

Edison State Community College
SOC-226S-801FS SOCIAL PROBLEMS
3 CREDIT HOURS
PART II SYLLABUS
Fall 2026

Professor: Kevin Patrick Coghlan, PhD, National University, 2023

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:45-1:00 PM in room 207; and Sunday 12:00 3:00 PM online

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class examines current social problems in the United States. Special attention is paid to the definition, extent, and situations of each of the problems. Among the topics discussed are poverty, race, gender, environmental issues, family, alcohol and drug abuse, crime, violence, age, and inequality.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

TEXTBOOK

Kendall, D. (2021). *Social Problems in a Diverse Society*. Pearson Revel. 7th Edition.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, ACTIVITIES, ASSIGNMENTS

Week	Date	Topics	Textbook Reading	Assignments	Due
1	8/24-8/30	Intro to the course		-Setup Blackboard profile -Register for Pearson Revel web quizzes -Discussion Board 1: Introduction to Social Problems	
2	8/31-9/6	Studying Social Problems in the 21 st Century	Chapter 1	-Discussion Board 2: Social Problems -Assignment 1 -Quiz Chapter 1	
3	9/7-9/13	Poverty	Chapter 2	-Discussion Board 3: Wealth and Poverty -Assignment 2 -Quiz Chapter 2	
4	9/14-9/20	Racial and Ethnic Inequality	Chapter 3	-Discussion Board 4: Race and Ethnicity -Assignment 3 -Quiz Chapter 3	
5	9/21-9/27	Gender Inequality Inequality Based on Age	Chapter 4 Chapter 6	-Discussion Board 5: Gender and Age -Assignment 4 -Quiz Chapter 4 -Quiz Chapter 6	
6	9/28-10/4	Inequality Based on Sexual Orientation	Chapter 5	-Discussion Board 6: Sexuality and Orientation -Assignment 5 -Quiz Chapter 5	
7	10/5-10/11	Prostitution, Pornography, and Sex Trafficking	Chapter 7 Chapter 8	-Discussion Board 7: Violence -Assignment 6	

		Alcohol and Other Drugs		-Quiz Chapter 7 -Quiz Chapter 8
8	10/12-10/18	Research Projects		Annotated Bibliography due
9	10/19-10/25	Crime and Criminal Justice	Chapter 9	-Discussion Board 8: Crime and System -Assignment 7 -Quiz Chapter 9
10	10/26-11/1	Healthcare The Changing Family	Chapter 10 Chapter 11	-Discussion Board 9: Healthcare Family -Assignment 8 -Quiz Chapter 10 -Quiz 11
11	11/2-11/8	Education	Chapter 12	-Discussion Board 10: Education -Assignment 9 -Quiz Chapter 12
12	11/9-11/15	Politics and the Global Economy Media	Chapter 13 Chapter 14	-Discussion Board 11: Politics and -Assignment 10 -Quiz Chapter 13 -Quiz Chapter 14
13	11/16-11/22	Population and Global Inequality Urban Problems	Chapter 15 Chapter 16	-Discussion Board 12: Population Urban Problems -Quiz Chapter 15 -Quiz Chapter 16
14	11/23-11/29	War and Terrorism	Chapter 17	-Discussion Board 13: War and -Quiz Chapter 17
15	11/30-12/6	Research Projects		-Research Paper due Wednesday -Presentation due Friday -Discussion Board 14: Presentation
16	12/7-12/12	Can Social Problems be Solved?	Chapter 18	-Discussion Board 15: Solving P -Quiz Chapter 18

TESTING YOUR FAITH ACT POLICY

Edison State Community College is committed to providing an environment respectful of students' beliefs. Students are permitted to be absent for up to 3 days each semester based on their faith, religion, or spiritual belief system with no academic penalty. Students must complete the Testing Your Faith Act Accommodations Form, https://www.edisonohio.edu/sites/default/files/2024-05/Testing_Your_Faith_Absence_Notification.pdf and provide a copy to their individual faculty within 14 days from the start of the course. The entire policy can be found in the student handbook at <https://www.edisonohio.edu/sites/default/files/2025-04/Student%20Handbook%20revisions%20April%202025.pdf>, page 19.

FINAL GRADE STANDARDS

The final grade for the course will represent your instructor's assessment of the overall

quality with which you met all the requirements of the course.

CALCULATION OF GRADES

Assignment	Points
Discussion Boards	150
Quizzes	180
Annotated Bibliography	50
Assignments	200
Final Project Presentation	20
Final Project	100
Total	/700
Grading Criteria	
Percentage	Grade
90-100%	A
80-89.9%	B
70-79.9%	C
60-69.9%	D
Below 60%	F

EVALUATION METHODS

DISCUSSION BOARDS

There are 15 discussion boards. Each board is worth 10 points. To get full credit, the prompt must be thoroughly addressed, the initial post must be at least 300 words, and 2 students must be replied to in ~50 words.

INQUIZITIVES: CHAPTERS

Students will complete inquisitive assignments online each week over the chapters. Each assignment has a target goal to be met. Students can work to a 100% score on each assignment. To complete them, student must read the chapters first. Then, go through the questions and answer them. The book can be used as the assignment is completed. Information on how up and complete these assignments is in the Getting Started Folder.

QUIZZES

Students will complete 18 quizzes, worth 10 points each, 1 for each chapter. These will go along with the sources in the textbook and require students to analyze sources to answer questions. The textbook may be used while working on this assignment. These will show a 100% in the gradebook once completed to alert the instructor it is finished. The instructor will then go in and grade them. The grade is based on the number of questions correctly answered. If 4 of 5 questions were correctly answered the first try, then the grade is 4/5 points. If 6 questions were correctly answered out of 8 questions, then the grade is 3.5/5 (6/8=75%)

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

For this assignment, students will select a topic for their final project and become familiar with the topic by selecting 8 sources and summarizing each article according to the instructions located in the module.

ASSIGNMENTS

Students will complete 10 assignments over topics covered in the book. These can be short answer questions or active sociology activities. All assignments must be 100% in the student's words. No quotes or paraphrasing are allowed in these assignments.

RESEARCH PROJECT

Students will be researching a topic outlined by the teacher. These projects will consist of three parts. 1) An annotated bibliography, 2) A research paper, and 3) a presentation.

Research paper: a detailed discussion of the social problem assigned. Each student will individually research their tasks and is required to use at least 8 sources which must be either academic college level books or academic peer reviewed journals. The paper must be 1500+ words in length using APA or ASA formatting. APA is recommended.

Annotated Bibliography: This is over the resources for the research paper. Each annotation must be 100+ words following outlined directions on blackboard. This is due at midterm.

Presentation: This will be a recorded informal discussion of the research findings to educate the other classmates. The speech must be 4 minutes in length. Students will be required to comment on each other.

This is a detailed project that must show all aspects of the social problem as stated in the instructions in the module. The more detailed background given, the better the presentation.

A rubric will be available on Blackboard