Center: The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter.

2. **In-Class / Take Home Quizzes:** (5 pts. each quiz) (Approx. 10% of final grade) (30 points total)

   - Quiz #1 due: February 8
   - Quiz #2 due: February 27
   - Quiz #3 due: March 8
   - Quiz #4 due: April 5
   - Quiz #5 due: April 24
   - Quiz #6 due: May 15
These will be a group quiz or take-home quiz, covering 2-3 chapters. Quizzes are for study purpose as well as for grade assessment. Students will see examples of the types of questions seen on the exams. Discussion will follow the quiz and students can ask questions about the quizzed material. There will be 6 quizzes in total, 10 questions, multiple choice format for each quiz.

*Late quizzes will have a late penalty of 10% minimum. Once the quiz answers have been revealed, late quizzes will not be allowed.

3. Exams: (100 pts. each exam) (Approx. 70% of final grade) (200 points total)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Midterm Exam #1 – 100 pts</th>
<th>March 13</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam #2 – 100 pts</td>
<td>April 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retake Exam (Optional)</td>
<td>May 19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are three (3) major midterm exams given in this class. Each exam is worth 100 points and will consist of 52 questions (50 plus 2 extra credit questions). All exams are multiple choice. The exams are closed-book, and closed notebook. However, students will be allowed to compile notes on 1 sheet of paper, double-sided (8.5 x 11), to be used during the examinations. Cell phones and all electronic devices must be off the student’s desk, along with textbooks and other course material.

*Late exams: (10%) late penalty - Students that miss the scheduled exam should be prepared to take a late make-up exam at the following class meeting. The exam will have a late penalty of 10%. If students have extended illness, they should contact me and communicate the problems with returning to class.

*Retake exams: Students will have the opportunity for one “do-over” exam. If a student scores below 90% on one of the two major midterms, the student has the option to retake that exam. Only one midterm may be retaken, either Midterm #1 or Midterm #2, but not both. The student will keep the higher score, either the original score or the retake exam score. Retake exams must be taken as scheduled on the syllabus, and no late retake exams will be offered.

4. Class participation: (15 pts) (Approx. 5% of final grade) (15 points total)

Class participation is measured by attendance to class discussions and class small group discussions. Grading for these discussions are as follows:

- 90-100% participation/attendance to all of the discussions = 15 pts
- 80% participation/attendance to all of the discussions = 12 pts
- 60-70% participation/attendance to all of the discussions = 10 pts
- 50% participation/attendance to all of the discussions = 5 pts
- Less than 50% participation/attendance = 0 pts

*No late or make-up credit allowed for missed participation

Grade scale: 285 total points (4.0 grade scale)

256-285 pts = A  228-255 pts = B  193-227 pts = C  162-192 pts = D  161 pts or below = Fail

**Minus grades will not be given (i.e., “A-”, “B-”). Also (A+) grades are not typically given. Other plus grades may be considered based upon student performance.

Graded material: Final class grades in this class are based entirely upon exam & quiz scores, participation, and the writing assignments.
In the college classroom, grading is an institutional requirement. There is no perfect grading system, however, it is a necessity for this college and this classroom. The instructor’s goal in grading is to assess the student’s understanding of core subject matter as measured by a written exam. Grading is objective, based on exam scores and the quality of work produced in any graded class assignments. Grading is not subjective based upon how hard a student tries, or how much time is spent in studying. Unfortunately for some students, the reality is that grades in this class are based upon results and not necessarily a reflection of effort. There is no extra credit available in this class.

University Policies:

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU’s policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See University Policy S90-5 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the SJU catalog at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf, requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course and course material.

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material”
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Please see me in person to obtain verbal or written consent for any of the above.

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any other material you have submitted, or plan to submit to another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential
Directive 97-03 at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at http://www.sjsu.edu/aec to establish a record of their disability.

**Student Technology Resources**

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/ located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

**SJSU Peer Connections**

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit Peer Connections website at http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu for more information.

**SJSU Counseling Services**

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling.
# Social Problems Course Schedule / Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan 30</td>
<td>Class orientation – First day of instruction</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>What is Sociology? Review of the scientific discipline of Sociology, “PP/ 0”</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Feb 6</td>
<td>Studying Social Problems, Read chap 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Feb 8</td>
<td>Quiz #1 (“PP/0 &amp; chp 1”)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Feb 13 &amp; 15</td>
<td>Poverty &amp; Wealth, Read chp 2</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>FEB 20</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
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<td>Feb 22</td>
<td>Racial &amp; Ethnic Inequality, Read chp 3</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Feb 27</td>
<td>Quiz #2 (chps 2 &amp; 3), Racial Issues,</td>
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<td>Mar 1</td>
<td>Gender Inequality, Read chp 4</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Mar 6</td>
<td>Age inequality, Read chp 5 PAPER #1 DUE</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mar 8</td>
<td>Quiz #3 (chps 4 &amp; 5) Review Q &amp; A for Midterm #1</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Mar 13</td>
<td>MIDTERM #1 (chps 1-5)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td>Student Review- Exam #1 results</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Mar 20 &amp; 22</td>
<td>Crime, Violence &amp; Criminal Justice, Read chp 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK – MARCH 27-31</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Apr 3</td>
<td>Sexuality, Read chp 7</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Apr 5</td>
<td>Quiz #4 (chps 6 &amp; 7) Issues of Sexuality</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Apr 10 &amp; 12</td>
<td>Economy &amp; Politics, Read chps 10 &amp; 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Apr 17</td>
<td>Family: What is family? Read chp 12</td>
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<td>Apr 19</td>
<td>Family Issues &amp; Problems</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Apr 24</td>
<td>Quiz #5 (chps 10,11&amp; 12) Review Q &amp; A for Midterm #2 MIDTERM EXAM #2 (chps 6,7,10,11,12))</td>
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<td>Apr 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Student Review – Exam #2 results</td>
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<td>May 3</td>
<td>Education Issues &amp; Problems, Read chp 13 PAPER #2 DUE</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>Urbanization &amp; Population Patterns &amp; Issues, Read chps 14 &amp; 15</td>
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<td>May 10</td>
<td>Technology, Environment &amp; Social Change, Read chp 16</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Quiz #6 (chps 13,14,15,16)</td>
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<td>May 17</td>
<td>Study / Conference Day – NO CLASS</td>
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<td>May 19</td>
<td>FRIDAY, MAY 19 10:00 – 11:15 AM RETAKE EXAMS</td>
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<td>LAST DAY OF CLASS</td>
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