

SOC115: Social Problems

Spring, 2009

Clifford L. Staples, Ph.D.

Class: TuTh 2:00-3:15, Gillette 101

Office Hours: MW 11:00-3:00 and by appt.

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Required Text:

Global Problems and the Culture of Capitalism 4/e Richard H. Robbins. ISBN-13: 978-0-205-52487-7

Overview:

Soc115 Social Problems provides an introduction to sociology via the study of social problems—in this case, *global* social problems. We will study the rise of global capitalism and the social problems that come along with it, as well as the problems that occur as people try to respond to it. Such problems include: population issues, hunger and poverty, inequalities, war, ethnic violence, terrorism, disease, and environmental collapse, among others. The goal of the class is to help students appreciate how sociology can contribute to our understanding of and response to these important global problems.

Requirements:

Quizzes. (39%) There are 13 lessons corresponding to the 13 Chapters in the text. At the conclusion of each lesson you will take an on-line quiz consisting of 20 true/false questions (randomly chosen from a pool of 30 questions). Each quiz is worth 3% of your grade for a total of 39%. The quizzes will be done via Blackboard and will be available for completion for one week (Thursday 12:00am to Thursday 12:00am) as indicated on the Course Schedule. You may write a typed 4-page reflective essay on the lesson instead of taking the quiz, but these essays are due according to the quiz schedule. If you miss a quiz deadline with either a quiz or essay, your only make-up option is to write a 4-page reflective essay on the lesson, and for which you can receive a maximum of 15 points. This essay is due within one week of the missed deadline. If you miss that deadline you will receive 0 points for the missed quiz. All essays must be handed in on paper; no e-versions will be accepted.

Exams. (40%) There are two exams. Each exam consists of two parts, one part will be completed on Blackboard and the other part will be completed in class. Part 1 consists of 50 true/false questions chosen from lessons 1-6 (for Exam #1) and 50 true/false questions chosen from lessons 7-13 (for Exam #2). Together these true/false questions are worth 10% of your final grade (5% for each exam). Part 2 consists of short answer/essay questions which will be written in class on March 5th (Exam #1) and May 14th (Exam #2). Together, the in-class essays are worth 30% of your final grade. You may use any notes that you have written (or typed) for the in-class short-answer/essays, but you may not use the textbook or handouts or anything that you have not written. So be sure to take notes on separate sheets of paper if you plan to use them for the exams.

Paper. (21%) You must write a paper for this class in which you describe and analyze a specific instance of a contemporary global social problem from, or contrary to, the perspective developed in this particular class. No generic papers on a social problem are acceptable. In other words, this paper is one that could only be written by someone who has taken this particular class. Simply rehashing or summarizing a problem discussed in the book is also not acceptable. If you want to write about a problem discussed in the book than you must go into it in considerable detail, or choose an alternative example from somewhere else in the world. Papers should be a minimum of 2,500 words, though longer papers are acceptable. I will also grade a draft of your paper and allow for rewrites of your essay, but only if your draft is turned in by April 16th.

Class Organization

Class meetings will revolve around Q&A, discussion, exercises, and watching and discussing videos.

Reminders and Policies

My office hours are listed above. Unless there is some sort of emergency or meeting I have to attend during those hours I will be there to see students, first come, first served. You are also free to drop in to see me whenever I am in my office. If you want to make an appointment to see me at a specific time, in or out of office hours, we can do that too. The best way to get hold of me and get a quick response is via e-mail (address above). Leaving messages on my voice mail is probably not a good idea. If you attend class, be sure to (a) come on time and (b) turn off your cell phone (c) come prepared to both speak and listen. If you have any sort of learning disabilities that I should be aware of, please let me know ASAP. If you are having any trouble with the class, or if you have any personal problems with anything I or anyone else in the class has done or is doing that disturbs you or impedes your learning in any way, university policy states that you come and talk to me about it first. If, however, you feel you can't approach me, or you have and still feel troubled, your next step should be to see Professor Kathleen Tiemann, Chairperson of the Department of Sociology.

Soc115 Spring, 2009 Class Schedule
C. Staples

Week 1	Readings	Due dates
1/13	Syllabus and Schedule	
1/15	Lesson#1	Quiz#1 /15-1/22
Week 2		
1/20	Lesson#2	
1/22	Lesson#2	Quiz#2 1/22-1/29
Week 3		
1/27	Lesson#3	
1/29	Lesson#3	Quiz#3 1/29-2/5
Week 4		
2/3	Lesson#4	
2/5	Lesson#4	Quiz#4 2/5-2/12
Week 5		
2/10	Lesson#5	
2/12	Lesson#5	Quiz#5 2/12-2/19
Week 6		
2/17	Lesson#6	
2/19	Lesson#6	Quiz#6 2/19-2/26
Week 7		
2/24	Lesson#7	
2/26	Lesson#7	Exam #1 T/F 2/26-3/5
Week 8		
3/3	Exam#1 Q&A	
3/5	Exam#1 in class (essay)	Exam#1 in class (essay) no quiz
Week 9		
3/10	Lesson#7	
3/12	No class	Quiz#7 3/12-3/19
Week 10		
3/17	Spring break	
3/19	Spring break	No quiz
Week 11		
3/24	Lesson#8	
3/26	Lesson#8	Quiz#8 3/26-4/2
Week 12		
3/31	Lesson#9	
4/2	No class	Quiz#9 4/2-4/9
Week 13		
4/7	Lesson#10	
4/9	Lesson#10	Quiz#10 4/9-4/16
Week 14		
4/14	Lesson#11	Paper Drafts due 4/16
4/16	Lesson#11	Quiz#11 4/16-4/23
Week 15		
4/21	Lesson#12	
4/23	Lesson#12	Quiz#12 4/23-4/30
Week 16		
4/28	Lesson#13	
4/30	Lesson#13	Quiz#13 4/30-5/7
Week 17		
5/5	Lesson#13	
5/7	Exam#2 Q&A	
5/14	Exam#2 in class (essay) 3:15pm	Final Papers due 3:15pm