

Los Angeles Mission College · Department of Global Language and Society · Sociology (SOC)

SOC 2: AMERICAN SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Fall 2023 | Section 23039 | 3.0 Credits | 11/13/2023 to 12/17/2023 | 5-week Online

Instructor: Cherry Lai

This is an intensive 5-week online course which means that we will not have class meetings. You will access the course materials and turn in assignments through Canvas, our online classroom. Even though we do not have class meetings, I am here to support your academic success.

The best way to contact me is to send me a message using the Canvas Inbox (the "Inbox" icon on the left of the Canvas page) or email me at laico@lamission.edu. I make a point to respond to emails within twenty-four hours, except on weekends, which I usually respond to on Monday mornings.

Office Hours and Locations:

- Office Hours:
 - Mondays 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm (Zoom only)
 - Wednesdays 3:00 pm to 5:35 pm (Zoom only)
 - Feel free to drop in during office hours or message me to set up an appointment
- Locations:
 - **Office Hour Zoom Meeting ID: 930 1634 6796**

Course Catalog Description:

Explore sociological concepts and theories that explain a range of social problems in the U.S. including, crime, drugs, immigration, poverty, racism, sexism, ageism, issues of social privilege, health care, the environment, educational inequalities, terrorism, and the potential solutions to these social problems. Total of 54 hours of lecture.

Transfer Credit: CSU; UC

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this course, you will be able to...

1. Identify and evaluate social problems related to inequality based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, or income.
2. Compare and contrast the approaches taken by the three major sociological perspectives in their explanation of various social problems.
3. Be able to utilize a sociology research design to complete social research focusing on a social problem, analyze the data, and suggest possible policy changes to abate or eliminate the said social problem.

Required Materials

The required textbook, "**Social Problems: Continuity and Change**" ISBN-13: 9781946135230 is free to you.

- Additional readings and videos provided in Canvas
- Access to the Internet is required for this course

Important Class Dates

- Last date to enroll with a permission number: 11/18/2023
- Last date to drop this class with a refund/no fee owed: 11/15/2023
- Last date to drop this class without a "W": 11/18/2023
- Last date to drop this class with a "W": 12/09/2023

Grading Policy

- A: 100% - 89.50%
- B: 89.49% - 79.50%
- C: 79.49% - 69.50%
- D: 69.49% - 59.50%
- F: 59.59% - 0%

Grade Weights or Point System

- Introduction Assignment (10 Points)
- Online Discussion Posts (5 discussions = 120 Points)
- Chapter Quizzes (10 quizzes x 20 points = 200 Points)
- Interview Project: Parts 1 to 3 (135 points)

Graded Components:

Introduction Assignment

- You will need to complete the Introduction Assignment no later than the due date noted in the course calendar. You will be dropped from the course as a "no show" if you do not complete this check-in assignment by the due date. Note that logging into Canvas is not enough, participation is a requirement.

Weekly Online Discussion Posts

- There are weekly online discussion posts that are due every Wednesday, and you must respond to two posts from your peers by Friday to receive full credit. If discussion posts are completed on time, you have to opportunity to revise for a better grade.

Chapter Quizzes

There is a quiz for every chapter and lecture material of that week. Each quiz will consist of multiple-choice, short-answer, and/or essay questions. For the 5-week class, you may have up to 2 quizzes per week.

Interview Project: Aging and Ageism

- You will conduct interviews with one person who is over the age of 60 years old and write a 3-page reflection paper on your findings.
- This is a 3-part assignment.

Course Policies:

Late Assignment Policy

- I accept late Discussion Posts without penalty, but you will not have the opportunity to revise for a better grade on late discussion posts. You have until 11/30/2023 to turn these in. All past

assignments will be closed after 11/30/2023.

- The weekly quizzes must be completed by the due dates. If you have a schedule conflict or need additional time, you **MUST** email me **PRIOR** to the due date, and I will be happy to accommodate your request. Please make sure to put the quiz due dates on your calendar.
- The Final Interview Project should be turned in by the due date. However, I will accept this assignment up to 3 days after the due date, but 10 points will be taken off for every day that the project is late. I will not accept **ANY** late assignments after that.

Instructor Feedback

- For all assignments, I will grade them based on the rubric within 7 days after the due date and may provide additional feedback in the comment section as necessary.

Instructor Drop Policy

- It is the student's responsibility to drop the class if they no longer wish to participate or attend.
- It is at the instructor's discretion to drop a student for missing excessive assignments (i.e., 3 consecutive or 5 total assignments) or non-participation at any time during the allowed drop/withdrawal period.
- Students who remain enrolled in a class beyond the published withdrawal deadline, as stated in the class schedule, must receive an evaluative letter grade in the class. (A 'W' grade cannot be assigned during final grading for students appearing on the roster).
- For dual enrollment students, you must contact your school's academic counselor to discuss drop/withdrawal from the course.

Communication Policy

- Communicate, communicate, communicate. Please communicate with me in advance if you foresee **ANY** challenges, and I will do my best to work with you and support your academic success.
- The best way to contact me is to send me a message using the Canvas Inbox (the "Inbox" icon on the left of the Canvas page).
- I make a point to respond to emails within twenty-four hours, except on weekends, which I usually respond to on Monday mornings.
- Please keep a lookout for my weekly reminders and video lectures in Canvas Announcements.

Online Participation Policy

- In order to do well in an online class, you are expected to maintain ongoing course engagement.
- Maintaining an ongoing online presence requires participating in course-related activities that may include, but are not limited to reading announcements, taking quizzes online, participating in group work, posting to discussion forums, submitting assignments, watching lectures, and carrying out all other course requirements.
- As a good practice, I recommend logging in to Canvas several times a week to stay informed of news, announcements, grades, assignments, and other important course information.

A Note on Diversity, Brave Spaces, and Respect

Some themes of this course are political and socially sensitive (i.e., race, ethnicity, privilege, power, sexual orientation, gender, religion, etc.) and some ideas covered may be new to you and may challenge how you currently view the world, society, and people. I want you all to keep an open mind and an open heart, learn, examine the evidence and narratives, and make informed opinions and judgments based on academic research and evidence. With that said, I expect all of us to be respectful to one another and be able to sit with some discomfort when our perspectives are challenged. While I welcome differences in perspectives and opinions, I do not tolerate bigotry, misogyny, or any behaviors that incite hatred. A positive and inclusive learning environment requires

us to welcome diversity, be active listeners, and contribute to the discussion thoughtfully. Thank you for your cooperation.

Academic Honesty

Sometimes life circumstances (i.e., work, family obligations, unexpected events) may prevent us from fully preparing for exams or from developing a well-written assignment. It may be tempting to find an easy way out and cheat and/or plagiarize but please do not fall into this trap. To clarify, plagiarism in this class includes using artificial intelligence (AI) applications, not citing/crediting your sources, and/or recycling your own material from previous courses without the approval of the instructor. Additionally, recycling and submitting a paper from another student is cheating. **Any form of plagiarism or cheating will result in a zero for that assignment.** There are numerous ways to contact me so don't be discouraged and tempted to plagiarize or cheat. If you want further clarification on this matter and would like to know your rights as a student, please see the school catalog for more information on academic honesty.

Programs and Services for Students with Diverse Abilities

Each student brings a unique set of skills and educational needs, and I will do my best to make certain that each of you can fully participate and benefit from learning regardless of your learning needs.

Los Angeles Mission College is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. The **Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS)** office is the office that collaborates with students with "diverse abilities" to provide reasonable accommodation. Please contact the DSPS office at (818) 364-7672 or dspsinfo@lamission.edu. Once registered with DSPS, students will be provided with an Authorized Academic Accommodations form that can be shared with the faculty.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Tue Nov 14, 2023	<u>Introduction Assignment</u>	due by 11:59pm
Thu Nov 16, 2023	<u>Chapter 1 Quiz: Understanding Social Problems</u>	due by 11:59pm
	<u>Chapter 2 Quiz: Poverty</u>	due by 11:59pm
Sat Nov 18, 2023	<u>Discussion: On Poverty</u>	due by 11:59pm
	<u>Extra Credit: Pronto</u>	due by 11:59pm
Tue Nov 21, 2023	<u>Chapter 3 Quiz: Racial and Ethnic Inequality</u>	due by 11:59pm
	<u>Discussion: Race and Media</u>	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Sat Nov 25, 2023	<u>Chapter 6 Quiz: Aging and Ageism</u>	due by 11:59pm
	<u>Interview Project Part 1: Develop Interview Questions</u>	due by 11:59pm
Tue Nov 28, 2023	<u>Chapter 7 Quiz: Alcohol and Other Drugs</u>	due by 11:59pm
	<u>Chapter 9 Quiz: Sexual Behavior</u>	due by 11:59pm
Thu Nov 30, 2023	<u>Interview Project Part 2: Schedule the Interview</u>	due by 11:59pm
Sat Dec 2, 2023	<u>Discussion: Theoretical Perspectives on Social Behavior</u>	due by 11:59pm
Tue Dec 5, 2023	<u>Chapter 8 Quiz: Crime and Criminal Justice</u>	due by 11:59pm
	<u>Chapter 11 Quiz: Schools and Education</u>	due by 11:59pm
Thu Dec 7, 2023	<u>Discussion: Affirmative Action</u>	due by 11:59pm
Tue Dec 12, 2023	<u>Chapter 12 Quiz: Work and Economy</u>	due by 11:59pm
	<u>Chapter 13 Quiz: Health and Health Care</u>	due by 11:59pm
Thu Dec 14, 2023	<u>Discussion: Global Comparisons of Health Care Systems</u>	due by 11:59pm
Sat Dec 16, 2023	<u>Interview Project Part 3: Notes, Report Findings & Reflection</u>	due by 11:59pm