Social Problems (SOCI 1306)

Credit: 3 semester credit hours (3 hours lecture)

Prerequisite/Co-requisite: None.

Course Description
Sociology 1306 is an examination of major social problems in our world today. Global focuses may include internet deviance, genocide and terrorism. Domestic focuses may include crime, drug abus, mental disorders, suicide, rape and child molestation.

Required Textbook and Materials
1. *Deviant Behavior* by Alex Thio, 11th edition.
    a. ISBN number is 9780205205165
2. A package of #882 Scantrons and #2 pencils.

Course Objectives
Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
1. Describe how the sociological imagination can be used to explain the emergence and implications of contemporary social problems.
2. Explain the nature of social problems from at least one sociological perspective, e.g., critical, functional, interpretive, etc.
3. Identify multidimensional aspects of social problems including the global, political, economic, and cultural dimensions of social problems.
4. Discuss how "solutions" to social problems are often contentious due to diverse values in society.
5. Describe how the proposed "solutions" to a social problem, including social policies, may bring rise to other social problems.

Core Objectives
1. Critical Thinking Skills: To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
2. Communication Skills: To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. Empirical and Quantitative Skills: To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
4. Social Responsibility: To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Course Outline

A. Syllabus
1. Introduction of faculty and students
2. Instructor Resume
3. Comments
B. Chapter 1 What is Deviant Behavior?
1. The Positive Perspective
2. The Constructionist Perspective
3. An Integrated View
C. Chapter 2 Positivist Theories
1. Anomie Strain Theory
2. Social Learning Theory
3. Control Theory
D. Chapter 3 Constructionist Theories
1. Labeling Theory
2. Conflict Theory
E. Chapter 4 Physical Violence
1. Assault and Aggravated Assault
2. Patterns of Killing
3. Characteristics of Homicide
4. Mass Murder and Serial Murder
5. Stalking and Hate Crimes
6. Terrorism: the 9/11 Attacks
7. Why Do People Kill?
F. Chapter 5 Rape and Child Molestation
1. Patterns of Rape
2. Consequences of Rape
3. The Culture of Rape
4. Why Men Rape Women?
5. Males as Victims
G. Chapter 6 Family Violence
1. The Extent of Family Violence
2. Wife Beating
3. Child Abuse
4. Elder Abuse
5. Theories of Family Violence
H. Chapter 7 Suicide
1. Varieties of Suicide Experiences
2. Groups with Higher Suicide Rates
3. A Social Profile of a Suicide Bomber
4. A Global Perspective to Suicide

I. Chapter 8 Mental Disorder
1. Types of Mental Disorder
2. Social Factors in Mental Disorder
3. A Global Perspective
J. Chapter 9 Heterosexual Deviance
1. Teen Sex
2. Extramarital Sex
3. Pornography
4. Phone Sex
5. The World of Prostitution
K. Chapter 10 Gays and Other Victims of Stigma
1. Gays and Lesbians
2. Same Sex Practices
3. Homophobia
Victims of Social Stigma
L. Chapter 11 Drug Use
1. Illegal Drugs and Their Effects
2. Becoming a Drug User
3. Abusing Prescription Drugs
M. Chapter 12 Drinking and Alcoholism
1. What Alcohol Does to Its Users
2. Social Factor
3. Becoming an Alcoholic
4. Alcohol and Its Abuse
N. Chapter 13 Privilege Deviance
1. What is White Collar Crime?
2. Corporate Deviance
3. Occupational Deviance
4. Government Deviance
O. Chapter 14 Underprivileged Deviance
1. Robbery
2. Auto Theft and Car Jacking
3. Burglary
4. Organized Crime
P. Chapter 15 Internet Deviance
1. Seeking Easy Money, Online
2. Searching Cyberspace for Sex
3. Expressing Hate Online

SOCI 1306
Course Syllabus

Grade Scale

90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60 – 69	D
0 – 59	F

Course Evaluation
Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

1. Unit Exams	60%
2. Final Exam	25%
3. Common Assignment/Course Project	15%

Course Policies
1. No food, drinks, or use of tobacco products in class.
2. Computers, telephones, headphones, and any other electronic devices must be turned off while in class or used only with permission of the instructor.
3. Do not bring children to class.
4. Attendance Policy. Six absences are allowed. If a student is tardy to class or departs early three (3) times, it will be equal to one (1) absence.
5. No late work. In the case of a documentable emergency beyond the student's control, make-up work may be accepted solely at the instructor's discretion.
6. If you wish to drop a course, the student is responsible for initiating and completing the drop process. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an 'F' in the course.
7. Additional class policies as defined by the individual course instructor.

Technical Requirements (for courses using Blackboard)
The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, software, Java, etc. can be found online at: https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_2014_04/Student/015_Browser_Support/015_Browser_Support_Policy A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of the online technology and resources.

Disabilities Statement
The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. Among other things, these statutes require that all students with documented disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations for their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409) 880-1737 or visit the office in Student Services, Cecil Beeson Building. You may also visit the online resource at http://www.lit.edu/depts/stuserv/special/defaults.aspx

Student Code of Conduct Statement

It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at www.lit.edu or obtained in print upon request at the Student Services Office. Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

Starfish

LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click on the Starfish link to view academic alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.