Instructor: Soo Choi  
Office Location: DMH 238B  
Email: soo.choi@sjsu.edu  
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday (9:30 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.) or by appointment  
Class Days/Time: Monday 12:30-1:45 pm  
Classroom: Clark Bldg 224  
GE/SJSU Studies Category: D3  

Course Description

SOCI 80 course allows students to understand the major societal issues that are present within the U.S. and globe. Students will gain insight of how sociologists explain major social problems and resolutions through theories, research, and analysis. The course will focus on various problems associated with COVID 19, American medical system, Trump Administration’s handling the pandemic, increasing social Inequality, decreasing welfare system, Opioid Addiction, Prejudiced news media, globalization & underemployment, the introduction of Artificial Intelligence & precariat class, and gender inequality.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

Students will be able to

1) Identify social problems and offer analysis on the core reasons/causes why the issue has developed.  
2) Describe and understand the basic theoretical approaches applied to social problems and the meaning of data in the theoretical development.  
3) Evaluate social problems from differing viewpoints and perspectives and identify the strengths and flaws of each stance.  
4) Understand how various social problems and their processes interacts with one another, maintain themselves in society.  
5) Describe examples of diverse experiences and adjustments to various social, political, economic, and cultural problems in recent decades in cross-cultural perspective.  
6) Examine the intersection of social categories such as capitalism, class, gender, ethnicity, nationality, politics, etc. and how they evolve into a new form.  
8) Analyze differences in power and privilege related to class, race, gender, ethnicity, nationality, and how people of different statuses differently respond to them.  
9) Analyze how social institutions produce policies to respond to problems; how efficient the policies have been; how people respond to the policies  
10) Analyze the overall effectiveness of American capitalism and political establishments on handling social problems and examine some alternatives to our current systems.

GE Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. 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.
2. Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts.
3. Identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them.
4. Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues.
5. Apply multidisciplinary material to a topic relevant to policy and social action at the local, national, and/or international levels.

Course Requirements and Assignments
The following is only a general description of course requirements and assignments:
1. 2 Midterm Exams (30%), final (20%). Each exam will cover all course-related materials including readings, documentaries, and class lectures. Prior to each exam, in-class review sessions will be conducted. Should you miss an exam due to an emergency/extenuating life circumstance, make sure you inform me before the exam start time; any communication after the exam time will not be accommodated. Makeup exams must be taken within a week of the originally scheduled exam date.
2. Group Presentation (20%) and Group paper (4-5 page long, double spaced, 20%). A group of 5 will prepare and orally present for a given research topic on Globalization and Social changes for 20 minutes. Each group will submit a collective paper on December 1.
3. Class Participation/Quiz (10%). Class participation will be in the form of discussions, 1-2 page long essay writing based upon the class discussion and independent research. After lecture, there will be 5 questions to be completed on canvas based upon the lecture and class discussion for 10 minutes.

University Policy Expectations
“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course-related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Texts (ebook, freely available in SJSU library data system)
Social problems and inequality : social responsibility through progressive sociology, Alessio, John C., 2016
On Capitalism and Inequality: Progress and Poverty Revisited, Robert U. Ayres, 2020

Grading

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
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Grading Information
Written Assignment Guidelines: All assignments must be typed using standard margins, double-spaced. Proof all your work before submitting it. Be careful to submit the proper draft of your work. Include your name, student ID, the name of the class, class number and section. Please date all of your assignments. Submit your assignments on CANVAS in PDF format. I will not accept any assignment in print form or by email. Please note: University Policy designates that: “This course must be passed with a C- or better as a CSU graduation requirement.”

To earn a passing grade (C+) you must do all the reading and assignments, attend all classes, and pass tests and quizzes with a C or better. Your work must demonstrate that you are engaged in class discussion quizzes and tests. You must demonstrate your reading by using complete and well-developed arguments in your essays and by engaging in critical inquiry during class and Canvas discussions.

To achieve a grade of B or better, you must demonstrate mastery of a subject by using excellent bibliographic references, carefully crafted illustrations and providing insightful conclusions or recommendations. You must go to office hours at least 4 times during the semester.

To achieve an “A” grade you must demonstrate near perfection—you have completed and followed all the requirements, attended class regularly, been to office hours at least 4 times during the semester, and you have no grammatical errors in your essays and research paper, you demonstrate teaching in your essays and your reader from your spoken and written narratives.

A final note on grading: It is possible to fail the class even if you do some of the work. If you earn less than 50% of the possible points in your assignments, you will fail. I will not curve of grades. In general, I will not accept late submissions. You must have a legitimate reason for turning in late assignments or taking tests and I will need to have an official written document to support any possibility of making up work or submitting a late assignment. Late assignments may only receive up to a B-grade. I invite you to visit me during office hours to make sure you are passing the class and achieving the grade you desire. On occasion, I will make extra credit options available. These options are not intended to substitute any course work, but rather to help you develop out of class experiences that help to illustrate or apply class objectives. In general, these opportunities may help you to improve your final grade, but not take the place of any assigned course work. I will announce these opportunities and class and on our Canvas home page. These opportunities are gifts; therefore, they must be done and submitted on time. I will not accept assignments more than one week after I announce them.

Online Protocol
1. You are expected to behave in a courteous manner to other students and the instructor at all times. Racist, sexist, homophobic, crude, or inappropriate remarks of any kind will not be tolerated. If you would not say it in class, don’t say it online.
2. Understand that a web-based course such as this requires a fair amount of self-direction and independence. You are responsible for accessing and understanding the course materials and completing the assignments.
3. Discussion assignments may be informally worded, similar to how you would speak in class. While I will not grade you on spelling and grammar, your posts must be intelligible. Discussions are not the same things as texting; you must use complete spelling of words. Proofread what you write prior to clicking the ‘submit’ button.
4. You are expected to turn in work on time. I have a no late work policy. Having computer problems is NOT a valid excuse for not completing your work. Make sure that you do not wait until the last minute to access materials, complete online assignments, etc. in case you encounter any technological issues. You can enter and work on the class Canvas page anytime during the day or night that you would like but please know that the weekly discussions, quizzes, exams, and assignments have certain due dates and times. It is your responsibility to keep track of assignment due dates.
5. You are expected to participate in course activities weekly. This is a critical factor for student success. Failure to participate in course activities for more than one week will constitute an unexcused absence and could result in you being dropped from the course. You are also required to complete an introduction by the end of the first week to remain enrolled in the course.

COVID-19 and Late Work
If you believe you or a family member has contracted COVID-19 and you need an extension for your course work, email me prior to the due date/time to request an extension. If it is approved, we can work together to come up with a new and reasonable due date for you.

University Policies
Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodation, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs at the webpage: [http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/).

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 section at [http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html](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/](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/](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/).

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](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/](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.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) to establish a record of their disability. If you think you might SOCI. 179: Sociology of Higher Education Fall 2021 7 or know you will require alternative testing arrangements, you must register with the AEC at the beginning of the semester.
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.

SJU Peer Connections
Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, offers these resources for a variety of courses. During non-pandemic years there is small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring available; consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered at Peer Connections on a wide variety of topics. 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. Please visit Peer Connections website at http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu for more information.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays
San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See University Policy S14-7 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf.

Class Schedule
(Relevant Reading materials in the form of PDF for each week’s discussion/lecture will be uploaded in “files” in canvas. Because our issues are very recent social phenomena, I will wait to see the most recently published articles or any publication for the weekly topic and upload about 10 days before the class.)

8/19, 23
Covid 19 and social crisis, Trump Administration on Covid 19
The failure of our economic & political system in managing the COVID Crisis, Debate on Private and Public health care system, Cross Cultural Analysis on the medical system

8/30, 9/6
Artificial Intelligence, The development of a new economic structure within and without, increasing precariat class, Applying political economy theory to the current economic problems: underemployment, increasing precariat class, decreasing social welfare

9/13, 20
White poverty: an ignored issue, the resurgence of “far right” political groups, Trump Presidency, Polarization of American politics
The film, “Born with a Wooden Spoon”
9/27, 10/4
Gender Inequality: ever present glass ceiling, Causes of gender inequality in human social/political evolution, Globalization and Gender Inequality, Violence against Women during the COVID 19 crisis
The Film “Code of Genders”

10/11, 18
Racial/Ethnic Conflict: causes of the conflict, politicization of the conflict, The rise of white supremacy during the Trump Administration, Failed policies to reduce/eliminate racial discrimination/prejudice in the past

10/25, 11/1
Economic Globalization and the poor and lower middle-class’s un/under-employment, questioning efficiency of labor unions, Global capitalism & Increasing offshore Employment and their impact on the less privileged groups

11/8, 15
Increasing Social Inequality between the rich and the poor, social welfare for the rich, decreasing welfare system for the poor and lower middle class, tax break for the rich and the increasing power of transnational corporations

11/22, 29
Global Warming, climatic changes, The impact of capitalistic system on the environment, Government’s lack of willingness and investment in the prevention of natural disaster (wildfire, flood, etc), incompatibility between profit motivated system and moral/ethical responsibility

12/6
Politization of News Media, Prejudice in News Media’s coverage, Corporate Ownership of news media, Fragmented Information, Disinformation by news media

Final 12/14 12:15-2:30 pm