



I. Course and Instructor: SOC 215 Jody Latchaw
Format: WEB

Course Information:

Course Title: CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Course code: SOC-215-DS21

Synonym Number: 71386

Semester: Spring 2013

Credits: 3

Prerequisite: College level reading

Meeting times and location: (Web course)

Start date: 1/14/13

End date: 5/3/13

Refund date: 1/30/13

Withdrawal date: 4/7/13

Orientation note: Instructor will contact students individually, by email.

Computer Access:

Online courses require frequent computer use and access to the internet. It is highly recommended that students have a personal computer for use in online courses. If you need to use a computer at your local Colorado Mountain College location, you will be able to do so during open lab hours. Please check with your local site for times. Labs will not be available for Collaborate web conferencing sessions, if included as part of your course, due to the verbal interaction involved.

If you have general questions about online learning, please contact **Colorado Mountain College Online Learning** at 800-621-8559, extension 8341 or virtual@coloradomtn.edu.

Instructor Information:

Name: Jody Latchaw, MA Sociology

Mailing Address:

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27900 CR 319

Buena Vista, CO 81211

Email: jlatchaw@coloradomtn.edu

Phone: 719-395-8419, x2203

(Please email me (fastest method for a response), or call me anytime if you are having difficulties. I will try to respond within 24 hours.)

No-show reporting and financial aid: If you have not completed your introductory assignment(s) in Canvas by Tuesday, January 22nd you will be reported as a no-show

and dropped from the course. The resultant loss in credit hours may cause a reduction and/or cancellation of your financial aid award. Neither financial aid awards nor class reinstatement can occur after this point without significant documented extenuating circumstances. If you have questions or concerns about this please contact your campus financial aid specialist. (www.coloradomtn.edu/web/departments/financial_aid)



"We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them."
Albert Einstein

II. Course Description:

Contemporary Social Problems explores current social issues that result in societal problems. It focuses on such issues as civil liberties, gender discrimination, substance abuse, crime, poverty, and social change. GT-SS3

III. Student Learning Outcomes, Competencies, and Skills:

(Colorado Guaranteed Transfer General Education)

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- A. Summarize the principal perspectives on social problems.
- B. Define principal social problems in contemporary American society.
- C. Analyze the causes of these problems.
- D. Explain the conditions of health care, mental illness, substance abuse, sex-related problems, violence, poverty and affluence, racism and prejudice, and environment problems.
- E. Formulate suggested solutions for the above social problems.
- F. Estimate/calculate the costs of various social problems and the cost of suggested solutions.

IV. IDEA Student Ratings of Instruction:

1. Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends).
2. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories.
3. Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions).

V. Methods and Class Management:

We will be covering six chapters out of eight (your choice of chapters) in the text **Social Problems** by John J. Macionis, 2010 Census Update Edition, 4th edition, which correspond to the main course objectives. The chapters to be covered are: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, and 16 and

include the introduction; inequalities in wealth, race, and gender; violence; addictions; mental health; and environmental issues.

The assignments are summarized below (please log into Canvas for more information):

A. 6 Chapter Summaries (these can be turned in either as a paper that is 2-3 double-spaced, typed pages; OR a 6-slide Powerpoint presentation; or you can choose to write a song, poem, or short story, make a poster board, or create a video for the chapter summaries). Choose 6 chapters. 15 points each.

B. 1 discussion board assignment: Introductions. 10 points.

Extra Credit: You may finish all assignments as early as you wish. Each chapter summary (worth 10 points) that is submitted on or before the suggested due date is given 3 extra credit points. This means that, if you turn in 5 chapter summaries of your choosing on or before the summary's suggested due date, you will have earned 15 extra credit points. Discussions for each chapter can also earn 2 extra credit points.

No Late Penalty: There is no penalty for late assignments, but allowing enough time for incorporating instructor feedback on your chapter summaries will probably result in a better grade for the next summary. Suggested due dates are given to increase the chances of your success in finishing coursework before the end of class.

Submit your assignments through Canvas. All assignments are explained and posted in Canvas. Feel free to email or call me if you have any questions, or if you are having any difficulties in the course.

If you need assistance in understanding the chapter content, there are PowerPoint lectures available on Canvas for each chapter (under the Pages tab). There are also PowerPoint summaries about special topics mentioned in the chapter and website links if you are interested in a more in-depth analysis of a topic. Informative videos about the chapter's content are embedded in each week's announcement.

| Learning Activity Summary | Number of Assignments | Points per Assignment | Point Value | Percent Value |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|
| <i>6 chapter summaries</i> | 6 | 15 | 90 | 90% |
| <i>1 discussion board assignment</i> | 1 | 10 | 10 | 10% |
| Total | | | 100 | 100% |

| Suggested Due Dates, On or Before: | ASSIGNMENTS OVERVIEW |
|------------------------------------|---|
| | See Appendix for more details on assignments and exams. <i>All chapter summaries may be turned in on or before suggested due dates for extra credit. All quizzes may be completed anytime.</i> |
| January 22 | Discussion Board: Introductions (please see No-show reporting and financial aid section above) |
| February 11 | Summary and analysis of Chapter 1: Studying Social Problems. |
| February 25 | Summary and analysis of Chapter 2: Poverty and Wealth. |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| March 4 | Summary and analysis of Chapter 3: Racial and Ethnic Inequality. |
| March 11 | Spring Break |
| March 18 | Summary and analysis of Chapter 4: Gender |
| March 25 | Summary and analysis of Chapter 6: Crime, Violence, and Criminal Justice. |
| April 1 | Summary and analysis of Chapter 8: Alcohol and Other Drugs. |
| April 8 | Summary and analysis of Chapter 9: Physical and Mental Health. |
| April 22 | Summary and analysis of Chapter 16: Technology and the Environment |
| April 29 | All Assignments due. No assignments accepted after this date. |

NOTICE:

A student judged to have engaged in academic misconduct as defined in the “Academic Policies and Requirements” section of the Colorado Mountain College Student Handbook will, at a minimum, receive a “zero” for the work in question. The student may also be removed from the class, resulting in a failing grade. All student course material may be submitted to Turnitin (or another anti-plagiarism program) at the instructor’s discretion. “Academic Expectations,” the “Student Code of Conduct and Judicial Process” and more information about academic misconduct can be found in the Student Handbook, online version at: www.coloradomtn.edu/File/student_handbook.pdf.

Students are responsible for course materials from assigned text(s) and reading, lectures, labs, and other assignments as required.

The instructor may alter any, or all, of this syllabus during the semester as the learning environment requires. Students will be notified of changes in the Canvas course shell.

If you have a disability protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and feel you may need classroom accommodations based on the impact of your disability, please contact the Disability Services Coordinator on your campus.

- Edwards and Steamboat Springs: Deb Farmer at 970-870-4450
- Aspen, Carbondale, Glenwood Springs (including Spring Valley), and Rifle: Dr. Anne Moll at 970-947-8256
- Breckenridge, Dillon, Leadville, and Chaffee County: Sandi Conner at 719-486-4200

Students wishing to withdraw from this course must INITIATE the course withdrawal/drop process at the site Registration Office.

This class could be cancelled one week prior to the census date if a sufficient number of students are not enrolled by that date.

VI. Grading System & Options:

Information about grading is available in the Colorado Mountain College catalog. You will receive a grade report for current semester courses at the end of each term. This grade report is mailed to your permanent mailing address. Reports are mailed approximately two weeks after

the end of the academic term. Additional information is available at:
http://catalog.coloradomtn.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=620#Grading_System_and_Options_

| Letter Grades | Percentages | Total Possible Points |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------------|
|---------------|-------------|-----------------------|

| | | |
|---|---------|--------|
| A | 90-100% | 90-100 |
| B | 80-89% | 80-89 |
| C | 70-79% | 70-79 |
| D | 60-69% | 60-69 |
| F | 0-59% | 0-59 |

VII. Required Course Materials

Text: Macionis, John J. Social Problems, 2010 Census Update Edition,

4th edition. Prentice Hall, 2011/12.

ISBN-10 0-205-16491-9

ISBN-13 978-0-205-16491-2

Ordering Books

Colorado Mountain College has chosen to partner with Follett Virtual Bookstores to operate textbook services. You will find the official textbook list at www.coloradomtn.bkstr.com. If you ever have any online bookstore questions, you can email coloradomtn@fvb.follett.com or call 800-621-4088.

Students can sell back books anytime online or in-person at Follett's CMC buyback events. Sign up for the online store's email list at www.coloradomtn.bkstr.com/email for more information on future buyback dates/times and to receive other important messages from Follett.

Ordering Textbooks with Financial Aid:

Students wishing to use their Financial Aid to purchase their textbooks from the Colorado Mountain College Online Bookstore (Follett) may be set up with a *CMC Flex Pay account*. Contact your local CMC Accounts Manager for instructions and your specific username and password information. If you are not close to a CMC site contact CMC Online Learning at 970-947-8341 or virtual@coloradomtn.edu.

VIII. Other Information:

Canvas

Canvas by Instructure is the online learning management system (LMS) used by Colorado Mountain College. You access Canvas via your web browser, i.e.: Mozilla/Firefox, Internet Explorer, Opera, etc. Students, faculty and staff members use

the CMC Canvas site to access course announcements, documents, research links and library resources, to receive and deliver completed assignments, take tests, and to communicate with each other via email, discussion boards and chat.

For instructions on How to Access your Canvas Account, Canvas How To's, and who to contact for all your Canvas questions and support needs, please visit:

www.coloradomtn.edu/web/departments/faq-for-students.

Student Email

All CMC students enrolled in a credit-based class (0.5 hour credit class or more) will be assigned a CMC student email address through Google mail (Gmail). Please allow at least 48 hours after you register for this account to be activated. For more information on your CMC student email account, please visit the Student page of the MyCMC Portal:

mycmc.coloradomtn.edu.

A Few Words About Microsoft Word

Microsoft Word is the standard word processing program for the majority of CMC instructors. Students without Microsoft Word may use the free software from www.OpenOffice.org to create Word-compatible documents. The program also includes spreadsheet, presentation, drawing, and database applications. The program is available for Windows, Macintosh, or Linux operating systems. Microsoft Word is installed on computers available in computer labs at CMC locations.

Virtual Library Information

<http://library.coloradomtn.edu/content.php?pid=349163&sid=2891178>

The Virtual Library has its doors open 24/7, providing access to thousands of online journals and newspapers, books and art images, downloadable videos and audio books, career resources and practice tests.

If you need help with the Virtual Library, email reference@coloradomtn.edu or call us at 800-621-8559, extension 2926.

Colorado Mountain College Online Learning

Information is available at: www.coloradomtn.edu/online_learning/.