CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL ISSUES
ONLINE INSTRUCTION

SOCI 1306 - Contemporary Social Issues (3 credit hours) -- This course is a sociological study of social issues which typically include criminal behavior, social justice, poverty, social stratification, demographic shifts, health care, public policy, civil rights, and social activism. Specific topics may vary from semester to semester to address contemporary social concerns. (Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number 4511015225)

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLO)::
1. Describe how the sociological imagination can be used to explain the emergence and implications of contemporary social problems.
2. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
3. Differentiate and analyze historical evidence (documentary and statistical) and differing points of view. A Analyze, critically assess, and develop creative solutions to public policy problems.
4. Recognize and assume one’s responsibility as a citizen in a democratic society by learning to think for oneself, by engaging in public discourse, and by obtaining information through the news media and other appropriate information sources about politics and public policy.
5. Describe how the proposed "solutions" to a social problem, including social policies, may bring rise to other social problems.

PLAGIARISM:
In any written work, you are guilty of the academic offense known as plagiarism if you half-copy or copy the author’s sentences, words. Usually this results in an automatic grade of "F" for the course; in this sociology course, plagiarism will result in a grade of "0" for the particular assignment. You cannot mix the author’s words with your own or "plug" your synonyms into the author's sentence structure. To prevent unintentional borrowing, resist the temptation to look at the source as you write. The author’s words, phrases, sentences, and ideas should be put in your own words, in your own way of writing! When you do this, you are demonstrating the ability of understanding and comprehension! If you use the author’s words or ideas in any of your assignments, you should give credit to the author. You can do this simply by saying .... “According to the author of the textbook, "....". Other sources should also be credited.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:
The purpose of the Student Code of Conduct is to provide guidelines for the educational environment of The Dallas County Community College District. Such an environment presupposes both rights and responsibilities. Disciplinary regulations at the college are set forth in writing in order to give students general notice of prohibited
conduct. Students should be aware of disciplinary actions for all forms of academic dishonesty, including cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and collusion. Your College Catalog and the DCCCD Catalog contain the entire Student Code of Conduct, which is also on the Internet at http://dcccd.edu.

The official "W" and "Certification" dates are listed in the "Due Dates" Chart of this course. Be sure to check. After the designated "W" date, you will receive a "performance" grade. Incompletes are not given in this course unless the majority of the course work is completed and an emergency precludes the student from finishing the course work. To be "Certified" in this course, you must complete the certification exercise (menu button) or complete/submit a graded course assignment.

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION:
Students who are receiving any form of financial aid should check with the Financial Aid Office prior to withdrawing from classes. Withdrawals may affect your eligibility to receive further aid and could cause you to be in a position of repayment for the current semester. Students who fail to attend or participate after the drop date are also subject to this policy.

TESTING:
All tests are online. You should not test until you are ready (within the stated course deadlines); however, once you open a test, you must complete the entire test; you cannot go back and complete a test later. When you complete all the online work for Chapters 1, 2, and 3, take test 1. Your tests are timed to 60 minutes, so you need to complete the test within that time frame.

If you encounter technical problems while testing, email me immediately; also contact the tech support folks at 972-669-6402. Some testing issues can be solved by not testing during heavy use periods such as the first two weeks of any semester and the last two weeks of the semester. I recommend not using a wireless connection. You must download the Respondus Lockdown Browser before taking a test in this class. Please follow the directions for downloading that are provided in this course (Getting Started menu button). Once you download the browser on your computer, you will not have to repeat that action unless you use a different computer. Do not wait to download the browser until the night before or morning of a test. Do it early in the term to get ready for testing in this class.

TEST COVERAGE:

Test I......... Textbook Chapters 1-3
Test II.........Textbook Chapters 4-6
Test III.........Textbook Chapters 7-9
Test IV......... Textbook Chapters 10-12
Test V......... Textbook Chapters 13-15
Test VI......... Textbook Chapters 16-18
COURSE EVALUATION:
You are required to take 6 tests during the semester. All tests will be given online in a timed format. You will have 60 minutes to complete 50 multiple choice questions. Each test is worth 50 points for a total of 300 points. In addition, you are required to complete other online work (see course for more specific information). All work is converted into points and is recorded in the online grade center. Your grade is based on the total number of points you have earned:

Tests  6 tests X 50 points each  300 points
Chapter Activities  18 chapters X 10 points each  180 points
Video Activities  18 chapters X 5 points each  90 points
Extra Credit  10 activities X 3 points each  30 points

COURSE GRADE:
Your grade for this course is based on the following point conversion, based on a course total of 570 points (excludes extra credit):

513 - 570 = A
456 – 512 = B
399 – 455 = C
342 – 398 = D
341 below = F

Please keep up with your work as you complete and submit assignments. If you do not see the points recorded in the ONLINE GRADEBOOK within a couple days (excluding weekends/holiday), send me an email.

COMPLETION OF ALL COURSE WORK:
You should print out the assignment schedule and keep it handy! The due dates for specific assignments are listed on that schedule. No late assignments will be accepted. Make sure you mark the “due dates” on your personal calendars so you will not miss a submission date/time! Note: add due dates have a NOON deadline time.

EMERGENCY/INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE:
In case of emergency or inclement weather conditions, Eastfield students should listen to KEOM-FM Radio Station (88.5) as the primary media source. In partnership with the Mesquite Independent School District, EastfieldCollege Administration will notify KEOM immediately after a decision is made to cancel classes on any given day of inclement weather or for emergency purposes. Students may also monitor other local radio and television stations. The earliest an announcement may be broadcast on KEOM Radio is 6 a.m. Students may also refer to the Eastfield College web page www.eastfieldcollege.com for the Inclement Weather announcement under the Features area of the front page. The announcement will be posted immediately following the decision to close the college.

STOP BEFORE YOU DROP:
For students who enrolled in college level courses for the first time in the fall of 2007, Texas Education Code 51.907 limits the number of courses a student may drop. You may drop no more than 6 courses during your entire undergraduate career unless the drop qualifies as an exception. Your campus counseling/advising center will give you more information on the allowable exceptions. Remember that once you have accumulated 6 non-exempt drops, you cannot drop any other courses with a “W”. Therefore, please exercise caution when dropping courses in any Texas public institution of higher learning, including all seven of the Dallas County Community Colleges. For more information, you may access:  
https://www1.dcccd.edu/coursedrops.

REPEATABILITY ISSUE: 
Effective for Fall Semester 2005, the Dallas County Community Colleges will charge a higher tuition rate to students registering the third or subsequent time for a course. All third and subsequent attempts of the majority of credit and Continuing Education/Workforce Training courses will result in higher tuition to be charged. Developmental Studies and some other courses will not be charged a higher tuition rate. Third attempts include courses taken at any of the Dallas County Community Colleges since the Fall 2002 semester. For complete information and updates, go to: https://www.dcccd.edu/ThirdCourseAttempt/.

STUDENT E-MAIL: 
Legal privacy issues prevent your instructor from discussing your work or your grades on commercial e-mail accounts. If you wish to send your papers as attachments to an e-mail (and the instructor permits it), or if you have a question about your grade, you must open a student e-mail account. The account is free. You may set it up by going to www.dcccd.edu and click on Student Services, Online Services, and Student NetMail. All students receiving financial aid must open a student NetMail account.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS/OBSERVANCES: 
Students who will be absent from class for the observance of a religious holiday must notify the instructor in advance. Please refer to the college catalog section on Student Responsibilities.

STUDENT INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES 
Go to  

TITLE IX AND DIVERSITY 
The Office of Institutional Equity, in coordination with DCCCD colleges, has the primary responsibility for reviewing, updating and implementing compliance policies and procedures. The Institutional Equity and Compliance Officer and the Office of Institutional Equity will ensure compliance with College District policies, federal and state laws related to sexual assault, Title IX, Title II (Americans with Disabilities Act) and the Military Veterans Full Employment Act to support diversity and inclusion. 
Students with Disabilities.
If you are a student with a disability and/or special needs, or if you think you may have a disability, please contact the college Disability Services Office (DSO). Please note that all communication with DSO is confidential. If you are eligible for accommodations, please provide or request that the DSO send your accommodation letter to me as soon as possible (students are encouraged to contact DSO at the beginning of the semester).

LIBRARY SERVICES:
The DCCCD libraries compose a multi-library system. In addition to serving its own students and staff, each library serves all DCCCD students as well as members of the community. Each library offers a variety of resources and has its own unique personality, collection of materials, and services offerings. The libraries maintain current and relevant collections of books, magazines, academic journals, videos, DVDs, CDs, and electronic materials. Subscriptions to over 100 online databases provide students with quick, easy access to encyclopedias, almanacs, magazines, journals, newspapers, and other research tools. Both the online DCCCD library catalog and the electronic databases can be accessed remotely.

INCOMPLETES:
Incompletes are only given in rare circumstances. It is the instructor’s decision to decide if an "I" is warranted. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor. To receive consideration for an "I," you must have demonstrated a real attempt to complete the course. To be eligible for an "I" in this course, the majority of the course assignments/tests must be completed.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT:
Eastfield College has a zero tolerance policy on sexual harassment. All students shall report complaints of sexual harassment informally to the college Human Resources Director or formally to the Vice Chancellor of Educational Affairs.

OBTAINING YOUR GRADES AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER:
Grade reports are no longer mailed. Convenient access is available online or by telephone. Just use your student identification number when you log in to e-Connect or call DCCCD Touch Tone Services. Web site address: http://econnect.dcccd.edu/. Telephone number: 972-613-1818.