

San José State University
Department of Sociology
SOCIOLOGY 80, SOCIAL PROBLEMS, Section 1 & 61
SUMMER 2024 (JULY 8- AUGUST 8)

Instructor: Mark Pasion (ASYNCHRONOUS ONLINE)

Office Location: No Office hours during this semester

Telephone: I do not check voicemail... please email directly

Email: markpasion@att.net or mark.pasion@sjsu.edu

Office Hours: Contact me online or by e-mail; NO on-campus office hours available

Class Days/Time: SOCI 80- 1 & 61 Asynchronous Online

Classroom: ONLINE

GE/SJSU Studies Category Core GE Area D1

SYLLABUS QUICK SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

This course is 100% asynchronous online. There are NO ZOOM meetings. There are no pre-recorded lectures. PowerPoints should be used to substitute for lecture. Asynchronous course material is available 24 hours a day, however, your instructor is not. I will make a concerted effort to return emails promptly, and the usual times that I will be online checking and answering email is Monday through Thursday, 8:00am-7:00pm. After 7:00pm in the evenings, I am usually not available to students until the following day. Canvas technical support is available per your College Website.

Required Text : Macionis, " Social Problems" 8th Ed. Pearson Publishing

(see pg. 3 of syllabus for more information)

Grade scale: 200 total points (4.0 grade scale) (see pg. 4 of syllabus for more information)

184-200 pts = A	180-183.9 pts = A-	176-179.9 pts = B+	
164-175.9 pts = B	160-163.9 pts = B-	154-159.9 pts = C+	140-153.9 = C
136-139.9 pts = C-	132-135.9 pts = D+	114-131.9 pts = D	113 –below = Fail

- **Exams** : 2 required midterms (200 total points). Multiple-choice exam, 50 questions. Each exam covering 5 textbook chapters & powerpoints. Open book & open note exams. (see pg. 6 of syllabus for more detail)
- **Extra Credit: 6 optional discussion boards...** online discussion postings (12 total points), No make-up on missed discussion boards. (see pg. 6 of syllabus for more detail)
- No further extra credit beyond that offered on discussion boards. PLEASE DO NOT ASK (see pg. 6 of syllabus for more detail)

*** THIS SYLLABUS SHOULD BE VIEWED AS AN OUTLINE FOR THE COURSE AND A GUIDELINE OF EXPECTATIONS. THESE POLICIES AND SCHEDULING INFORMATION ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR. AS MUCH NOTICE AS POSSIBLE WILL BE GIVEN IN THE EVENT OF ANY CHANGES.**

MASTER CLASS CALENDAR – DEADLINES (Assignments & Exams)

JULY & AUGUST

Start reading & studying chapters 0-4 in your Text & Powerpoints

Jul 8 (Mon)	Start of class
Jul 12 (Fri)	Deadline – Extra credit Discussion #1, 11:59 pm
Jul 16 (Tue)	Deadline – Extra credit Discussion #2 , 11:59 pm
Jul 20 (Sat)	Deadline – Extra credit Discussion #3, 11:59 pm
Jul 21 & 22	MIDTERM Exam #1 – covers chapters 0-4...exam opens at 12:00am on the opening date and deadline is before 11:59 pm, end of day on the deadline date

Start reading & studying chapters 5-7 & 11-12 in your Text & Powerpoints

Jul 26 (Fri)	Deadline – Extra credit Discussion #4 , 11:59 pm
Aug 1 (Thur)	Deadline – Extra credit Discussion #5, 11:59 pm
Aug 4 & 5	MIDTERM Exam #2 – covers chapters 5-7 & 11-12....exam opens at 12:00am on the opening date and deadline is before 11:59 pm, end of day on the deadline date
Aug 8 (Thur)	Deadline – Extra credit Discussion #6, 11:59 pm

AUGUST 8 – 11:59 PM IS THE END OF OUR CLASS.. END OF SUMMER SESSION

CANVAS and MySJSU

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, powerpoint outlines, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on CANVAS in our class homepage. You are responsible for regularly checking CANVAS to learn of any updates. Your course exams will be taken online on scheduled dates, and your exam & assignment grades will be posted to CANVAS. You will have timely access to your grades throughout the semester. Official final grades will be posted by Admissions & Records to your MySJSU account.

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic concepts, theories, and methods of sociology. My intention is to give students a broad overview of sociology so that they may then make an informed choice about further study in this discipline. Together we will critically examine the applicability of sociology to everyday life. We will assess the usefulness of a sociological perspective, and the depth of sociological method.

Course Goals and Specific Learning Objectives

Goals: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the study of current social structure, and possible social problems facing American society today. During our studies we will introduce and apply some core sociological theories and concepts to better contextualize and understand social arrangement and social problems, to further develop our sociological imaginations, and to discuss and devise social solutions. This will be approached in the context of using value systems, social groups, economic structures, and political institutions. The specific learning objectives are as follows

GE/SJSU Area D1 Specific Learning Objectives and Activities designed to meet these objectives

After completion of this course the student should be able to:

- Identify and analyze the social dimension of society as a context for human life, the processes of social change and social continuity, the role of human agency in those social processes, and the forces that engender social cohesion and fragmentation. [GE] Activities designed to Assist you in meeting this objective:
Powerpoints, readings, class discussion boards, and exams. Writing assignments , discussion boards may be used
- Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts. [GE] Activities designed to Assist you in meeting this objective:
Powerpoints, readings, class discussion boards, and exams. Class discussion boards / writing are specifically designed to meet this objective
- Identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them. [GE] Activities designed to Assist you in meeting this objective:
Powerpoints, readings, class discussion boards, and exams. Writing assignments & discussion boards , may be used
- Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues. [GE] Activities designed to Assist you in meeting this objective:
Powerpoints, readings, class discussion boards, and exams. Discussion boards / Writing assignments are specifically designed to meet this objective
- To recognize the interaction of social institutions, culture, and environment with the behavior of individuals. [GE] Activities designed to Assist you in meeting this objective:
Powerpoints, readings, class discussion boards, and exams. Writing assignments / discussion boards may be used.

Required Texts/Readings

Macionis, " Social Problems" 8th Ed. Pearson Publishing

****CAUTION: REVEL is NOT a class requirement, and as such the instructor does not have any class access, class invite or permission number to give to you. BEFORE purchasing REVEL and supplemental study material, be aware that students need to contact the publisher directly about any questions regarding REVEL. The instructor is not involved in REVEL, and this class is not linked with REVEL***

Students have many options relating to the required textbook. Students can rent or buy new and used textbooks, or use an E-book. As long as students use the proper edition the choice of format is up to students. Textbooks offered at our campus bookstore are for convenience, but there is no requirement that class textbooks be purchased from the campus bookstore. TEXTBOOK OPTIONS offered at the campus bookstore are NOT REQUIRED, they are simply recommendations. The textbook is also available from other sources, if you so choose. Be sure to purchase the proper edition of your textbook.

Reading should be done per our class syllabus (Usually 1-3 chapters per week) Students will be better prepared to discuss the material, and better prepared for asking questions about material that needs more explanation. See reading schedule on Class Calendar page . Students are expected to use the proper edition of the assigned textbook. Older editions may not contain all the information that is listed on your exam study guides, and students that use the wrong textbook will be solely responsible for obtaining the missing information.

Classroom Protocol

Office Hours: In-person office hours are not available during the summer session. Feel free to contact me online or by email if you have any questions about the class or course material. Zoom office hours are also not available.

Technology Requirements: All students must have access to a computer and good internet service for this online class. If a student travels, access is required and missing access may result in the student being dropped from the class or failing the class.

Communication Policy: Good communication between the instructor and the students is imperative. Communication will be accomplished by way of the course syllabus, class announcements in Canvas, and emailed messages between the instructor and students.

- The course syllabus will be the primary method to convey class expectations. Students should thoroughly read the course syllabus, as it contains important class information, policies, procedures, and a class assignment calendar. Messages, warnings, penalties and cautionary policies may not be repeated beyond the syllabus.... and lack of repetition on the part of the instructor, does not void the policy.

READ THE SYLLABUS

- Class announcements will be posted in Canvas, reminding students about deadline dates and upcoming assignments. Some deadline dates may not be announced in the classroom or on canvas announcements so students are responsible for checking the syllabus class calendar regularly, and for knowing about deadline dates. **CHECK THE SYLLABUS REGULARLY FOR DEADLINE DATES**
- Emailed messages in Canvas are the quickest and most efficient way for the instructor and students to communicate effectively. Be sure that your Canvas account has the correct email address that you check regularly. The instructor is not responsible for missed messages due to incorrect email addresses. Students can email anytime of day, however, the instructor is not available 24 hours a day. The instructor will attempt to respond to email within a 24-48 hour time period

Attendance & participation: Attendance and participation is still monitored in online formats and is a requirement for class grading. Participation in an online course refers to the completion of course work. Logging into the course is not considered participation. This class is not self-paced, and has strict deadline dates. Class assignments are due each and every week

Drop policy: If a student wishes to drop this class, it is the student's responsibility to complete the drop process with Admission and Records. Do not contact the instructor to drop the class. The instructor has the right to drop students that fail to participate for two- consecutive weeks during a semester long course. The student may not receive further advance notice .this serves as notice of the drop policy.

Grading Policy and Assignments

Grade scale: 200 total points (4.0 grade scale)

184-200 pts = A	180-183.9 pts = A-	176-179.9 pts = B+	
164-175.9 pts = B	160-163.9 pts = B-	154-159.9 pts = C+	140-153.9 = C
136-139.9 pts = C-	132-135.9 pts = D+	114-131.9 pts = D	113 -below = Fail

* (Plus/ Minus grading is used to differentiate grades that are close to the boundary between grade levels. Grades are not automatically rounded-up. Even one or two points can make a difference between an "A", "A-", or "B+"

In the college classroom, grading is an institutional requirement. There is no perfect grading system, however, it is a necessity for this college and this classroom. The instructor's goal in grading is to assess the student's understanding of core subject matter as measured by a written exam. Grading is objective, based on exam scores and the quality of work produced in any graded class assignments. Grading is not subjective based upon how hard a student tries, or how much time is spent in studying. Unfortunately for some students, the reality is that grades in this class are based upon results and not necessarily a reflection of effort. ***There is very limited extra credit available in this class. NO extra credit beyond that offered on the class discussion boards.***

Assignments: All graded assignments are done in CANVAS. All deadline times are based upon (PST) Pacific Standard Time

Extra Credit Writing / Discussion Boards - 12 points

Exams- 200 points

1. Extra Credit Writing Assignment / Discussion Board: (2 pts. each assignment) (12 points total)

There are **SIX (6)** optional graded discussion writing assignments (posted on CANVAS). These are opinion-based responses relating to a topic question posted on the discussion board. The response must be meaningful. Grading is based upon a meaningful and appropriate answer.

ALL POSTINGS DUE BY 11:59 PM on the deadline date. All postings to be completed and submitted on Canvas

Dis #1 due: July 12
Dis #3 due: July 20
Dis #5 due: August 1

Dis #2 due: July 16
Dis #4 due: July 26
Dis #6 due: August 8

Loss of internet service, loss of power, or damaged technology is NEVER a valid excuse for missing deadlines. Students are given multiple days to complete discussion board assignments, so waiting until the deadline date is a risk.

- NO LATE POSTINGS ACCEPTED ON THE DISCUSSION BOARD Once the board closes, it will not be re-opened for late postings
- NO POSTINGS ACCEPTED BY E-MAIL

(DO NOT WAIT UNTIL LAST DAY TO POST ON THE DISCUSSION BOARD).

To access the discussion board: go to Canvas and open your class. In the left-hand navigation bar click on the "Discussions" link, and find the discussion. These are opinion-based responses relating to a topic question posted on the discussion board. The response must be meaningful. Grading is based upon a meaningful and appropriate answer.

Do not use the internet, or any other sources for these writing responses. This should not be research, statistics, quotations or other people's words or ideas. This should be your own words, writing about your ideas, thoughts and opinions. If students post research, instead of original opinion, no credit will be given for the assignment, and no make-up assignment will be offered.

Please pay close attention to the noted deadlines for such activities because ***late responses will not be accepted for credit.** This assignment is meant to be interactive, and as such, late postings do not contribute to the discussion. Early postings (prior to the deadline date) are encouraged, and may generate more interaction in the discussion board between class mates

For some excellent handouts on specific writing issues see: <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingresources/handouts/index.htm>

SJSU Writing Center : The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to

become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>.

2. **Exams:** (100 pts. each exam) (**200 points total**)

Midterm Exam #1 – 100 pts
Midterm Exam #2 – 100 pts

July 21 & 22
August 4 & 5

There are two (2) major midterm exams given in this class. Each exam is worth 100 points and will consist of 50 questions . All exams are multiple choice. Students are allowed to use the textbook and any notes during exams. Students will have 90 minutes on a continuous exam clock once the exam is opened. The clock cannot be stopped and re-started. The exam will be submitted at the end of 90 minutes, or at the exam deadline time, whether or not the student has completed all questions.

Make-up / late midterm exam: *If a student misses taking a midterm exam, by the deadline date, they will have to take a make-up midterm within 48 hours with the instructor's permission. A 10% late penalty will be applied.*

EXTRA CREDIT POLICY: (**None available beyond what is listed**)

The only extra credit in this class is in the class discussion boards. **NO OTHER EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS ARE AVAILABLE. Please do not ask.**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS CLASS

Do we have any required class orientation, either online or on-campus?

No. Registered students will get all the class information by e-mail prior to the start of class. I will send out information to you a few days before the first date of class.

Do we have any on-campus meetings, or ZOOM meetings, or is this class 100% online?

Class is 100% online. There are no on-campus meetings, and no zoom meetings.

How do we access the online class material ?

ALL class material and course work will be accessed through CANVAS on your College Website. You will do your discussion board posting assignments directly on CANVAS.

Can I use a different edition of the textbook?

No. You should use the print copy or e-book for the textbook as described in your class syllabus. A print copy is not necessary, and an e-book will suffice, however, that is the choice for students to make.

What if I cannot afford to get my book right away?

Students need to have access to the textbook as soon as possible once class begins. Students may have to borrow the book or ask another classmate for a book sharing. Students will be at a disadvantage if they do not do the required readings.

Do we have to login at particular times, or for specific amounts of time?

No. You have access to study material, 24 hrs. a day, and there are no assigned times that you must be online for readings or study aids. Discussion Boards do have assigned deadline dates and times

Where do I find the Discussion Boards and Online Exams?

These are all located in CANVAS.

What should I do if I cannot access the Discussion Board?

Contact tech-support before contacting the instructor, to avoid missing the deadline. Missed deadlines will result in a late penalty or zero grade. Also, be sure to contact the instructor and let the instructor know about the problem

Can I make-up missed Discussion Boards, and turn-in late class work?

No. No late work is accepted for Discussion Boards. Multiple days are given to complete the discussion boards, so late work is NEVER accepted. Students are expected to start the class on the first day of class, and stay active in the course. You must keep current with all assignments & exams. If you travel, you are still responsible for your classwork, your deadlines, and you should make sure that you have internet access.

If I miss an exam deadline, can I do a make-up exam?

If a student misses the original exam deadline, contact the instructor immediately. Student must makeup within 48 hours of the original deadline

Is there a study guide I can use to prepare for exams?

Yes. Please see the “files” folder in CANVAS. The exam study guide will be posted there.

If I do poorly on the Major Exams, can I still pass this class?

Probably not. Major exams usually constitute 100% of your overall grade. There is not much other work to compensate for the low exam grades. The instructor offers very limited extra credit in this class. If a student is not performing well on exams, they should consider dropping the class, and taking the class at another time when they are better prepared.

Is there any extra credit or other work I can do to improve my grade?

Very limited. Students are graded based on the Major Exams. A few extra credit points may be available as described in your class syllabus. Please do not ask for any additional extra credit.

How do I keep track of my grades, and my progress in this class?

The instructor keeps a record of your grades on CANVAS. Contact the instructor for questions about grading.

University Policies:

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU’s policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See University Policy S90-5 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the SJSU catalog, at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop Policy is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course and course material.

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to

be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material”

- “ Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Please see your instructor in person to obtain verbal or written consent for any of the above.

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any other material you have submitted, or plan to submit to another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit Peer Connections website at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.