

SOC 103-01, Social Problems, Spring 2011
Tuesday & Thursday, 8:00 – 9:30 am
Good Hall Room 308

Professor Jason Ward
Phone: 357-9754
Email: wardjc@uindy.edu

Required Text:

Dolgon, Corey. *Social Problems: A Service Learning Approach*. 2011. Pine Forge Press

Additional readings may be assigned at the instructor's discretion. These may take the form of on-line readings or handouts.

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to the central concepts and theories in the study of social problems. We will look at some of the most prominent and profound issues affecting society today, place these issues in a historical context, learn about their causes, discover some solutions and hopefully have some interesting and enlightening discussions along the way. This course will address the critical thinking, social responsibility and performance goals of the university.

The course will be conducted largely as a discussion, with some lecture, anecdotes and supplementary material presented by the instructor. The goal is to use the required text to create a framework for discussions about society, social problems, current events and social theory that are relevant and constructive. Some of the material presented is troubling and contentious. It is likely that many students may take issue with the material or its presentation. The expectation is that discussions will be handled with maturity and respect for one another's thoughts, feelings and experiences.

Course Requirements:

Attendance

Students are expected to attend every class. Much of each student's grade will be based on attendance and participation. There are no excused or unexcused absences. A student may miss up to three sessions, regardless of excuse, without their grade being affected.

Participation

Student participation is the single most important aspect of this course. The learning experience is greatly enhanced by dialogue, discourse and discussion, allowing each student to share his or her own experiences, observations and insights. Some discussions will be done as part of small groups. Others will be done with the entire class. Regardless, each student's participation will be documented each class session for grading purposes.

Each class period will be worth up to 6 points toward the final grade. A student will receive 3 points for attending class and up to 3 additional points for participation. The total number of points will be added up, with a maximum of 150 at the end of the semester.

Conduct

The use of electronic communication devices is prohibited during discussions (unless an emergency arises). Silence all cell phones so they do not disturb the class. Laptop use is not allowed, except as noted by the instructor during discussions. Tolerance, civility and integrity are required of each student, as we will be discussing controversial subjects. Please be respectful of everyone else and their beliefs.

Assignments

There will only be four assignments in this class, three quizzes and a short paper. The quizzes will be given randomly and without warning and will be designed to test your knowledge on recent topics of discussion and the readings thus far. Each quiz will be worth 25 points toward your final grade. If you miss a quiz, you will be allowed to make it up the following class period. If you miss the following class period, you will not be allowed to make up the missed quiz.

The paper will be on a topic of your choosing from among those presented and discussed in class. The expectations for this paper will be provided by week four. Expect that the paper should be approximately 5 pages in length with proper citations, references, and formatting. It will cover one of the social problems discussed, its social ramifications, your personal observations about the issue, recent research on the topic and some possible solutions. The paper will be worth 75 points toward your final grade. EXCPETION – If you choose to do the Service Learning Lab, SOC 104, in conjunction with this class, the paper outlined for that class can replace this one.

Grading

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|--------------------------|----------|-----|
| Attendance/Participation | 150 pts. | 50% |
| Quizzes | 75 pts. | 25% |
| Paper | 75 pts. | 25% |

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|----|---------------------------|
| A | = 280 – 300 |
| A- | = 270 – 279 |
| B+ | = 260 – 269 |
| B | = 250 – 259 |
| B- | = 240 – 249 |
| C+ | = 230 – 239 |
| C | = 220 – 229 |
| C- | = 210 – 219 |
| D+ | = 200 – 209 |
| D | = 190 – 199 |
| D- | = 180 – 189 |
| F | = Anything lower than 180 |

Schedule:

Week 1 (January 18, 20)

Introduction to Course, Service Learning

Assignment for next week: Introduction and Chapter 1

Week 2 (January 25, 27)

Concepts and Theories in Social Problems

Assignment for next week: Chapter 2

Week 3 (February 1, 3)

Socioeconomic Inequality and Homelessness

Assignment for next week: Poverty and Homelessness Handouts

Week 4 (February 8, 10) – *Paper Assigned*

Socioeconomic Inequality and Homelessness (cont'd)

Assignment for next week: Chapter 3

Week 5 (February 15, 17)

Workers and Labor

Assignment for next week: Chapter 4

Week 6 (February 22, 24)

Identity and Inequality

Assignment for next week: Race, Gender and Inequality Handouts

Week 7 (March 1, 3) – *Midterm Grades due*

Identity and Inequality (cont'd)

Assignment for next week: Chapter 5

Week 8 (March 8, 10)

Modern Families

Assignment for next week: Chapter 6

Week 9 (March 15, 17) – *Spring Break, no class*

Week 10 (March 22, 24)

The Environment, Pollution and Mass Consumption

Assignment for next week: Chapter 7

Week 11 (March 29, 31)

Education Issues

Assignment for next week: Chapter 8

Week 12 (April 5, 7)

Justice and Crime

Assignment for next week: Chapter 9

Week 13 (April 12, 14)

Health and Healthcare

Assignment for next week: Chapter 10

Week 14 (April 19, 21)

Globilization

Assignment for next week: None!

Week 15 (April 26, 28) – Papers Due

TBD

Assignment for next week: None!

SOC 104 Addendum, Service Learning Lab
Tuesday & Thursday, 8:00 – 9:30 am
Good Hall Room 308

Professor Jason Ward
Phone: 357-9754
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Course Description:

This course is optional and is designed as a companion course to Soc 103. Soc 104 represents an opportunity to earn real-world, hands-on experience tackling a social problem in the Indianapolis community. You will work with a local organization, learning the methods and practices used in combating one (or more) of the social issues we address in Soc 103. This is an academic volunteer opportunity, meaning that you will learn from professionals about how they do their work in solving social issues, not just helping with the daily duties of the organization.

This is a one-credit course, and as such the requirements are minimal outside of the necessary 28 volunteer hours. This course counts as a general elective but it also counts toward the minors in Civic Engagement or Community Leadership.

Course Requirements:

1. Go to the registrar's office and sign up for SOC 104. This must be completed by January 21st.
2. Identify a service-learning site where you would like to do your volunteer work. The kind folks at the Community Programs Center can help identify the location and contact persons. Community Programs is located in Esch 155.
3. Get the professor's approval for your selected site. Bring details of the organization with you when seeking permission. You must have your site selected and approved by the end of week 3 (February 4th).
4. Read, sign and turn the appropriate forms.
Student Statement and Confidentiality Clause
Confidentiality Form
5. Meet with the appropriate agency personnel by week 4 to begin your Service Learning Lab. Share the professor's contact information with the person or persons who will be supervising your work.
6. Maintain a log (provided) of your hours worked, with signatures from the appropriate agency personnel. You must work at least 28 hours to earn credit for the course. These hours must be completed before finals week on the current semester.
7. Keep a journal of your experiences as you do the work. Be sure to note the work you do, who you work with (clients and professionals) and your thoughts about the work. The journal will be used to complete your reflection paper at the end of the semester, and a copy of it will be turned with your paper. It will be helpful to interview the agency's administrators to get insight into the inner workings of the organization, as well as its methodologies. As you do your work and keep your journal you will want to keep the following things in mind:
The organization's mission
The organization's goals (long and short term)

The methods they employ to meet their goals
The structure of the organization
How the organization is funded
The experience and qualification of your co-workers

8. You will be asked periodically about your experiences during sessions of Soc 103, particularly as it relates to the topics being discussed therein.
9. Complete a Reflection Paper (which can be used for the final paper in Soc 103) and turn it in by class time on April 28th. The paper should meet the following criteria:
 - 6 -8 double-spaced pages with 12 point Times New Roman font
 - Briefly summarize the organization's history, missions, goals and structure.
 - How does the organization address the identified social problem(s)?
 - Identify strengths and weaknesses of the organization from your perspective.
 - What did you learn from the experience?
 - Relate your observations and experiences to topics discussed in class.
10. Attend the Service Learning Expo on April 27th from 11:30 to 1:00. This is Mandatory. Failure to attend the Expo will result in a failing grade. More details will follow from the Community Programs Center.

Grading:

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|--------------------------------------------------|--------|-----|
| Completing the Mandatory Hours with verification | 75 pts | 50% |
| Turning in the Reflection Paper and Journal | 75 pts | 50% |

- A = 140 – 150
- A- = 135 – 139
- B+ = 130 – 124
- B = 125 – 129
- B- = 120 – 124
- C+ = 115 – 119
- C = 110 – 114
- C- = 105 – 109
- D+ = 100 – 104
- D = 95 – 99
- D- = 90 – 94
- F = Anything lower than 90