

## South Plains College: Common Course Syllabus

**Discipline:** Sociology

**Course Number:** Sociology 1306

**Course Title:** Social Problems

**Semester Hour Credit:** 3 Hours; 3 Lecture Hours; 0 Lab Hours (3:3:0)

**This course satisfies a core curriculum requirement:** Yes (Behavioral Science)

**Prerequisites:** none for campus; TSI reading compliance for Internet

**Available Formats:** Conventional and Internet

**Textbook:** Please see individual instructor's course requirements

**Supplies:** Computer and Internet access for Internet courses and campus classes.

**Course Specific Instructions:** Internet classes access Blackboard from South Plains College homepage on the first day of the semester. Campus classes may use Blackboard for course material, see instructor's course information sheet for specifics.

**Course description:** Application of sociological principles and theoretical perspectives to major social problems in contemporary society such as inequality, crime and violence, substance abuse, environmental issues, deviance, or family problems.

**Course Purpose/Rationale/Goal:** The purpose of the behavioral science component in the core curriculum is to enable the students to understand and apply sociological theories and concepts as they examine potential problems in human society. To master sociology, students will be able to identify and apply the concepts and principles in the study of group life, social institutions, and social processes.

**Course Requirements:** To maximize the potential to complete this course, students should attend all classes, log into Blackboard multiple times per week, read required textbook/course materials, complete required homework/assignments and/or examinations. See instructor's course information sheet for specifics.

**Course Evaluations:** Refer to Instructor's course information sheet for specifics coursework and grading.

**Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus.

When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of

registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first class meeting.

Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does

not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of "X" or "F" as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of that policy.

It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

See instructor's Course Information Sheet for additions to the attendance policy.

### **Disability Services Policy:**

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-7162577, Reese Center (Building 8) & Lubbock Center 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611. See *South Plains College General Catalog* for more information.

### **Title IX Statement:**

As part of its commitment to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment free from discrimination, South Plains College complies with Title IX of the Education Amendments, which prohibits discrimination and harassment based upon sex in an institution's education programs and activities. In accordance with the requirements of the titles of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended in 1992, South Plains College will not exclude or discriminate against any individual with a disability from the full attainment and access to post-secondary education, and equal enjoyment of its services and facilities. Detailed information and how to respond to these situations can be found at [http://www.southplainscollege.edu/student\\_consumer/TitleIX-NonDiscrimTermNotification.pdf](http://www.southplainscollege.edu/student_consumer/TitleIX-NonDiscrimTermNotification.pdf).

### **Title IX Pregnancy Statement:**

If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations, you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations.

### **Academic Integrity Policy:**

It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own any work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

### **Cheating:**

Dishonesty of any kind on examinations or on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination, obtaining information during an examination from the text- book

or from the examination paper of another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade records, illegal entry or unauthorized presence in an office are examples of cheating. Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of any and all phases of course work. This applies to quizzes of what- ever length, as well as to final examinations, to daily reports and to term papers.

**Plagiarism:** Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgment, is plagiarism; therefore, any student who fails to give credit for quotations or essentially identifiable expression of material taken from books, Internet resources, encyclopedias, magazines and other reference works, or from the themes, reports or other writings of a fellow student, is guilty of plagiarism.

See South Plains College Student Guide and South Plains College General Catalog for more information. Also, see instructor's course information sheet for more information.

**Student Conduct Policy:** Classroom Conduct: Failure to comply with lawful direction of a classroom teacher relative to maintaining good order is considered misconduct on the part of the student. Repeated violations of disrupting a class may result in the student being dropped from that course.

See *South Plains College Student Guide* for full policy covering other areas of conduct including penalties for misconduct and procedures for disciplinary action.

**Campus Concealed Carry Policy:** Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the SPC policy at: ([http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human\\_resources/policy\\_procedure/hhc.php](http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human_resources/policy_procedure/hhc.php))

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

**Grade and Academic Discipline Appeals:** South Plains College provides two procedures which allow students the opportunity to address grievances of an academic nature.

**Appeal Restrictions:** Only final grades or dismissal resulting from academic discipline will be considered. The instructor's teaching ability or expertise will not be considered during the hearing. No grade or disciplinary action can be formally appealed after a period of six (6) months from the date that the student is informed

#### **Informal Appeal:**

1. The student should schedule an appointment with the instructor of the course to discuss the final grade or disciplinary action.
2. If the student is still not satisfied, she should schedule an appointment with the appropriate departmental chairperson to discuss the situation. The chairperson may request that the instructor also be present.
3. If the student is still not satisfied, he she should schedule an appointment with the Divisional Dean to discuss the situation. The dean may request that the chairperson also be present.
4. If the student is still not satisfied, he she should be advised of the formal appeal process.

## Formal Appeal:

1. If the student is not satisfied with the results of the informal appeal, s/he should provide the following information, in writing, to the Vice President for Academic Affairs:
2. A request for a formal appeals hearing.
3. A brief statement of what is being appealed.
4. The basis for the appeal.
5. Pertinent facts relating to the appeal.

The agenda of the appeals hearing will include only those factors documented in the student's appeal request letter. The Vice President for Academic Affairs will determine the date, time and place of the hearing, and notify the student accordingly.

The Hearing Composition of the appeals committee:

- • Vice President for Academic Affairs will preside over the hearing.
- • Faculty member of the student's choice.
- • Faculty member and student selected by the Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- • President of Student Government Association.
- • Dean of Students.
- • Other persons who should be available at the hearing:
- • The student who requested the hearing.
- • The faculty member involved.
- • Anyone the student or faculty member wishes to be present to substantiate the case.
- • Chairperson and Divisional Dean.

## Hearing procedure:

The committee will hear the student's appeal during which the parties to the controversy and such representatives as desired will present all facts relating to the case. By majority vote, the committee will decide to sustain, amend or reverse the previous decision.

The decision of the committee is final and completes the academic appeals procedure. See South Plains College Student Guide for more information.

### **Non-Discrimination Policy:**

South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, marital status, sexual orientation, military status, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. All SPC courses meet federal regulations under Title II of the ADA, Sections 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College - 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336, 806716-2360.

## Equal Rights Policy:

All students are entitled to equal rights under the affirmative action and equal opportunity laws. Students are also protected against unjust or biased academic evaluation, but at the same time, they are responsible for maintaining standards of academic performance established for each course in which they are enrolled. See South Plains College Student Guide.

## Student Learning Outcomes/Competencies:

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:

- • **Communication skills**- to include effective written, oral and visual communication.
- • **Critical thinking skills**- to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- • **Empirical and Quantitative skills**- to include the ability to apply, analyze, and draw conclusions based on scientific and mathematical concepts.
- • **Social Responsibility**- to include the demonstrated intercultural knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
- • Texas Coordinating Board Approval Number..... 45.1101.52 25

### Course Information Sheet

#### Soci 1306

#### Social Problems

**Instructor: Morgan Keener**

**Fall 2021**

**Phone:** (806) 716-4320 (Plainview Campus)

**Office:** Plainview Campus: 101H

**Office hours:** Thursdays and Fridays 9:00am – 1:00pm; will hold virtual office hours on an “as needed” basis or through appointment.

**E-mail:** [mkeener@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:mkeener@southplainscollege.edu)

**Textbook:** Mooney/Knox/Schacht - MindTap Sociology, Enhanced for Mooney/Knox/Schacht's Understanding Social Problems, ISBN: 9781337570657 – this is included in your course already and has all the necessary access. No purchase is necessary. Below is a statement about the TexBook Program.

**TexBook Program:** *This course is in the SPC TexBook program, so you do not need to purchase a textbook or access code for this course.*

- **What is TexBook?** The required textbook/digital content for this course is available to you in Blackboard from the first day of class. The fee for the textbook/digital content is the lowest price available from the publisher and bookstore and is included in your tuition/fee payment.
- **How do I access my TexBook?** Your course material is in your Blackboard course from the first day of class. Access to your course material is provided either by RedShelf or other links inside your Blackboard course. RedShelf (and many publisher's) ebook features include the ability to hear the text read aloud, highlight, take notes, create flash cards, see word definitions, build study guides, print select pages, and download up to 20% of the book for offline access.
- **Help with TexBook issues and support:** check with your professor and/or contact <https://solve.redshelf.com/hc/en-us/requests/new>
- **Opting out of TexBook:** Participating in TexBook is not mandatory, and you can choose to opt-out. However; by opting-out you will lose access to the course [*textbook/digital content*] and competitive pricing, and you will need to purchase the required course material on your own. If you drop the class or opt-out before the opt-out deadline, the TexBook charge will be automatically refunded to your SPC account. The opt-out deadline for Fall and Spring is the twelfth class day. The opt-out deadline for shorter terms varies between the second and third class day.  
*\*Please consult with your professor before deciding to opt-out.*

If you still feel that you should purchase the course textbook/materials on your own, send an **opt-out email** to [tfewell4texasbookcompany@gmail.com](mailto:tfewell4texasbookcompany@gmail.com). Include your first name, last name, student ID number, and the course you are opting out of. Once you have been opted-out, you will receive a confirmation email. If you need assistance with the process, contact the SPC Bookstore:

**Email:** [tfewell@texasbook.com](mailto:tfewell@texasbook.com) / **Phone:** 806-716-2399  
**Email:** [agamble@texasbook.com](mailto:agamble@texasbook.com) / **Phone:** 806-716-4610

### How this Course is conducted:

This course is conducted completely online. We do NOT meet face to face in a traditional classroom setting. It is your responsibility to have the necessary equipment (internet, computer, Word, etc.) for this participating in this course

### Logging into Blackboard:

To access your course, go to <https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com/> or go to the SPC Homepage and click on the "Login to" link in the top right-hand portion of the page and then click on the Blackboard link on the pull-down or you can type or copy the address into the address window of your computer. I recommend that you bookmark Blackboard on your computer for quick access. You can also log into MySPC and there is a Blackboard link there. Once you reach the site you will click "Log In". The log-in screen will come up asking for your user name and password. Simply follow the instructions on the screen.

### OTHER INFORMATION concerning Blackboard:

**Open Computer Lab:** There is an Open Computer Lab located on the Levelland campus in the Technology Center. It is available to all students, with priority given to those students enrolled in computer classes. Computers are also available on the Reese Center, Lubbock, and Plainview campuses. Check with libraries and labs for hours.

**Technical Problems/Support:** If you are having computer problems, you have to let me know. I will try to help you in any way that I can. Please remember that it is your responsibility to have a backup plan if your computer goes down. Please have this plan in place now and do not wait until it is a crisis situation. If you lose your course work due to bad flash drives, Internet service down, computer crash, or your dog ate your homework, there is nothing I can do about it. **THIS IS YOUR WARNING TO HAVE A BACKUP PLAN IN PLACE.**

- **IMPORTANT:** Most tech issues are related to failure to update java, using the incorrect internet browser (try use Google Chrome or Firefox instead of Internet Explorer), and/or not deleting browsing history files daily. Most issues are related to computer issues, not Blackboard. Please note that this instructor does NOT recommend use of any handheld devices for taking this course. Cellphones are wonderful but not for course work done on the Internet.
- Reminder - **bookmark** the Blackboard login page on your computer.

**SPC Technical Support Contact:** Call (806) 716-2180 or email at [Blackboard@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:Blackboard@southplainscollege.edu) for student technical support. I am your course work support contact. Only call or e-mail technical support with questions about Blackboard or computer functioning. There is Technical Support information in the Start Here area of your Blackboard course. It contains links to Student Tutorials and the Student Orientation Course for Blackboard. Contact me for any course content information.

**PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TURN COURSE WORK IN OR YOU MAY HAVE PROBLEMS!** Remember the saying "TECHNOLOGY HAPPENS"!

**Anti-virus Software:** Please make sure that your computer has an up-to-date antivirus software program installed.

**Academic Integrity:** In addition to the policy in the Common Course Syllabus, it should be understood that students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will earn a zero on the work in question for the first offense and will be dropped from the course with an 'F' should a second offense occur. Any amount of dishonesty is subject to these consequences, whether a lot or a little; this can include but is not limited to one copied sentence of a written assignment, a missing citation, an entire paper copied from someone/somewhere else, one plagiarized post on a discussion board, one copied exam item, looking at the scantron of another student during an exam or an exam or other coursework completed by someone other than yourself. You have also committed academic dishonesty when sharing course content/items/answers. This includes sharing course content with classmates or future students as well as sharing course content on websites such as Quizlet, Course Hero, or similar "study applications." For further information and examples please see the Catalog, Student Guide, or refer to [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org)

There is an APA Citation tutorial in the Applying the Sociological Imagination Essay section of your Blackboard course.

**Smoke free environment:** The following is the SPC policy on tobacco use.

South Plains College prohibits the use of any tobacco product, electronic cigarette, or vapor device throughout all indoor areas and within a 25-foot perimeter around all facility entrances, exits and HVAC air intake vents under the control of SPC, including sporting facilities and SPC vehicles. Included in this ban are tobacco products of all types (including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff and all other kinds and forms of tobacco prepared in such a manner to be suitable for spit tobacco use, smoking, or both). *This ban also includes herbal tobacco products and simulated tobacco products that imitate or mimic tobacco products such as e-cigarettes, vapor cigarettes, pipes or other types of inhalation devices.*

**Attendance Policy:** The following is in addition to the Common Course Syllabus:

Since this course is a virtual classroom, attendance will be taken according to the following:

- Participating in class discussions by posting to the discussion board before the due dates.

- Submitting assignments before due dates.

Note: Simply logging into the course or logging into the course and sending an e-mail is NOT considered attendance for this course. You MUST participate in the course by submitting work during any given week to be considered "in attendance".

In addition to the catalog policy on of the General Catalog, roll will be taken at each class session and a record of attendance maintained. **A student may be dropped from the course with an X or an F, if they miss a minimum of 3 weeks of class/BB assignments with no communication and/or is earning an F.** If absences occur after the final drop date you will not be dropped and will receive the grade you have earned. Roll will be taken every class period beginning the first day of class and will be used to document attendance.

Tardiness or leaving class early: **If you are tardy two times or if you leave class early two times that will equal one absence or a combination of the two** (one tardy and one leaving early equals one absence). Being late or leaving early is very disruptive so allow enough time in your schedule to arrive a few minutes early to class and remain until class is dismissed. If you do arrive late, quietly take a seat closest to the entrance. In addition, it is YOUR responsibility to see the instructor to have your attendance noted on the roll sheet or you will be counted absent. This is IMPORTANT!

If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms please do not attend class and either seek medical attention or get tested for COVID-19.

- Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing
- Fever or chills
- Muscles or body aches
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of taste and smell

Please also notify DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN, Associate Director of Health & Wellness, at [dedens@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:dedens@southplainscollege.edu) or 806-716-2376.

**Technical help with Blackboard and Student Support Services:** Links are provided on your Blackboard Home page under Start Here for Course Requirements.

### **Diversity**

In this class, the instructor will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world, and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

It is the policy of South Plains College to offer all educational and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability or age. In addition, this instructor will not tolerate remarks or gestures that can be construed to be sexist, racist, heterosexist or in any way disparaging to another person. Students who exhibit such behavior will be dropped from the class with a semester grade of "F" regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, religion, or sexual orientation.

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## **COURSE POLICY AND REQUIREMENTS**

This is what you need to do to **earn** your grade:

**Course Work:** You are required to come to class prepared to learn. This includes reading the textbook material that is to be covered in class before coming to class, completing the Mind Tap assignments prior to the deadlines, come with an open mind, and be alert and ready to learn and participate in the classroom.

Your course work will include an introduction module, 12 Mind Tap assignments, 12 “confronting social problems” activities, 12 chapter quizzes, a written essay, and a final exam. Weekly course work will be based around a Chapter Module that will consist of a Mind tap assignment, a Confronting Social Problems activity, and a chapter quiz – there are 12 modules in total.

All course work will be submitted through Blackboard.

**Exam:** The final exam will be comprehensive. To avoid scheduling problems the following exam dates are "set in stone" therefore do not schedule conflicts. Exam will be given online using Respondus Lockdown Browser (see Blackboard for more information).

**Introduction module:** Course agreement, Syllabus quiz, and Introduction discussion with 2 replies. See the calendar in Blackboard and/or at the end of this syllabus for the deadline. Late work is not accepted in this course.

**MindTap Assignments:** There are 12 Mind Tap Assignments set up in Blackboard and under the Cengage we address for each chapter of the textbook that will be covered in the course. You are to complete the assignments to earn this portion of your grade. See the calendar in Blackboard and/or at the end of this syllabus for the deadline. Late work is not accepted in this course.

**Confronting Social Issues Activities:** short chapter related assignments that help you dive deeper into the material. More details on Blackboard.

**Chapter Quizzes:** short chapter quizzes to help retain information

**Written Essay:** instructions are outlined in detail on Blackboard

**Break down of points for the course:**

Introduction module = 20 points  
 12 Mindtap assignments @ 25 points each = 300 points  
 12 Social Activities @ 30 pts each = 360 points  
 12 Chapter Quizzes @ 10 pts each = 120 points  
 Written Essay = 100 points  
 Final Exam = 100 points

All grades will be posted in Blackboard under the My Grades link.

**Total Possible Points 1,000**

Grading scale:

A = 900 – 1000  
 B = 800 – 899.99  
 C = 700 – 799.99  
 D = 600 – 699.99  
 F = 0 – 599.99.

This scale is the typical: A = 90%-100%; B=80%-89.99%; C=70%-79.99%; D=60%-69.99%; and F=0%-59.99%.

Grades are NOT automatically rounded up.

If you have any questions about any of the course work or anything about the course material do not hesitate to speak to me during office hours, before/during/after class, or via Blackboard e-mail.

**Extra credit opportunities** will be made available during the semester. I recommend that you take advantage of those opportunities as they become available as I will not make extra credit available on individual request.

**Course Calendar  
Fall 2021**

**All assignments modules are due on Sundays by Midnight, except your Final Exam**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day of the Week</b>	<b>Course Work</b>
<b>Aug 30</b>	Monday	Classes begin
<b>Sept 5</b>	Sunday	Introduction Module
<b>Sept 12</b>	Sunday	Chapter 1 Module
<b>Sept 19</b>	Sunday	Chapter 2 Module
<b>Sept 26</b>	Sunday	Chapter 4 Module
<b>Oct 3</b>	Sunday	Chapter 5 Module
<b>Oct 10</b>	Sunday	Chapter 6 Module
<b>Oct 17</b>	Sunday	Chapter 8 Module
<b>Oct 24</b>	Sunday	Chapter 9 Module
<b>Oct 31</b>	Sunday	Chapter 10 Module
<b>Nov 7</b>	Sunday	Chapter 11 Module
<b>Nov 14</b>	Sunday	Chapter 12 Module
<b>Nov 21</b>	Sunday	Chapter 13 Module

<b>Nov 28</b>	Sunday	Chapter 15 Module
<b>Dec 5</b>	Sunday	Written Essay
<b>Dec 14</b>	Tuesday	Final Exam (Cumulative)

**This calendar is subject to change.** Students will be notified in class and/or through Blackboard of any changes.