Peru State College
SOC 300 CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL PROBLEMS
Syllabus Online – Summer – 2013

Instructor: Ronicka Schottel
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Email Address: rschottel@peru.edu
Course Meets: Online

Requirements Software: Microsoft Word

Course Description & Objectives

This course is an introduction to the causes, treatment, and prevention of selected social problems with particular emphasis on the problems of inequality.

Prerequisites: Prerequisites: CJUS 110 Survey of Criminal Justice

Upon completion of this course you should be able to:

1. Enhance your “sociological imagination”, or the extent to which you see social problems as embedded in the way society functions.
2. Improve your critical thinking and writing skills.
3. Aid your understanding of some of the most controversial, newsworthy, and important issues of our time.
4. Increase your acceptance and tolerance for views different than their own.
5. Provide you the opportunity to more carefully examine a specific social problem of your choosing.

I will present how these objectives fit into the School of Professional Studies and Peru State College mission and goal statements in the Blackboard shell.

Expectations & Instructional Approach

Classes will include – Reading of the course texts, power point presentations, handouts in electronic format, and other educational materials as deemed necessary.
will be utilized in this course. The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the schedule to facilitate student learning. Any changes in the schedule will be communicated to students in advance. Participation is vital to the learning experience. In order to foster a climate conducive to learning, please join me in treating your classmates with respect. I encourage students to ask questions, seek my help when they need it, and help their classmates understand the material.

Assessment and Grading

**Discussion Board:** 80 points

Active participation and discussion are vital to this learning experience. In order to foster a climate conducive to learning, please join me in treating your classmates with respect by posting on the Discussion Board professionally and personably. Each Discussion Board question shall be completed by Thursday at midnight, CST of the respective week, or there will be a 50% reduction in your score for that week. You will also be required to reply to two other students for each Discussion Board question which is posted, by Saturday at midnight each week. Failure to respond to two other student's postings will result in a minimum of a 50% reduction and the distinct possibility of your grade being zero (0) for the week. I encourage students to ask questions, seek my help when they need it, and help their classmates understand the material. Please review the Discussion Board Rubric provided in Week 1 before initiating work on the Discussion Board.

**Quizzes:** 240 points

This course has a multiple choice and/or true and false quiz each week. Each week the learner will be required to complete quiz over the assigned reading from the textbook. Quizzes expire Saturday each week at midnight, and must be taken by that time. The final quiz expires Thursday at midnight of week 8.

**Weekly Assignments**

Each week, you will be required to complete an assignment that pertains to one or more of that week’s topics. Unless otherwise specified, please don’t start working on an assignment until you have completed the assigned reading for that week. As a rule, assignments will always be due no later than Saturday at 12 AM of the week they are assigned. If you have questions about an assignment, please feel free to email or call me.

**Course Project**

Your course project involves examining a particular social problem of your choosing in more depth. You will research your social problem and provide a written report of your results in a 6-8 page paper. A more thorough description of this project can be found under the “Course Documents” section of Blackboard. The final project is worth 60 points and is due with the rest of the week 8 work on Thursday, July 25.

**Final Exam**

Finally, you will complete a combination multiple-choice and essay final exam. This final exam will assess your mastery of the fundamental concepts of the course, including the structural functionalism, social conflict, and symbolic interactionism.
theories and the major assumptions and beliefs of conservatives and liberals. You will be provided more information about how to prepare for the final exam, which is worth 60 points and is due with the rest of the week 8 work on Thursday, July 25.

**Late Assignment Policy:**

Late coursework is generally unacceptable in this course. All work shall be submitted by the noted times and dates within the syllabus. Please begin your course work early in the week to avoid problems with the submission of materials.

**Grading Scale**

Your grade will be based upon the final cumulative score of the points each student was awarded for the final exam, midterm exam, quizzes, interview paper and discussion boards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Total Possible Points</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To receive A Learners must earn 540 points</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>To receive B+ Learners must earn 516 points</td>
<td>85-89</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To receive B Learners must earn 480 points</td>
<td>80-84</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To receive C+ Learners must earn 456 points</td>
<td>75-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>To receive C Learners must earn 420 points</td>
<td>70-74</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To receive D+ Learners must earn 396 points</td>
<td>65-69</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>To receive D Learners must earn 360 points</td>
<td>60-64</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To receive F Learners must earn &lt;359 points</td>
<td>&lt;60</td>
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</tbody>
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**College’s Incomplete Coursework Policy**

To designate a student’s work in a course as incomplete at the end of a term, the instructor records the incomplete grade (I). Students may receive this grade only when serious illness, hardship, death in the immediate family, or military service during the semester in which they are registered prevents them from completing course requirements. In addition, to receive an incomplete, a student must have completed substantially all of the course's major requirements.

Unless extenuating circumstances dictate otherwise, students must initiate requests for an incomplete by filling out an Incomplete Grade Completion Contract, which requires the signature of the student, instructor, and Dean. The Incomplete Grade Completion contract cites the reason(s) for the incomplete and details the specific obligations the student must meet to change the incomplete to a letter grade. The date by which the student agrees to complete required work must appear in the contract. The Dean, the instructor, and the student receive signed copies of the Incomplete Grade Completion Contract.
Even if the student does not attend Peru State College, all incomplete course work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester. Unless the appropriate Dean approves an extension and if the student does not fulfill contract obligations in the allotted time, the incomplete grade automatically becomes an F.

**College’s Academic Integrity Policy**

The College expects all students to conduct themselves in a manner that supports an honest assessment of student learning outcomes and the assignment of grades that appropriately reflect student performance. It is ultimately the student’s responsibility to understand and comply with instructions regarding the completion of assignments, exams, and other academic activities. At a minimum, students should assume that at each assessment opportunity they are expected to do their own original academic work and/or clearly acknowledge in an appropriate fashion the intellectual work of others, when such contributions are allowed. Students helping others to circumvent honest assessments of learning outcomes, or who fail to report instances of academic dishonesty, are also subject to the sanctions defined in this policy.

Instances of academic dishonesty may be discovered in a variety of ways. Faculty members who assign written work ordinarily check citations for accuracy, run data base and online checks, and/or may simply recognize familiar passages that are not cited. They may observe students in the act of cheating or may become aware of instances of cheating from the statements of others. All persons who observe or otherwise know about instances of cheating are expected to report such instances to the proper instructor or Dean.

In order to promote academic integrity, the College subscribes to an electronic service to review papers for the appropriate citations and originality. Key elements of submitted papers are stored electronically in a limited access database and thus become a permanent part of the material to which future submissions are compared. Submission of an application and continued enrollment signifies your permission for this use of your written work.

Should an occurrence of academic misconduct occur, the faculty member may assign a failing grade for the assignment or a failing grade for the course. Each incident of academic misconduct should be reported to the
Dean and the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA). The VPAA may suspend for two semesters students found to be responsible for multiple instances of academic dishonesty. The reason for the suspension will be noted on the student’s transcript.

A faculty member need present only basic evidence of academic dishonesty. There is no requirement for proof of intent. Students are responsible for understanding these tenets of academic honesty and integrity. Students may appeal penalties for academic dishonesty using the process established for grades appeals.

**Title IX Compliance Notice**

Peru State College is an equal opportunity institution. PSC does not discriminate against any student, employee or applicant on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in employment and education opportunities, including but not limited to admission decisions. The College has designated an individual to coordinate the College’s nondiscrimination efforts to comply with regulations implementing Title VI, VII, IX, and Section 504. Inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies and practices may be directed to Eulanda Cade, Director of Human Resources, Title VI, VII, IX Compliance Coordinator, Peru State College, PO Box 10, Peru, NE 68421-0010, (402) 872-2230.

Students requesting reasonable accommodation and tutoring services should contact the Center for Achievement and Transition Services (CATS).
**Tentative Course Schedule:**

The following course schedule includes topics, reading assignments, and the dates of exams. However, I do reserve the right to change this course calendar as needed. You will always be notified if our plan deviates from this schedule.

**WEEK ONE**
- **Topics:** Sociology: Studying Social Problems; Economy and Politics
- **Readings:** Chapters 1 & 10
- **To-do list:**
  - Read the assigned chapters carefully
  - Review the week one Professor's Notes
  - Complete week one assignment
  - Complete week one discussion board
  - Complete the quizzes for chapters 1 & 10

**WEEK TWO**
- **Topics:** Poverty and Wealth; Racial and Ethnic Inequality
- **Readings:** Chapter 2 & 3
- **To-do list:**
  - Read the assigned chapter carefully
  - Review the week two Professor's Notes
  - Complete week two assignment
  - Complete week two discussion board
  - Complete the quizzes for chapters 2 & 3

**WEEK THREE**
- **Topics:** Gender Inequality; Sexuality
- **Readings:** Chapters 4 & 7
- **To-do list:**
  - Read the assigned chapter carefully
  - Review the week three Professor's Notes
  - Complete week three assignment
  - Complete week three discussion board
  - Complete the quiz for chapters 4 & 7

**WEEK FOUR**
- **Topics:** Work and the Workplace; Family Life, Education
- **Readings:** Chapters 11, 12, & 13
- **To-do list:**
  - Read the assigned chapters carefully
  - Review the week four Professor’s Notes
  - Complete week four assignment
  - Complete week four discussion board
  - Complete the quizzes for chapters 11, 12, & 13
  - Begin thinking about the course project
WEEK FIVE
Topics: Aging and Inequality; Physical and Mental Health
Readings: Chapters 5 & 9
To-do list:
- Read the assigned chapters carefully
- Review the week five Professor’s Notes
- Complete week five assignment
- Complete week five discussion board
- Complete the quizzes for chapters 5 & 9
- Continue to work on the course project

WEEK SIX
Topic: Alcohol and Other Drugs; Crime and Criminal Justice
Readings: Chapters 8 & 6
To-do list:
- Read the assigned chapters carefully
- Review the week six Professor’s Notes
- Complete week six assignment
- Complete week six discussion board
- Complete the quizzes for chapters 8 & 6
- Continue to work on the course project

WEEK SEVEN
Topics: Population, Global Inequality, and the Environment
Readings: Chapters 15 & 16
To-do list
- Read the assigned chapters carefully
- Review the week seven Professor’s Notes
- Complete week seven assignment
- Complete week seven discussion board
- Complete the quizzes for chapters 15 & 16
- Begin wrapping up the course project

WEEK EIGHT
Topics: War and Terrorism
Readings: Chapter 17
To-do list:
- Read the assigned chapter carefully
- Review the week eight Professor’s Notes
- Complete week eight assignment
- Complete week eight discussion board
- Complete the quiz for chapter 17
- Submit your course project
- Complete the final exam

*Note: week 8 is a shortened week. All coursework must be completed by Thursday, July 25 at 12 AM. Please plan accordingly.*