San José State University  
Department of Sociology  
SOCIOLOGY 80, Social Problems, Section 1 (ONLINE)  
FALL 2021 (Aug 19- Dec 9)

Instructor: Mark Pasion  
Office Location: DMH 237A  
Telephone: I do not check voicemail… please email directly  
Email: markpasion@att.net or mark.pasion@sjsu.edu  
Office Hours: Contact me online or by e-mail; OFFICE visits by appointment on Wednesdays  
Class Days/Time: SOCI 80-01 (43454) Asynchronous Online

SYLLABUS QUICK SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

This course is 100% online… no on-campus meetings, no ZOOM meetings. There are no pre-recorded lectures. Powerpoints should be used to substitute for instructor lectures. Course material is available 24 hours a day, however, your instructor is not. I will make a concerted effort to return emails promptly, and the usual times that I will be online checking and answering email is Monday through Thursday, 8:00 am-7:00 pm. After 7:00 pm in the evenings, I am usually not available to students until the following day. Canvas technical support is available per your College Website.

(see pg. 4 of syllabus for more information)

Grade scale: 345 total points (4.0 grade scale) (see pg. 6 of syllabus for more information)

- Discussion Board: 9 required online discussion postings (45 total points). No make-up on missed discussion boards. (see pg. 5-6 of syllabus for more detail)
- Exams: 3 required midterms (300 total points). Multiple-choice exam, 50 questions. Each exam covering 5 textbook chapters & powerpoints. Open book & open note exams. (see pg. 6 of syllabus for more detail)
- Extra Credit: None, beyond that offered on discussion boards. (see pg. 6 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.*
MASTER CLASS CALENDAR – DEADLINES (Assignments & Exams)

August

Start reading & studying chapters 0, 1-4 in your Text & Powerpoints

August 19 (Thur) Start of class
August 29 (Sun) Deadline – Discussion #1, 11:59 pm

September

Deadline – Discussion #2, 11:59 pm
Deadline - Discussion #3, 11:59 pm

SEPTEMBER 19 & 20

MIDTERM Exam #1 – covers chapters 0, 1-4, exam opens at 12:00am on Sunday, September 19th, and submission deadline is before 11:59 pm on Monday, September 20th

Deadline – Discussion #4, 11:59 pm

Start reading & studying chapters 5-7, 11-12 in your Text & Powerpoints

October

Deadline – Discussion #5 (Extra credit), 11:59 pm
Deadline – Discussion #6, 11:59 pm
Deadline – Discussion #7, 11:59 pm

OCTOBER 24 & 25

MIDTERM Exam #2 – covers chapters 5-7, 11-12, exam opens at 12:00am on Sunday, October 24 and submission deadline is before 11:59 pm Monday, October 25

Start reading & studying chapters 13-18 in your Text & Powerpoints

November

Deadline – Discussion #8, 11:59 pm
Deadline – Discussion #9, 11:59 pm
Deadline – Discussion #10, 11:59 pm

December

Deadline – Discussion #11 (Extra credit), 11:59 pm

DECEMBER 8 & 9

FINAL MIDTERM Exam #3 – covers chapters 13-18, exam opens at 12:00 am Wednesday, December 8th and submission deadline is before 11:59 pm Thursday, December 9th

DECEMBER 9 – 11:59 PM IS THE END OF OUR CLASS.. END OF SEMESTER
CANVAS and MySJSU

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, powerpoint 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 online, 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:
  Powerpoints, readings, class discussion boards, and exams. Writing assignments, discussion boards 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:
  Powerpoints, readings, class discussion boards, and exams. Class discussion boards / writing 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:
  Powerpoints, readings, class discussion boards, and exams. Writing assignments & discussion boards, 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:
  Powerpoints, readings, class discussion boards, and exams. Discussion boards / 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
  Powerpoints, readings, class discussion boards, and exams.
  Writing assignments / discussion boards are specifically designed to meet this objective
Required Texts/Readings

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. TEXTBOOK OPTIONS offered at the campus bookstore are NOT REQUIRED, they are simply recommendations. 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 per our class syllabus. (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: Feel free to contact me online or by email if you have any questions about the class or course material. I will also have limited office hours by appointment on Wednesdays.

Technology Requirements: All students must have access to a computer and good internet service. If a student travels, access is required and missing access may result in the student being dropped from the class or failing the class.

Communication Policy: Good communication between the instructor and the students is imperative. Communication will be accomplished by way of the course syllabus, class announcements in Canvas, and emailed messages between the instructor and students.

- The course syllabus will be the primary method to convey class expectations. Students should thoroughly read the course syllabus, as it contains important class information, policies, procedures, and a class assignment calendar.

- Class announcements will be posted in Canvas, reminding students about deadline dates and upcoming assignments. Students are responsible for checking the syllabus class calendar regularly, and for knowing about deadline dates prior to any class announcement in Canvas.

- Emailed messages are the quickest and most efficient way for the instructor and students to communicate effectively. Students can email anytime of day, however, the instructor is not available 24 hours a day. The instructor will attempt to respond to email within a 24-48 hour time period

Class announcements and/or emailed messages will be made weekly by the instructor.

Attendance & participation: Attendance and participation is still monitored in online formats and is a requirement for class grading. Participation in an online course refers to the completion of course work. Logging into the course is not considered participation. This class is not self-paced, and has strict deadline dates. Class assignments are due each and every week.

Drop policy: If a student wishes to drop this class, it is the student’s responsibility to complete the drop process with Admission and Records. Do not contact the instructor to drop the class. The instructor has the right to drop students that fail to participate for two-consecutive weeks during a semester long course.
Grading Policy and Assignments

Grade scale: 345 total points (4.0 grade scale)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>338-345</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>317-337</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>310-316</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>303-309</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>282-302</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>276-281</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>269-275</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>241-268</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>227-233</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>196-226</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>195 -below</td>
<td>F</td>
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* ( Plus/ Minus grading is used to differentiate grades that are close to the boundary between grade levels
** ( A+) and (A) have the same grade value on a 4.0 grade scale.

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 upon total points acquired. **There is no extra credit available in this class beyond that offered on discussion board**

Graded material: Final class grades in this class are based entirely midterm exam test scores, along with the writing assignment / discussion board.

1. **Writing Assignment / Discussion Board:** ( 5 pts. each paper ) (45 points total)

   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 postings/writings made on the class discussion board. All postings must be submitted to CANVAS by the deadline date and time.

   - NO LATE POSTINGS ACCEPTED ON THE DISCUSSION BOARD
   - NO POSTINGS ACCEPTED BY E-MAIL

   **ALL POSTINGS DUE BY 11:59 PM on the deadline date. All postings to be completed and submitted on Canvas**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dis #1 due:</th>
<th>August 29</th>
<th>Dis #2 due:</th>
<th>September 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dis #3 due</td>
<td>September 12</td>
<td>Dis #4 due</td>
<td>September 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dis #5 (EC) due:</td>
<td>October 3</td>
<td>Dis #6 due</td>
<td>October 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dis #7 due</td>
<td>October 17</td>
<td>Dis #8 due</td>
<td>November 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dis #9 due</td>
<td>November 14</td>
<td>Dis #10 due</td>
<td>November 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dis #11 (EC) due:</td>
<td>December 5</td>
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</table>

To access the discussion board: go to Canvas and open your class. In the left-hand navigation bar click on the “Discussions” link, and find the required discussion.

Each discussion board assignment has 2 parts, and is a mandatory, graded class assignment. You must complete both parts for a maximum of 5 total points. No late work accepted under any circumstances... discussion board will close at 11:59 pm on the deadline date. Post early to avoid missing an assignment. Limited extra credit discussion boards are available as posted.

   **Part 1** ( 3 pts max) Students will write a 150-200 word response to a discussion question. Responses less than 150 words will receive reduced credit. This should be in your own words, using your own thoughts and ideas. DO NOT RESEARCH for these questions, and do not give statistics, or information from other sources. Do not paraphrase or cite other sources. **A POSTED WRITTEN WORD COUNT IS REQUIRED FOR FULL CREDIT CONSIDERATION**

   **Part 2** ( 2 pts) Students will write a 50-75 word (approx) answer to one of your classmate’s responses. Open a classmate’s response, read and give feedback to the writer. **A POSTED WRITTEN WORD COUNT IS REQUIRED FOR FULL CREDIT CONSIDERATION**
There are **NINE (9)** required and graded discussion writing assignments (posted on CANVAS). Also, **TWO (2)** extra credit discussions are given. These are opinion-based responses relating to a topic question posted on the discussion board. The response must be meaningful. Grading is based upon a meaningful and appropriate answer.

**Do not use the internet, or any other sources for these writing responses.** This should not be research, statistics, quotations or other people’s words or ideas. Do not paraphrase or cite from other sources. This should be your own words, writing about your ideas, thoughts and opinions. If students post research, instead of original opinion, no credit will be given for the assignment, and no make-up assignment will be offered.

Please pay close attention to the noted deadlines for such activities because **late responses will not be accepted for credit.** This assignment is meant to be interactive, and as such, late postings do not contribute to the discussion. Early postings (prior to the deadline date) are encouraged, and may generate more interaction in the discussion board between classmates.

2. **Midterm Exams:** (100 pts. each exam) **(300 points total)** ONLINE exams as scheduled

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam #</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>September 19 &amp; 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>October 24 &amp; 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>December 8 &amp; 9</td>
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There are three (3) major midterm exams given in this class. The exams must be taken on CANVAS (online). Each exam is worth 100 points and will consist of 50 questions. All exams are multiple choice. Students are allowed open notes and open book during the exam.

**Make-up / late midterm 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. No make-ups on Final Midterm #3

*ONLY ONE LATE MAKE-UP EXAM ACCEPTED DURING THE SEMESTER.*

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

**EXTRA CREDIT POLICY:**

The only extra credit in this class is in the class discussion board. **NO OTHER EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS ARE AVAILABLE. Please do not ask.**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS CLASS**

**Do we have any required class orientation, either online or on-campus?**

No. Registered students will get all the class information by e-mail prior to the start of class. I will send out information to you a few days before the first date of class.

**Do we have any on-campus meetings, or ZOOM meetings, or is this class 100% online?**

No meetings… **this class is 100% online.** The class is asynchronous online, with specific deadline dates to complete online assignments.

**How do we access the online class material?**

ALL class material and course work will be accessed through CANVAS on your College Website. You will take your online exams and do your discussion board posting assignments directly on CANVAS.
Can I use a different edition of the textbook?
No. You should use the print copy or e-book for the textbook as described in your class syllabus. For this online class, a print copy is not necessary, and an e-book will suffice, however, that is the choice for students to make.

What if I cannot afford to get my book right away?
Students need to have access to the textbook as soon as possible once class begins. Students may have to borrow the book or ask another classmate for a book sharing. Students will be at a disadvantage if they do not do the required readings.

Do we have to login at particular times, or for specific amounts of time?
No. You have access to study material, 24 hrs. a day, and there are no assigned times that you must be online for readings or study aids. Exams and Discussion Boards do have assigned deadline dates and times

Where do I find the Discussion Boards and Online Exams?
These are all located in CANVAS.

What should I do if I cannot access the Online Exam, or the Discussion Board?
Contact tech-support before contacting the instructor, to avoid missing the deadline. Missed deadlines will result in a late penalty or zero grade. Also, be sure to contact the instructor and let the instructor know about the problem

Can I make-up missed Discussion Boards, and turn-in late class work?
No. No late work is accepted for Discussion Boards. Students are expected to start the class on the first day of class, and stay active in the course. You must keep current with all assignments & exams. If you travel, you are still responsible for your classwork, your deadlines, and you should make sure that you have internet access.

If I miss an exam deadline, can I do a make-up exam?
If a student misses the original exam deadline, contact the instructor immediately. If a make-up exam is arranged, a late penalty will apply.

Is there a study guide I can use to prepare for exams?
In some classes. Please see the “files” folder in CANVAS. If a study guide is available, it will be posted there.

If I do poorly on the Major Exams, can I still pass this class?
Probably not. Major exams usually constitute a total of 80-90% of your overall grade. There is not much other work to compensate for the low exam grades. The instructor offers very limited extra credit in this class. If a student is not performing well on exams, they should consider dropping the class, and taking the class at another time when they are better prepared.

Is there any extra credit or other work I can do to improve my grade?
Very limited. Students are graded based on the Discussion Boards and the Major Exams. A few extra credit points may be available as described in your class syllabus. Please do not ask for any additional extra credit.

How do I keep track of my grades, and my progress in this class?
The instructor keeps a record of your grades on CANVAS. Contact the instructor for questions about grading.

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](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/).

**Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material**

University Policy S12-7, [http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf](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 your instructor 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](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. 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](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.

**Student Technology Resources**

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at [http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/](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.