

Instructor: David Kavanagh  
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Class Time  
Course Location: TC: 214  
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Office Hours: Posted Outside Office

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**I. Catalog Description:**

A sociological analysis of the causes and proposed solutions of contemporary social problems confronting society today. It includes an analysis of the significance of the problems and current policies and actions. The course is designed to encourage debate and to get students to consider different positions or viewpoints with regard to social issues.

**II. Course Prerequisites:**

None.

**III. Description of Instructional Methods:**

Southeast Technical Institute values a student-centered learning environment, which nurtures intellectual and social development. Southeast instructors have designed their general education courses to utilize a variety of instructional methods.

This course includes the following:

- **Course Readings**
- **Lecture/Discussion Material**
- **Group Activities**
- **Video Presentations**
- **Writing Exercise**

**IV. Course Requirements:**

**Required textbook(s) and other materials:**

**Social Problems-Books A La Carte Ed. LL** Macionis ISBN 9780134632605  
Copyright 17 Edition 7Binding Looseleaf.

**Supplementary materials:**

Scantron Sheets – student must supply their own scantron answer sheets!

**Class attendance policy:**

Students are expected to attend all class sessions. One absence per credit hour is allowed in the course before absences can reduce grades. The instructor may reduce a student's final grade by one-half letter grade for each additional absence.

In all cases of absence, it is necessary for students to make up work that is missed. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor(s) to make up missed work.

**Cheating and plagiarism policy:**

Students attending Southeast Technical Institute are expected to comply with all pertinent state laws and take personal responsibility for their conduct.

Southeast policies authorize suspension or termination of any student from school for misconduct as outlined in the rules of this policy. The following student misconduct shall constitute grounds for student discipline, suspension, or termination when such activity occurs on school grounds or during an educational function under the auspices of the school board: acts of dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism or other forms of dishonesty relating to academic achievement.

**Make-up policy:**

Students are expected to turn in assignments on the day indicated in the course schedule. It will be subject to instructor's discretion as to whether the assignment will be accepted late. The instructor will issue a grade of incomplete only for extenuating circumstances. No assignment will be accepted for grade after the final day of the course.

**V. Course Goals:**

This class fulfills the following Goal of the South Dakota System General Education Requirements:

**GOAL 3: Students will understand the organization, potential, and diversity of the human community through the study of the social sciences.**

**Student Learning Outcomes:** As a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will:

**Learning Outcomes:****Assessment**

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Identify and explain basic concepts, terminology and theories of the selected social science disciplines from different spatial, temporal, cultural and/or institutional contexts. | Multiple-Choice Exam |
| 2. Apply selected social science concepts and theories to contemporary issues.  | Multiple-Choice Exam |
| 3. Identify and explain the social or aesthetic values of different cultures.   | Multiple-Choice Exam |

In addition, as a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of at least one of the following:

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 4. The origin and evolution of human institutions.                  | Multiple-Choice Exam |
| 5. The allocation of human or natural resources within societies.   | Multiple-Choice Exam |
| 6. The impact of diverse philosophical, ethical or religious views. | Multiple-Choice Exam |

Each course meeting this goal includes the following student learning outcomes:  
 Required: 1, 2 and 3. At least one of the following: 4, 5, or 6.

**VI. Student Learning Outcomes:**

Student success is important to STI faculty, and all faculty are involved in assessing student learning. Upon completion of an Associate in Applied Science degree, Southeast graduates will have competence in the following four broad student outcomes:

1. **Science & Technology:** Graduates will be able to understand industry-relevant technical concepts (knowledge) and demonstrate industry-relevant technical skills (performance).

2. **Problem Solving & Critical Thinking:** Graduates will be able to define a problem as it relates to their field of study. They will demonstrate the ability to analyze the problem, generate solutions, evaluate solutions, and select the best solution.
  
3. **Communication:** Graduates will be able to define the purpose of the communication they are using, organize and structure the communication, and provide supporting materials for this communication. Graduates will demonstrate precision of language and will be able to professionally deliver and format the communication.
  
4. **Professionalism:** Graduates will be able to demonstrate positive work ethic, collaborate as part of a team, adapt to change, adhere to professional standards, and model integrity and ethics.

As a result of taking this course, the following student outcomes will be sought by helping the student develop:

The various theoretical viewpoints and critically analyze historical and current social problems. Society is an institution and the purpose of this course is to help students in acquiring knowledge about this institution. Focusing on the nature of social problems from a sociological perspective is an inquiry into the field of sociology.

**Evaluation Procedures**

**Assessments**

The methods of evaluation and criteria for this course are:

- Four multiple-choice exams worth 50 points = 200 Points.
- One essay/paper worth 50 Points = 50 Points
- Total Points = 250

**Grading policy**

Letter Grade	Percent
A	90%+
B	80% - 89%
C	70% - 79%
D	60% - 69%
F	<= 59%

**VII. ADA Statement:**

The instructor in this course will act with integrity and strive to engage in equitable verbal and nonverbal behavior with respect to differences from age, gender, race, handicapping conditions, and religion. If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act and need course materials in alternative formats, notify your instructor immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.

Violation of safety to self and others and/or violations of safe operating practices of equipment may result in: the reduction or loss of your daily grade; removal from class and/or other disciplinary action.

**Tentative Course Outline/Schedule**

Week #	Topic:
Week 1/2	Chapter 1: Sociology – Studying Social Problems.
Week 3	Chapter 2: Poverty and Wealth.
Week 4	Chapter 3: Racial and Ethnic Inequality.
Week 5	Chapter 4 and 5: Gender, Age Inequality.
*	EXAM 1: Chapters (1-5).
Week 6	Chapter 6: Crime, Violence, and Criminal Justice.
Week 7	Chapter 7: Sexuality.
Week 8	Chapter 8: Alcohol and Other Drugs.
Week 9	Chapter 9: Physical and Mental Health.
*	EXAM 2: Chapters (6-9).
Week 10	Chapter 10 and 11: Economy, Work and the Workplace.
Week 11	Chapter 12: Family Life.
Week 12	Chapter 13: Education.
*	EXAM 3: Chapters (10-13).
Week 13	Chapter 14: Urban Life
Week 14	Chapter 15: Population and Global Inequality.
Week 15	Chapter 16: Technology and the Environment.
Week 16 *	EXAM 4: Chapters (14-16).

**SOC 150**

**Social Problems  
Southeast Technical Institute Syllabus**

**3 Credits  
Spring 2019**