

Martin Community College
Course Syllabus
Spring 2011

COURSE NUMBER: SOC 220 (51)

INSTRUCTOR: Rhonda Breed

COURSE TITLE: Social Problems

OFFICE NO: Building 4, Room 5

CREDIT HOURS: 3

**OFFICE HOURS: MW, 12:00-4:30
TTH, 12:00-12:50
TTH, 2:30-4:30
F, 12:00-2:15**

CONTACT HRS/WK: 3

PREREQUISITES: None

COREQUISITES: None

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FAX: (252) 792-0826

E-MAIL: rbreed@martincc.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides an in-depth study of current social problems. Emphasis is placed on causes, consequences, and possible solutions to problems associated with families, schools, workplaces, communities, and the environment. Upon completion, students should be able to recognize, define, analyze, and propose solutions to these problems. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement general education core requirement in social/behavioral sciences.*

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Apply critical thinking skills to problem-solving.
2. Demonstrate appropriate use of related technology.
3. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. List and explain the various sociological perspectives used when studying social problems.
2. Discuss the research methods by which sociologists go about studying social problems.
3. Discuss solutions to various current social problems.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS: Henslin, J. (2010). *Social problems: A down to earth approach.* (9th ed.). New York: Prentice Hall. ISBN 0-205-63327-7

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES: As specified throughout the semester.

LEARNING/TEACHING METHODS: It is your responsibility to read the text and other assigned material. Class lectures will follow along with the text but will not cover it completely. To do well on exams, you need to read the text and **outside reading assignments**, attend lectures, watch scheduled videos and take notes. (Check your email and Blackboard often for supplementary material, announcements, and special instructions.)

ASSESSMENTS/METHODS OF EVALUATION: There will be three exams during the semester and one final, comprehensive exam at the end of the semester. The exams may be comprised of multiple-choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and short essay questions. Since this is an online course, there will be no make-up exams. Throughout the semester, there may be quizzes on material from the text. There will be no make-up quizzes. In addition to quizzes, I will have you write brief reflections of the videos you are assigned to watch; these will count the same as a quiz grade.

Research Paper: You are required to write a 3-5 page research paper on a topic of your choice that is relevant to this class. The paper requires the use of at least **three** reliable sources for information, including at least one **outside reading source** (academically based books, published research articles, etc.). You may also use government data (i.e. Census reports), reputable media sources (i.e. MSNBC), interviews (please discuss anonymity with me before using this type of source), and other preapproved sources. Your text book or Wikipedia **cannot** be used as one of the three sources. The proper referencing for sources is required. I will accept MLA, APA, or ASA format; however, ASA is preferred. Detailed expectations for the paper will be discussed as the semester progresses and I will post more detailed specifications. Please select a paper topic and submit it via email by January 28, 2011. The paper is due Friday, March 25, 2011. (Although this is not a class in expository writing, I expect college level work.)

Class participation: All students are expected to participate in class discussions. I will give everyone the opportunity to offer relevant opinions, share information, and ask relevant questions regarding the subjects we cover. Student input is a vital part of the learning process and is a must for online instruction. Regular participation is considered attendance so active involvement in class discussions is required. (Please respect other students, even if you disagree with their ideas or opinions during discussion.)

Academic integrity: Commitment to academic excellence through honesty and integrity is expected of everyone. As such, verified cheating and/or plagiarism will likely result in failure (see MCC policies). I expect each student to do his/her own work unless specifically stated otherwise (e.g. group assignments).

GRADING POLICY: Grading is based upon the following ten-point scale:

A = 90-100	B = 80-89	C = 70-79	D = 60-69	F = 59 or below
Each of the four exams counts as 10% of your final grade.				40%
The average of your quiz/reflection grades equals 15% of your final grade.				15%
The research paper, with the outside reading assignment , equals 15% of your final grade.				15%
Participation in discussions will count as 30% of your grade.				<u>30%</u>
Total possible score				100%

(I will not give you a grade; you will earn a grade. If you receive an A, you earned an A. Likewise, if you receive an F, you earned an F. Keep in mind that I do not want to assign anyone a failing grade. Please, try to do your best.)

COURSE OUTLINE (Tentative):

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Week 1: Introductions and Chapter One | Week 9: Chapter Nine |
| Week 2: Chapter Two | Week 10: Chapter Ten |
| Week 3: Chapter Three | Week 11: Chapter Eleven |
| Week 4: Chapter Four/Exam One | Week 12: Chapter Twelve/Exam Three |
| Week 5: Chapter Five | Week 13: Chapter Thirteen |
| Week 6: Chapter Six | Week 14: Chapters Fourteen |
| Week 7: Chapter Seven | Week 15: Unspecified |
| Week 8: Chapter Eight/Exam Two | Week 16: Semester Review/Final Exam |

STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY: Students must be present in order to be considered enrolled in the class. Present means that you have (1) completed the technology assessment located on Blackboard and (2) posted the required introduction under the discussion board within seven days from the start of class. If a student has not completed the requirements by the census date, the instructor will notify the registrar that the student never attended. Once students start the class, they must participate to remain in the class. Students failing to participate online for fourteen consecutive days may be administratively withdrawn from the class by the instructor and given a grade of “AW.” The “AW” will be equivalent to an “F” when calculating your GPA. **NON PARTICIPATION MAY BE EXCUSED IF THE STUDENT CAN PROVIDE WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION FOR EXTENDED HOSPITALIZATION OF SELF OR THE DEATH OF AN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER** (father/stepfather, mother/stepmother, sibling/step-sibling, or child/stepchild/grandchild). *These situations will be handled on a case by case basis and considered at my discretion, including the allowance to make up missed work.* (Remember both the technology assessment and the first assignment must be completed for students to remain in the course. If students are taking more than one online course, the student **ONLY** takes the technology assessment **ONE** time.)

To enter section 50 (Internet) courses, students must do two things:

- (1) First, students must complete a technology assessment located on the Blackboard or Moodle login page.
- (2) Second, students must login into Blackboard or Moodle and complete the first assignment within seven (7) school days.

Both the technology assessment and the first assignment must be completed for students to remain in the course. If students are taking more than one online course, the student **ONLY** takes the technology assessment **ONE** time.

CONTACT: If you cannot reach your instructor, you may contact Dr. Phyllis Broughton, Dean of Academic Affairs and Student Services by phone at (252) 789-0246 or (252) 789-0247, or by email at pbroughton@martincc.edu, or in person in her office in Building 2, Room 33.

To access the Martin Community College Career Catalog for policies and curriculum requirements, please go online to www.martincc.edu.

If you need disability related accommodations, please notify the Student Services counselor at (252) 789-0293.