

**San José State University**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**SOCIOLOGY 80, Social Problems, Section 3 ( Tu / Th)**  
**SPRING 2020**

**Instructor:** Mark Pasion

**Office Location:** DMH 237A

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**Office Hours:** Tu/Th ( 8:30-9:00 am)

**Class Days/Time:** SOCI 80-03 ( 29102 ) Tuesday & Thursday 10:30-11:45 AM

**Classroom:** DMH 227

**GE/SJSU Studies Category** Core GE Area D3

**SYLLABUS QUICK SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS & GRADING**

**Required Text :** Macionis, “ Social Problems”, 8<sup>th</sup> Ed. Pearson Publishing  
( see pg. 3 of syllabus for more information)

**Grade scale: 315 total points (4.0 grade scale)** ( see pg. 4 of syllabus for more information)

309- 315 pts = A+	290-308 pts = A	284- 289 pts = A-	277-283 pts = B+
259-276- pts = B	252-258 pts = B-	246-251 pts = C+	221-245 pts = C
215-220 pts = C-	208-214 pts = D+	180-207 pts = D	179 –below = F

- **Writing:** Writing requirement ( 50 total points ). Required by department. Opinion-based paper. Essay question format. ( see pg. 4 of syllabus for more detail)
- **Quizzes:** 8 in-class quizzes, open-book, open-note, group quizzes ( 40 total points). Multiple-choice, 10 questions ( see pg. 5 of syllabus for more detail)
- **Exams :** 2 required midterms ( 200 total points). Multiple-choice exam, 50 questions. Each exam covering 5 textbook chapters. Closed-note & closed book, but 1 pg. of notes ( front & back) ( see pg. 5 of syllabus for more details)
- **Participation:** Class discussions and any group work ( 25 total points). No make-up on missed participation ( see pg. 5 of syllabus for more details)
- **Extra Credit:** None, beyond that offered in the extra credit paper. Notes allowed for exams substitutes for extra credit. Please do not ask for additional extra credit ( see pg. 5 of syllabus for more detail)

***\* THIS SYLLABUS SHOULD BE VIEWED AS AN OUTLINE FOR THE COURSE AND A GUIDELINE OF EXPECTATIONS. THESE POLICIES AND SCHEDULING INFORMATION ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR. AS MUCH NOTICE AS POSSIBLE WILL BE GIVEN IN THE EVENT OF ANY CHANGES.***

## **CANVAS and MySJSU**

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, lecture outlines, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on CANVAS in our class homepage. You are responsible for regularly checking CANVAS to learn of any updates. Your course exams will be taken in class, and your exam & assignment grades will be posted to CANVAS. 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, and/or video may be used
- Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts. [GE] Activities designed to Assist you in meeting this objective:
  - Lectures, readings, class discussions, and exams.
  - Small group discussions may be used
  - 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. [GE] Activities designed to Assist you in meeting this objective:
  - Lectures, readings, class discussions, and exams.
  - Writing assignments & small group discussion
  - Class Exercise and/or video may be used
- Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues. [GE] 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
- 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

### Macionis, “ Social Problems”, 8<sup>th</sup> Ed. Pearson Publishing

Students have many options relating to the required textbook. Students can rent or buy new and used textbooks, or use an E-book. As long as students use the proper edition, the choice of format is up to students. Textbooks offered at our campus bookstore are 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

### Grade scale: 315 total points (4.0 grade scale)

309- 315 pts = A+	290-308 pts = A	284- 289 pts = A-	277-283 pts = B+
259-276- pts = B	252-258 pts = B-	246-251 pts = C+	221-245 pts = C
215-220 pts = C-	208-214 pts = D+	180-207 pts = D	179 –below = F

\* ( Plus / Minus ) grading is used to differentiate grades that are close to the boundary between grade levels. If a student is a couple of points away from a higher grade level { e.g. B+ / A- } the instructor will use an exam average to determine which direction the grade should go.

\*\* ( A+ ) and ( A ) have the same grade value on a 4.0 grade scale. Other plus / minus grading will be used to assess student performance.

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, beyond 1 extra credit paper.**

Graded material: Final class grades in this class are based entirely upon exam & quiz scores, participation, and the writing assignment.

### **Your Final Class Grade is composed of four elements**

Exams- 200 points      Writing- 50 points      Quizzes- 40 points      Participation- 25 points

#### **1. Writing Assignment: (5 pts. each paper) (50 points total) ALL PAPERS DUE BY 10:30 AM**

**Paper #1 due: February 11**

**Paper #3 due: February 27**

**Paper #5 due: March 24**

**Paper #7 due: April 14**

**Paper #9 due: May 5**

**Paper #11 ( extra credit ) due: May 18**

**Paper #2 due: February 20**

**Paper #4 due: March 17**

**Paper #6 due: April 7**

**Paper #8 due: April 30**

**Paper #10 due: May 7**

This course has a department writing requirement in the language and style appropriate for this discipline. This is a GE class requirement, and all students must comply. This will be accomplished by way of a series of small papers. See CANVAS for a more detailed writing assignment handout. All papers must be submitted to CANVAS on the deadline date and time. Late papers will have a late penalty.

**\* Late papers will receive a 20% late penalty; papers over one week late will not be accepted unless prior arrangements are made in advance. ONLY ONE LATE PAPER ACCEPTED DURING THE SEMESTER. At the end of semester, students will not be allowed to makeup past missing papers, in order to improve their final class grade.**

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

SJSU Writing Center : 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. 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 Quizzes: ( 5 pts. each quiz ) ( 40 points total )**

<b>Quiz #1 due:</b>	<b>February 6</b>	<b>Quiz #2 due:</b>	<b>February 25</b>
<b>Quiz #3 due:</b>	<b>March 10</b>	<b>Quiz #4 due:</b>	<b>March 19</b>
<b>Quiz #5 due:</b>	<b>March 26</b>	<b>Quiz #6 due:</b>	<b>April 21</b>
<b>Quiz #7 due:</b>	<b>May 5</b>	<b>Quiz #8 due:</b>	<b>May 7</b>

These will be a group quiz, covering 2-3 chapters. Quizzes are open-book, open-note, and students can work together. Quizzes are for study purpose as well as for grade assessment. Students will see examples of the types of questions seen on the exams.. There will be 6 quizzes in total, 10 questions , multiple choice format for each quiz .

**Make-up take-home quiz:** If a student is ill, or does not attend class on the date of a quiz, email the instructor for a copy of a make-up quiz, and return the quiz answers by email on the due date to avoid a late penalty. If students do not submit a quiz to the instructor on the quiz due date, the quiz will be graded as “ late with a 10% late penalty. ***Makeup quizzes must be submitted within 7 days of the original due date.*** After 7 days, the quiz will not be accepted and a “zero” grade will be given.

**\* ONLY ONE LATE QUIZ ACCEPTED DURING THE SEMESTER. At the end of semester, students will not be allowed to makeup past missing quizzes, in order to improve their final class grade.**

**3. Exams: ( 100 pts. each exam) ( 200 points total)**

<b>Midterm Exam #1 – 100 pts</b>	<b>March 12</b>
<b>Midterm Exam #2 – 100 pts</b>	<b>April 23</b>

There are two (2) major midterm exams given in this class. Each exam is worth 100 points and will consist of 50 questions. All exams are multiple choice. The exams are closed-book, however, students are allowed 1 sheet of paper with notes ( 8 x11 front & back). Cell phones and all electronic devices must be off of the student’s desk, along with textbooks and other course material.

**Make-up / late exam:** If a student misses taking a midterm exam, email the teacher and explain the absence. The make-up exam must be taken within 1 week of the original date. The make-up exam will have a 10% late penalty, unless the student has written documentation to excuse the late penalty.

**\* ONLY ONE LATE EXAM ACCEPTED DURING THE SEMESTER.**

**\*\* NO RE-TAKE EXAMS ALLOWED ON ANY MIDTERM, IN ORDER TO GET A BETTER GRADE**

**4. Participation: ( 25 points total)**

Participation will be measured and graded by involvement in any class discussion, group work, or class exercise. On the date that a paper is due, come to class prepared to discuss your paper and paper topic. This participation in class will allow the building and strengthening of our classroom learning community.

**Participation Grading:**

<b>90-100% participation in class discussions = 25 pts</b>	<b>80-89% participation in class discussions = 20 pts</b>
<b>70 -79% participation in class discussions = 15 pts</b>	<b>60-69% participation in class discussions = 12 pts</b>
<b>40-59% participation in class discussions = 10 pts</b>	<b>30-39% participation in class discussions = 7 pts</b>
<b>20-29% participation in class discussions = 5 pts</b>	<b>Less than 20% participation in discussion = 1 pt</b>

1	Jan 23	Class orientation
2	Jan 28 & 30	What is Sociology? Review of the scientific discipline of Sociology, “PP/ 0”
3	Feb 4 Feb 6	Studying Social Problems, Read chap 1 <b>Quiz #1 ( PP-0 &amp; Chp 1)</b>
4	Feb 11 Feb 13	<b>Paper #1 due 10:30 am</b> Poverty & Wealth in U.S. , Read chp 2 Wealth & Income inequality
5	Feb 18 Feb 20	Independent Study & Student Meetings <b>Paper #2 due 10:30 am</b> Racial & Ethnic Inequality Read, chp 3
6	Feb 25 Feb 27	<b>Quiz #2 ( Chps 2 &amp; 3)</b> Race & Ethnicity <b>Paper #3 due 10:30 am</b> Gender inequality , Read, chp 4
7	Mar 3 Mar 5	Gender & Sexuality Age inequality, Read chp 6
8	Mar 10 <b>Mar 12</b>	<b>Quiz #3 ( Chps 4 &amp; 6)</b> , Review Q & A for Midterm #1 <b>MIDTERM #1 ( book &amp; powerpoints)</b>
9	Mar 17 Mar 19	<b>Paper #4 due 10:30 am</b> Crime, Violence & Criminal Justice , Read chp 7 <b>Quiz #4 ( Chp 7)</b> Crime & Violence
10	Mar 24 Mar 26	<b>Paper #5 due 10:30 am</b> Economy & Politics, Read chp 11 <b>Quiz #5 ( Chps 11 &amp; 12)</b> Workplace Issues, Read chp 12
11	<u>Mar 30- Apr 3</u>	SPRING BREAK
12	Apr 7 Apr 9	<b>Paper #6 due 10:30 am</b> Family: Issues/ Problems, Read chp 13
13	Apr 14 Apr 16	<b>Paper #7 due 10:30 am</b> Education , Read chp 14 Education Issues & American Education
14	Apr 21 <b>Apr 23</b>	<b>Quiz #6 ( Chps 13 &amp; 14)</b> Review Q & A for Midterm #2 <b>MIDTERM # 2 ( book &amp; powerpoints)</b>
15	Apr 28 Apr 30	Urbanization Life Read, chp 15 <b>Paper #8 due 10:30 am</b> Population / Global Inequality Read, chp 16
16	May 5 May 7	<b>Quiz #7 ( Chps 15 &amp; 16 ) , Paper #9 due 10:30 am</b> Environment Issues Read chp 17 <b>Quiz #8 ( Chps 17 &amp; 18 ) Paper #10 due 10:30 am</b> War & Terrorism Read, chp 18
17	May 12 & 14	No Class – Finals Week
18	May 18	<b>Paper #11 due 10:30 am LAST DAY OF SEMESTER</b>

## **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 SJSU 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/](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 SO7-2 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](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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.