

SOC-2: Modern Social Problems

Santa Rosa Junior College

Fall 2022 ONLINE LATE START Syllabus

This is a thirteen-week term click here for the college calendar: 02/09/2026 - 05/15/2026

Instructor: Dr. Dan Morgan

Contacting Me

By e-mail: dmorgan@santarosa.edu E-mail is the most efficient way to reach me.

By telephone: Phone messages are forwarded to me by the Department of Behavioral Sciences: (707) 527-4228 or (707) 527-4226.

I can also host individual and small group meetings via Zoom. There are no required, synchronous meetings for this class.

Course Description

Analysis of contemporary social problems. Topics include globalization, environmental issues, poverty, work, health and mental health care, the educational system, criminal justice, the basis of inequalities, and the role of power in defining social problems.

Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

Textbook

Social Problems – Continuity and Change:

<https://www.saylor.org/site/textbooks/Social%20Problems%20-%20Continuity%20and%20Change.pdf>

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze the major recognized social problems in modern society.
2. Critically evaluate proposed solutions to modern social problems.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Define and explain social problems from a sociological perspective.
2. Analyze trends in poverty and wealth in the United States and the world.
3. Summarize the major issues for racial and ethnic group relations.
4. Evaluate the role of gender in the policies of contemporary social institutions.
5. Compare the health policies of the United States to those of other nations.
6. Summarize structural changes in the U.S. economy including the effects of deindustrialization and the rise of information technology.
7. Analyze the foundations of educational inequality.
8. Identify the impact of environmental issues on the society.

9. Compare and contrast corporate crime with street crime.

METHODS OF EVALUATION/BASIS OF GRADE

Assessment	Points	Percentage of Final Grade
Discussions (15 points, 11 Weeks)	165	35%
Mid-Term Exam	125	22%
Final Exam (essay & multiple choice)	175	43%
Total Possible Points	465	100%

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	90% to 100%
B	80% to 89%
C	70% to 79%
D	60% to 69%
F	Below 60%

Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade (based on SOC 2 Course Outline as of Spring 2020)

54% (40 - 60%)	Exams (Mid-Term Exam, Final Exam)
46% (40 - 60 %)	Writing (Reflection Papers, Graded Discussions)

Explanation of Graded Components

Discussions. The weekly discussions are an integral part of the course. Meaningful virtual classroom discussions promote understanding of the major concepts and principles underlying the complex relationship between our society and technology. I will lead these discussions, asking questions and providing feedback to your responses. Each student will respond to the initial questions and respond to the other students in the course.

In the Discussion areas of the course, you, as a student, can interact with your instructor and classmates to explore questions and comments related to the content of this course. Discussions will be open Monday, 8:00 a.m. through Sunday, 11:59 p.m. **Santa Rosa TIME**. The graded discussions are not chat rooms or blogs. Use academic language as opposed to text message language or tweets. For example, “I” is a proper noun, always capitalized. Discussions will be graded according to the rubric found at the end of this course syllabus.

Rationale:

1. Participation in graded discussions promotes understanding of course material, concepts, and terminology.
2. Discussing concepts and experiences with one another allows us to better understand one another, our cultures, and values.
3. Attendance and participation promote student engagement with other students, adding value to the learning.
4. Participation in graded discussions promotes faculty/student engagement in the class.

Mid-Term Exam and Final Exam.

Rationale:

1. Studying for exams engages students with course material.
2. The exam-taking process affirms accuracy of course terminology.
3. Exams are used as learning tools as well as learning assessments as you prepare the literature review.

Allow yourself plenty of time to complete the exams. I do not reply to last-minute messages about how someone is having trouble with Canvas.

Access for Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of the Sonoma County Junior College District to provide equal educational opportunities for students with disabilities in accordance with state and federal law and regulations including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title 5 of the California Administrative Code. Pursuant to Title 5, the District has developed the Disability Resources Department to assist students with disabilities in securing appropriate instruction, academic accommodations and auxiliary aids. It is the intent of the District that such individuals be served by regular classes and programs whenever possible. To that end, students with disabilities shall be admitted to courses and programs and matriculate through such courses and programs on an equal basis with all other students. To ensure equality of access for students with disabilities, academic accommodations and auxiliary aids shall be provided to the extent necessary to comply with state and federal law and regulations. For each student, academic accommodations and auxiliary aids shall specifically address those functional limitations of the disability, which adversely affect equal educational opportunity. When the severity of the disability of an otherwise qualified student precludes successful completion of a course required for graduation from SRJC, despite an earnest effort on the part of the student to complete the course and despite provision of academic accommodations and/or auxiliary aids, a course substitution or waiver of the course requirement shall be considered.

The District will maintain specific criteria and procedures to implement this policy.

Academic Integrity Statement

Sonoma County Junior College District (SCJCD) holds that its primary function is the development of intellectual curiosity, integrity, and accomplishment in an atmosphere that upholds the principles of academic freedom. All members of the academic community - student, faculty, staff, and administrator - must assume responsibility for providing an environment of the highest standards, characterized by a spirit of academic honesty and mutual respect. Because personal accountability is inherent in an academic community of integrity, this institution will not tolerate or ignore any form of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is regarded as any act of deception, benign or malicious in nature, in the completion of any academic exercise. Examples of academic dishonesty include cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and other academic misconduct.

SRJC Attendance Policy

A. Attendance

1. Students are expected to attend, and in the case of online classes, participate in, all sessions/modules of the course in which they are enrolled.
2. A student may be dropped from any class when that student's absences exceed ten percent (10%) of the total hours of class time.
3. With advanced notice and appropriate documentation, members of the U.S. Military Armed Services and Reservists shall have their absences accommodated due to service obligations provided that satisfactory academic progress is being made prior to suspending their studies. For the purpose of this policy, a student is making satisfactory academic progress so long as, at the start of the absence, the student has the potential to pass the class after completing the remaining assignments.

B. Nonattendance

1. Students who fail to attend the first class meeting may be dropped by the instructor. For classes that meet online, students who fail to log on and initiate participation by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time of the first day of the class may be dropped by the instructor. The start date for full semester online classes is the official first day of the semester; for short-term classes, the first day will be specified in the schedule of classes.
2. Instructors are required to drop all No-Show students immediately following the second class meeting. A No-Show is an enrolled student who has not attended any class meeting of the course. For classes that meet online, a No-Show is an enrolled student who has not logged on and initiated active participation by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time of the second day of the class.

C. Excessive absence defined

1. Instructors shall state in each course syllabus what constitutes excessive absence for that course. **In this course, excessive absence is defined as failure to participate in graded discussions during one weekly module.**
2. Any student with excessive absences may be dropped from the class.

CLASS MODULES AND PROPOSED CALENDAR	
Week	Topic/Deliverable
Week 1: Feb. 9 – 15	Chapter 1: Understanding Social Problems
Week 2: Feb. 16 – 22	Chapter 2: Poverty
Week 3: Feb. 23 – Mar. 1	Chapter 3: Racial and Ethnic Inequality
Week 4: Mar. 2 – 8	Chapter 4: Gender Inequality Chapter 5: Sexual Orientation and Inequality
Week 5: Mar. 9 – 15	Chapter 6: Aging and Ageism Chapter 10: The Changing Family
	Spring Break: Mar. 16 – 22
Week 6: Mar. 23 – 29	Chapter 7: Alcohol and Other Drugs
Week 7: Mar. 30 – Apr. 5	Chapter 9: Sexual Behavior
Week 8: Apr. 6 – 12	MID-TERM EXAM
Week 9: Apr. 13 – 19	Chapter 8: Crime and Criminal Justice
Week 10: Apr. 20 – 26	Chapter 13: Health and Health Care
Week 11: Apr. 27 – May 3	Chapter 14: Urban and Rural Problems
Week 12: May 4 – 10	Chapter 15: Population and the Environment
Week 13: May 11 – 15 (Friday)	FINAL EXAM