



Korea University International Summer Campus (KU ISC) 2018

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June 26, 2018 ~ August 2, 2018

ISC275 - Introduction to Social Problems

I . Instructor

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Office Hours : Mon – Wed, 2:00-3:00PM

II. Textbook

Required Textbook : Social Problems (6th Edition) by John J. Macionis. Prentice Hall (ISBN 978-0-13-390959-3)
Recommended : Additional readings (articles/essays) may be required.
Additional Readings

III. Course Description and Objectives

Course Description: We are asked to confront “social problems” every day: those issues, situations, behaviors and ideas, which are perceived and labeled as problematic and for which a solution is seen as possible and necessary. In this class, we will be learning about some of these social problems. But we will also be learning about what constitutes a social problem. Who, for example, defines what a social problem is? Why do some social problems receive so much attention, while others are ignored? And what are the impacts of defining social problems in a particular way? Throughout the course a number of social problems will be discussed, inclusive of but not limited to: poverty, racial/ethnic inequality, crime, alcohol abuse, drug abuse, and inadequate educational opportunities. During this course the student will become familiar with a number of problematic phenomena and a variety of perspectives of how such problems evolved and proposed reforms for handling the problems.

Course Objectives: This course has been designed to help the student achieve the following:

- 1) Describe and understand the basic theoretical approaches applied to social problems.
- 2) Identify social problems and offer analysis on the core reasons the issue has developed.
- 3) Evaluate social problems from differing viewpoints and perspectives and identify the strengths and flaws of each stance.
- 4) Understand how social problems and their processes interacts with, and can maintain, social inequalities in society.
- 5) Apply sociological analysis of social problems to policy making and its outcomes in society.

Student Expectations: As a student enrolled in this course there are a number of expectations made of you. Specifically, throughout the duration of this course you are expected to:

- 1.) Attend class on a regular basis and in a punctual manner (i.e., be on time).
- 2.) Read the assigned chapter(s) from the text prior to the class period during which they will be covered. You will also be expected to be prepared to ask and answer questions pertaining to the assigned chapter(s) and discuss the views and information presented in the chapter(s).
- 3.) Critically examine, compare, and contrast the information and views presented in lecture and in the text.
- 4.) Develop your own understanding of the social problems covered in class and your own views on the best means of handling such problems.
- 5.) Turn all cell phones/smart phones off (or to silence) prior to entering the classroom.
- 6.) Ask Questions.

Class Participation: As a student enrolled in this course you are expected to actively engage in the class. This means asking relevant questions, making relevant comments, and, of course, being on time and attending class on a regular basis. The instructor of this course reserves the right to call on students individually to ask questions pertaining to the materials covered.

Attendance Policy: Class attendance will be taken regularly for a few reasons: (1) To help the professor learn the names of the students, (2) To help determine the students' attendance/participation score, and (3) To determine whether a student is eligible for credit for the class. As per the Academic Policy of Korea University, a student must attend at least 70% of all class sessions to receive a passing grade for the class.

Class attendance is an essential element of the educational process. Missing classes may put the student at risk as the exams will cover materials from lecture which are not included in the text. Emergencies do occur, however, and in order to compensate for this fact each student is entitled to miss up to two class sessions without a reduction in the attendance/participation score. As each student is allowed to miss up to two class sessions, no excuses are necessary: any absences beyond those will result in a reduced attendance/participation score. The allowance of two missed classes does not affect the minimum attendance required to receive credit for the class.

Students should also be aware that:

- 1.) Excessive tardiness may result in a reduced final grade.
- 2.) Sleeping in class may result in a reduced final grade.
- 3.) Refusal to participate in class discussions/debates may result in a reduced final grade.
- 4.) Inappropriate talking/behaviors during class may result in a reduced final grade.
- 5.) Having a cell/smart phone which frequently rings in class can result in a reduced final grade.

Examinations: Each exam will cover materials presented in LECTURE and in the TEXTS. Throughout the course a variety of materials NOT found in the text will be presented in lecture. You are responsible for knowing these materials and will be tested on them. Also, throughout the course you will be expected to read materials NOT covered in lecture and will be responsible for knowing these materials as well (and will similarly be tested on them).

Regarding Make-Up Exams: If you cannot take an exam at the scheduled time (for a valid reason) and are aware of this fact, *please make arrangements (if possible) to take the exam early.* If you cannot be present to take an exam at the scheduled time (and can present a valid reason for this)

and must take it after the rest of the class, you will be required to take a make-up exam. Because make-up exams are given after the regular exams, students taking them will have more time to prepare for the exam than the rest of the class and the make-up exams will be designed and graded with this in mind. All make-up exams must be taken within one week of the scheduled examination date. It is up to you to arrange a time to take a make-up examination. If you do not arrange to take a make-up exam within one week of the regular examination a score of zero will be assigned. If a student misses the final exam, no make-up exam will be given. All students are required to be present in class to take the final exam.

Writing Assignments: During the course there will be two required opinion papers. For each opinion paper the students will be required to consider an issue/social problem, briefly summarize the issue/problem, and provide an opinion on the topic/issue/problem under consideration.

Note: The above list of materials is NOT set in stone. It is a **tentative** schedule of materials to be covered. Additional materials may be added and/or some of the materials listed above may not be covered, depending upon the pace at which materials can be covered.

As some materials require longer than others to cover, there are NO SET EXAM DATES for the first two examinations. These examinations will be given once the requisite materials have been adequately covered. You will be provided with advanced notice prior to each of the first two examinations. The third/final examination will be given in accordance with the final exam schedule of Korea University International Summer Campus.

IV. Grading

Attendance	:	5%
Midterm Exam	:	25%
Final Exam	:	25%
Presentation	:	25%
Assignments	:	20%
Participation	:	5%

V. Class Outline

Date	Topic	Chapter	Remarks
June 26 (Tue)	Orientation Day		
June 27 (Wed)	Sociology: Studying Social Problems (pp. 1-30)	1	
June 28 (Thu)	Poverty and Wealth (pp. 31-64)	2	
June 29 (Fri)	Poverty and Wealth (pp. 31-64)	2	
July 2 (Mon)	Racial and Ethnic Inequality (pp. 65-98)	3	
July 3 (Tue)	Racial and Ethnic Inequality (pp. 65-98)	3	
July 4 (Wed)	Social Problems Goes to the Movies/Documentaries		
July 5 (Thu)	First Examination		
July 9 (Mon)	Gender Inequality (pp. 99-131)	4	
July 10 (Tue)	Gender Inequality (pp. 99-131)	4	
July 11 (Wed)	Aging and Inequality (pp. 132-158)	5	
July 12 (Thu)	Aging and Inequality (pp. 132-158)	5	
July 16 (Mon)	Crime, Violence, and Criminal Justice (pp. 159-198)	6	

July 17 (Tue)	Crime, Violence, and Criminal Justice (pp. 159-198)	6	
July 18 (Wed)	Criminology Goes to the Movies		
July 19 (Thu)	Second Examination		
July 23 (Mon)	Alcohol and Other Drugs (pp. 232-263)	8	
July 24 (Tue)	Alcohol and Other Drugs (pp. 232-263)	8	
July 25 (Wed)	Family Life (pp. 354-379)	12	
July 26 (Thu)	Family Life (pp. 354-379)	12	
July 30 (Mon)	Education (pp. 380-408)	13	
July 31 (Tue)	Education (pp. 380-408)	13	
Aug 1 (Wed)	Student Presentation 1		
Aug 2 (Thu)	Student Presentation 2		