**VALENCIA COLLEGE**

**SYG 2010 SOCIAL PROBLEMS**

**Class Policies & Course Syllabus**

**TWK TERM Fall 2023**

**CRN 17618**

**Tuesday/Thursday 10:30-12:25**

**Building 11 Room 350**

**Term Dates: 9/25-12/10**

**PROFESSOR:** GORDON JEPSON

**OFFICE: None**

**PHONE: 407-582-1203 (dept. phone)**

EMAIL: [gjepson@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:gjepson@valenciacollege.edu) (only direct contact method)

Note: This is a traditional in person class so there will be only limited use of Canvas unless there is a health emergency. All class activities including lectures, discussions, assignments and exams will be in the traditional class mode. PPTs and any important class documents will be sent weekly. Please print and bring these to class or have access to them thru your technology devices. If it is necessary to move to an online format students will be expected to have access to Canvas.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

SOCIAL PROBLEMS Analysis of major social problems confronting society, Special emphasis on critical thinking abilities in evaluating causes, effects and various approaches in dealing with Social Problems. A minimum grade of C is required if SYG 2010 is used to satisfy Gordon Rule Requirements.

**TOPICAL AREAS COVERED:**

1. **Orientation to Sociology and Social Problems**
2. **Major Theoretical Perspectives in Social Problems**
3. **Research Methodology in Social Problems**
4. **Social Stratification Issues**
5. **Issues of Prejudice, Race Ethnicity**
6. **Issues of Gender, Sexual Orientation and Aging**
7. **Marriage and Family Issues**
8. **Education Issues**
9. **Issues of Government and Economy**
10. **Issues of Health**
11. **Issues of Drugs and Alcohol**
12. **Issues of the Media**
13. **Crime and Criminal Justice**
14. **Issues of Population and Ecology**
15. **Sociology of Change and Collective Behavior**

**These may be covered as discrete topics and/or integrated with other topic areas in an order at the discretion of the professor. It should be understood that this topic knowledge is the minimum level for a grade of D or better. These and other topics may be expanded or elaborated at the discretion of the individual professor and is in no way intended to be comprehensive or all inclusive.**

Major Learning Outcomes:

* Each student will understand the basic concepts of sociology and social problems and be able to apply the sociological perspective to gain a better overall understanding of self and others
* Each student will be able to effectively communicate using discipline specific terminology.
* Each student will be able to compare and contrast how the major disciplines (theories) in sociology are used to view and describe a specific social issue.
* Each student will be able to identify the major steps in sociological research which are needed to produce valid and reliable findings.
* Each student will develop a heightened awareness of the social inequalities and problems that exist within and among cultures, groups and societies.
* Each student will be able to recognize and understand the basic elements, concepts, and influences of social institutions, groups and organizations and their role in Social Problems
* Each student will be able to comprehend the characteristics of social change and resulting issues

Valencia’s Core Competencies:

Valencia’s Core Competencies are Think, Communicate, Value and Act. These competencies have been defined by Valencia faculty to prepare students to succeed in the world community. These competencies are outlined in the College catalog. In this course, through classroom lecture, discussions and group, you will further your mastery of those competencies. Additional information is available in the catalog.

**STUDENT EXPECTATIONS OF PROFESSORS**

1. **Professor will start and end class on time.**
2. **Professor will treat students with respect.**
3. **Professor will fully explain concepts and ideas.**
4. **Professor will give students time to ask questions.**
5. **Professor will give students adequate notice on due dates of assignments.**
6. **Professor will provide PPT slides for upcoming class**
7. **Professor will offer extra credit for class participation and good attendance**
8. **Professor will respond to emails promptly.**
9. **Professor will make time available before or after class for discussions.**
10. **Professor will work towards making the course interesting and enjoyable.**

**PROFESSOR EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS:**

1. **Students will attend class.**
2. **Students have a textbook.**
3. **Students will be respectful of all members of the class.**
4. **Students will prepare for each exam.**
5. **Students will ask questions when something is unclear.**
6. **Students will participate in class discussions.**
7. **Students will take all exams on the assigned day.**
8. **Students will submit homework assignments on assigned day.**
9. **Students will take detailed notes**
10. **Students will not get up and walk around**

**REQUIRED TEXT: Social Problems 7e., Anna Leon-Guerrero**

**Sage Publishing, 2023. You do not need the Digital Content which the publisher makes available unless you wish to have itthe first three**

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS: Each week there will be some additional materials sent to your email. These will include PowerPoint slides for the coming week and any handout materials. Please print and bring these to class to save yourself much note taking.**

**INTERNET RESEARCH STATEMENT: Because of variety of sources, ease of publication, lack of control and proliferation of commercial information on the internet, it is often hard to tell if the information is reliable. Many sites contain research information of high quality. However, unlike traditional print publication or library based electronic sources, there is usually no process of peer review, nor is there an editor verifying the accuracy of information presented on the internet. There are an increasing number of sites containing information or whose content may not be factual. Students should use caution in the use of the internet for their research needs. For academic topics that are addressed in scholarly literature, use of electronic databases or visiting the library may better meet your needs. However, each professor makes the final determination of what is or is not accepted as a valid source so review the syllabus for specific guidelines.**

**EVALUATION:**

**Tests and Assignments:**

**There are three examinations during the term. Additionally there are three required writing assignments to comply with the Gordon Rule. The specific writing assignments are on the last three pages of this syllabus. Additionally class attendance and regular class participation can affect your grade.**

**MAKE UP EXAMS or WRITING ASSIGNMENTS. In the event of a documented emergency the student will be allowed to make up a missed exam or writing assignment. (if TC not open, then alternate options will be available). You are allowed one week to make up missing work otherwise a grade of 0 will be awarded. If a curve has been used you will NOT be included in the curve since your grade was not used in its calculation. Taking exams at the assigned time is expected and only documented emergencies are acceptable as excuses for missing an exam. If you fail to take the final exam as scheduled, you will receive a grade of 0 which will be averaged with your other grades. Exceptions can be made for a documented emergency.**

**No Show Policy: If a student does not attend any of the first three classes he will be dropped as a “no show”.**

**Withdrawal Policy:**

**A student is permitted to withdraw from a class on or before the withdrawal deadline as published in the College calendar. A student is not permitted to withdraw from a class after the withdrawal deadline. The professor is permitted to withdraw a student from the class for violation of the professor’s attendance policy or any violation of class rules and regulations. Fall 2023 deadline to withdraw is October 27.**

**A student who withdraws from a class before the withdrawal deadline will receive a grade of "W." A student who is withdrawn by a professor will receive a grade of "W." A student who is withdrawn for administrative reasons at any time will receive a grade of "W" or other grade as determined in consultation with the professor. Any student who withdraw or is withdrawn from a class during a third or subsequent attempt in the same course will be assigned a grade of "F". The grades of “WP” and “WF” are eliminated.**

**Final course grades of "A", "B", "C", "D", or "F" shall be assigned based upon the student's academic achievement upon the completion of all course work, including the required final examination. A student who fails to take the required final examination will receive an automatic grade of F for the course. Exceptions to this policy can apply in the case of a documented emergency or unless something is prearranged with the professor ahead of time.**

**GRADE CALCULATION**

**Exams compose 75% of your grade, Creative thinking/writing assignments are worth 25% and an additional bonus 10% can be awarded at the professors discretion for excellent attendance and active class participation.**

**GRADE SCALE:**

**90-100 A**

**80-89 B**

**70-79 C (minimum grade needed for Gordon Rule Credit)**

**60-69 D**

**<60 F**

**CLASSROOM POLICIES:**

1. Valencia's attendance policy is that a student will be present for all class meetings. After three absences, a student will receive an excessive absence notice and must schedule a conference with the instructor immediately. A student may be withdrawn after four absences (excused or unexcused). Continual tardiness will be viewed as absences and treated as such. Two occurrences of being tardy will equal one absence. A student coming in more than 15 minutes late will be counted as absent for that day.

2. A student is responsible for all material covered during absences. Make-ups for scheduled tests must be requested before the test date and are subject to approval of the instructor. Unscheduled tests cannot be made up.

1. There will be no eating or drinking in the classroom. Class begins at a scheduled time and is over when the instructor dismisses class. Leaving early without prior permission will result in a class-work grade of zero and an absence.

4. Students must do their own work; there are no exceptions. Students who plagiarize or cheat, in anyway, risk dismissal from the class and expulsion from the college.

1. Students must have an active Atlas account. Students must check their Atlas e-mails regularly as to not miss any important messages from the professor. Missed messages via Atlas or any other medium (in-class, etc.) may affect your grade and are the responsibility of the student. Each week the PPT slides are sent to the student for the upcoming classes. It is advised that each student print and bring these to class.
2. Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations   
   must provide a letter from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)   
   and discuss specific needs with the professor, preferably during the first   
   two weeks of class.  The Office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodation based on appropriate documentation of disabilities (West Campus  SSB 102, ext. 1523).
3. Anything that is deemed disturbing to the students or instructor will not be allowed. This includes getting up and walking out of class, except in emergencies. This is very disruptive. Telephones and texting are prohibited during class hours.

**Updated Learning Support Syllabus Statement**

Learning Support Services provides students with academic support through distance tutoring, face to face tutoring at the campuses, writing consultations, library services, and resources. Tutoring is offered in most academic disciplines including math, science, foreign languages, English for academic purposes (EAP), computer programming and writing assistance for any course.  Assistance with library research can be accessed online through Atlas or the tutoring LibGuide.  For more information on how to access tutoring and library research assistance, please visit the college-wide Learning Support Services LibGuide at: [www.valenciacollege.edu/tutoring](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.valenciacollege.edu%2Ftutoring&data=04%7C01%7Cgjepson%40valenciacollege.edu%7Cb32c3e91a0ef40afb13208d95f1ce2f6%7C0e8866953d1741a88544135b0a92a47c%7C1%7C0%7C637645399933288971%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=clHo4xJvwYHbNUtPSVr%2BQYq8uqK%2F8DWqMaNeGLxtQ4I%3D&reserved=0)

**Please note**: Brainfuse is our new  24/7 online tutoring and learning hub, which is available to all of Valencia’s students.  This service is best used as a back-up to Valencia’s Distance Tutoring service, not as a replacement.  Brainfuse is accessible through Canvas or by visiting [www.valenciacollege.edu/tutoring](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.valenciacollege.edu%2Ftutoring&data=04%7C01%7Cgjepson%40valenciacollege.edu%7Cb32c3e91a0ef40afb13208d95f1ce2f6%7C0e8866953d1741a88544135b0a92a47c%7C1%7C0%7C637645399933288971%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=clHo4xJvwYHbNUtPSVr%2BQYq8uqK%2F8DWqMaNeGLxtQ4I%3D&reserved=0)

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES BY WEEK. The following topics and chapters will be covered. There will be class activities and videos to enhance your learning.

WEEK One Chapter 1. Introduction to course, Major Sociology Theories as they apply to Social Problems and Introduction to Research Methods.

WEEK Two Chapter 2. Introduction to problems associated with Social Stratification, social class and poverty

Week Three Chapter 3 Introduction to problems associated with Race, Prejudice and Discrimination.

Week Four Critical Thinking/Writing Assignment 1 due.. See specific assignment at the end of the syllabus. Chapter 4.Introduction to Gender and issues.

Week Five: Finish Gender and Sexual Orientation, Exam 1 Covering Lectures and any class activities.

Week Six: Chapter 6. Problems of Age, and Aging. Issues of Marriage and Family

Week Seven: Chapter 7. Issues with Marriage and Family Continued, Begin Education, Work, Economy.

Week Eight: Chapter 8 and 9,10 Issues with American Education, Work and Health Economy,Creative Thinking and Writing Assignment#2 handed out with a one week due date. Exam 2 Covering Chapters 8-10

Week Nine: Chapter 12 13 Deviancy and Crime., Critical Thinking/Writing assignment #2 due. See end of syllabus for specific assignment.

Week Ten Chapter 14, 16, Social Change and Collective Behavior Movements. .Creative Thinking and Writing Assignment #3. See end of Syllabus for the Specific Assignment. Exam 3 Covering Chapters 12,13,14, 16

DISCLAIMER: Due to time constraints and the fact this is an abbreviated time period, it may not be possible to cover all the topics indicated. The professor reserves the right to make adjustments in time and content to complete the course in the time allowed.

How much do you know about Social Problems?

1. Most marriages end in divorce.
2. Property values diminish when minorities move into a neighborhood
3. World population is growing due to an increase in births.
4. In mate selection, opposites attract
5. Most Americans do not believe in God
6. Drug addicts and alcoholics can be cured thru rehabilitation
7. Putting a homosexual in jail will cure them
8. We have a natural instinct to mate with members of the opposite sex
9. Most Americans never receive welfare
10. Americas highest social classes are Jewish
11. Most murders go unsolved.
12. Religious people are less afraid of death
13. Social Security is a good guarantee that older people will not live in poverty
14. Hiring an older worker is a bad idea because they are not very reliable
15. Most people do not have prejudices
16. Living together before marriage helps ensure a good marriage
17. The middle class is getting larger and stronger
18. Romantic Love is necessary to make a marriage work
19. African Americans commit most of the crimes
20. Murderers are bad parole risks
21. Most people live in mid size and large cities
22. Premarital pregnancy rates are going down due to birth control
23. Poverty rates in U.S. are at an all time high
24. Most married males will have an affair
25. Religious people have fewer prejudices

GORDON RULE CREATIVE THINKING AND WRITING ASSIGNMENTS.

As part of the Gordon Rule requirements there is a writing/creative thinking component in this course. To meet this requirement there will be three papers due at various times in the course. These papers will compose 25% of your grade in the course. They are mandatory, must be completed on time and demonstrate creative thinking and competency in writing. The paper must represent your own work and follow proper writing guidelines. More details on the specifics of the writing assignment may be forthcoming.

CREATIVE THINKING AND WRITING ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE WEEK OF OCTOBER 16

The first assignment requires you to research the famous Tuskegee Syphilis Study which was sponsored by the U.S. Government beginning in 1932 and continued until approximately 1972. There are many articles written about this study and are available on the Web. If you need help please use the Valencia data bases or any credible sources for your information. The personnel at the Valencia Library can be of tremendous help getting you started.

Because this is a research activity, you will need to locate and document your sources. The Valencia data bases would be a good place to start. If you need help, consult the personnel in the Learning Center.

Your paper must be at least three pages in length, follow proper writing skills including proper sentence structure, punctuation, grammar, word processed using double spacing and must contain at least three proper academic references or citations following the MLA guidelines. (The writing center can help you understand these basics). The paper is due October 1.

Your paper you must answer the following questions to get full credit for the assignment.

1. What is the major theme of the study?
2. Why do you think poor African American Males were selected as the study group?
3. What do you think was the purpose of the study?
4. Do you think the Government acted ethically in this study?
5. What role would the Institutional Research Board play if the study occurred in 2023?
6. Do you think the actions of the government are involved in African Americans distrusting the government?
7. How does this study fit Conflict Theory in Sociology?

This is a highly interesting topic so you should enjoy the activity. If you have any issues you would like to discuss, email me or see me before or after class. I am here to help.

CREATIVE THINKING AND WRITING ASSIGNMENT #2: Due WEEK OF NOV.11

This activity should be fun for you and will reveal a lot of information about you, your biases and prejudices. Some of you will agree with the results and some of you may disagree but the activity will generate a lot of self analysis.

Go to the Implicit Association test on the web, sign in and select demonstration test and test yourself for prejudices against any three groups of the twenty options available to you. You are then to write a three page paper outlining exactly what you did and then identify what you learned about yourself. The same guidelines of proper grammar, punctuation, sentence structure apply. If you need help consult with the writing center or ask me before or after class. Be certain to make proper academic references or citations following MLA guidelines.

<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>

After completing three tests write a three page paper answering the following questions.

1. Why did you select these three groups?
2. What specifically did you learn about your feelings about each of these groups?
3. How did your responses compare with the norms of others who have taken the test?
4. Do you agree or disagree with the results of your test scores?
5. Engage in a brief self analysis of why you feel you scored as you did?
6. What are some of the criticisms voiced in some articles which have been written about the test?
7. How does this tie to the Symbolic Interaction Theory in Sociology?

Have some fun with this activity!

CREATIVE THINKING AND WRITING ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE WEEK OF DECEMBER 4

This activity asks you to watch a highly controversial video entitled “Obsession” which focuses on the rise of the Jihadist movement. It is very graphic, highly disturbing but represents a social movement occurring in the Mideast directed against the western world. The video illustrates the topic of social movements or social change which is occurring in the world.

<https://clarionproject.org/films/obsession/>

After watching the video you are to write a three page overview of what you learned. Included in your paper you should answer the following questions.

1. What is the theme of the video?
2. What elements or “tricks of the trade” did you see in the video?
3. What type of social movement is illustrated in the video?
4. How has the Jihadist movement affected life in the world.
5. How would the rise of Jihadism be seen by a Structural Functionalist Sociologist?

Your paper should following proper writing guidelines and should include any references or citations.