

San José State University
Department of Sociology
SOCIOLOGY 80 Social Problems , Section 80 FALL 2025

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Mark Pasion	ONLINE Asynchronous August 20- December 4
Office Location:	DMH 237A	
Telephone:	I do not check voicemail... please email directly	
Email:	markpasion@att.net or mark.pasion@sjsu.edu	
Office Hours:	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:15- 8:45 am. DMH 237A	
Class Days/Time:	100% Online Asynchronous.....NO ON-CAMPUS MEETINGS	
Classroom:	N/A	
GE/SJSU Studies Category	Core GE Area D	

***This course is 100% asynchronous online.** There are no ZOOM sessions, and no recorded lectures, as part of the asynchronous component. This is not a self-paced class, and there are specific deadline dates for assignments. 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, 9:00am-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.*

SYLLABUS QUICK SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Required Text : Macionis, " Social Problems" 8th or 9th Ed. Pearson Publishing

(see pg. 4 of syllabus for more information)

- **Required Exams : (150 points).** 3 required midterms (Online) (50 points each). Multiple-choice exam, 50 questions. Each exam covering 5-6 textbook chapters. Open book exams (see pg. 6 of syllabus for more detail)
- **Required Online Discussions: (45 points)** See the grade scale outlining grading for in-class discussion participation.
(see pgs. 6 of syllabus for more detail)
- **Optional Practice Quizzes: (0 points)** 6 quizzes, open-book, open-note (online). Multiple-choice, 10 questions. Practice quizzes are for a study aid, not for grade assessment. (see pg. 7 of syllabus for more detail)
- **Optional Retake Exam:** Retake or make-up exam to replace one exam grade. Higher grade will be kept between the original score and the retake score.
- **Extra Credit: (15 pts)** 3 extra credit online discussions, 5 points each discussion. Retake exam is another source of extra advantage. NO FURTHER extra credit beyond that offered in online discussions. Because students are allowed to use notes during the major exams, extra credit is limited to the online discussions.. Retake exams can also be a source of some extra credit. PLEASE DO NOT ask for additional extra credit.

Social Problems Course Schedule / Calendar

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Aug 20	Class orientation – First day of instruction
2	Aug 24	Read “0” PowerPoint
3	Aug 31	Read PP1 & Chap 1 Graded online discussion #1 deadline
4	Sep 7	Read PP2 & PP3 & Chps 2 & 3 Graded online discussion #2 deadline
5	Sep 14 Sep 20	Read PP4 & Chap 4 –Graded online discussion #3 deadline Extra Credit online discussion #4 deadline
6	SEP 21 & 22	MIDTERM EXAM #1 (chapters 0-4)
7	Sep 28	Read PP5 & Chaps 5 Graded online discussion #5 deadline
8	Oct 5	Read PP6 & Chap 6 Graded online discussion #6 deadline
9	Oct 12	Read PP7 & Chap 7 Graded online discussion #7 deadline
10	Oct 19 Oct 25	Read PP 11 & 12 , Chps 11& 12 Extra credit online discussion #8 deadline
11	Oct 26 & 27	MIDTERM EXAM #2 (chapters 5-7 & 11-12)
12	Nov 2	Read PP13 & Chp 13 Graded online discussion #9 deadline
13	Nov 9	Read PP14 & Chp 14 Graded online discussion #10 deadline
14	Nov 16 & 17	RETAKE MIDTERM #1 or #2....But not both
15	Nov 23	Read chps 15 & 16 Graded online discussion #11 deadline
16	Nov 30 Dec 2	Read chps 17 & 18 Extra credit online discussion #12 deadline
	Dec 3 & 4	MIDTERM EXAM #3 (Chapters 13-18) LAST DAY OF CLASS
17	Dec 8	Student Meetings by appointment as needed, 8:30-10:30 am END OF SEMESTER

*** 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**

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 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 [University catalog](#)

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 the 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 D 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 and/or video 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, and/or video 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.

CLASS / COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Required Texts/Readings

Macionis, " Social Problems" 8th or 9th 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 - 2 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 by appointment only during the Covid protocol. Feel free to contact me online or by email if you have any questions about the class or course material.

Technology Requirements: All students should have access to a computer and good internet service for this class. Campus computers may be available for student use. 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 the classroom, 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, CHANGES & UPDATES***
- **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 expected, and part of class grading for certain assignments. Participation in an online course refers to the completion of course work. Logging into the course is not considered participation. Online classes are not self-paced, and have strict deadline dates. In-person classes also have scheduled deadlines and participation policies. Be sure to read and understand requirements as outlined in the class syllabus

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: 195 total points (4.0 grade scale) (see pg. 6 of syllabus for more information)

A	180--195	(92-100%)	A-	176-179.9	(90-91.9%)	B-	156-159.9	(80-81.9%)
B+	170-175.9	(87-89.9%)	B	160-169.9	(82-86.9%)	C-	132-135.9	(68-69.9%)
C+	150-155.9	(77-79.9%)	C	136-149.9	(70-76.9%)			
D+	126-131.9	(65-67.9%)	D	111-125.9	(57-64.9%)			
Fail = Below 111 points (Below 57%)								

GRADE CRITERIA

Midterm Exams	150 total points; 50 points each
Online discussion participation	45 total points
Practice quizzes	0 total points
<u>Total Points:</u>	<u>195 points</u>

Plus / Minus Grading (Final Class Grades): Use the posted grade scale to differentiate grades. Plus/ Minus grading is used to differentiate grades that are very close to the grade margins. Because plus/minus grading is used, the instructor does not automatically “round-up” grades. *Even one or two points can make a difference between an “A”, “A-”, or “B+”.*

Pass / No Pass: Please contact and make arrangements with Admissions & Records directly. I am not involved in determining Plus / Minus grading

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 limited extra credit in the class, please do not ask for additional extra credit**

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

EXAMS: (50 pts. each exam) (150 points total)

ONLINE EXAMS

Midterm Exam #1 – 50 pts
Midterm Exam #2 – 50 pts
Retake Midterm
Midterm Exam #3 - 50 pts

September 21 & 22
October 26 & 27
November 16 & 17
December 3 & 4

There are three (3) major midterm exams given in this class. Each exam is worth 50 points and will consist of 50 questions . All exams are multiple choice. NO all-inclusive final exam given.

Late Makeup Midterms: *Students that miss the original exam date, have to makeup that exam within 72 hours of the original deadline date. A 10% late penalty will be applied unless written documentation is provided to avoid the penalty. If a student does a late makeup exam on Midterm #1, they are not allowed a late makeup on Midterm #2. **ONLY ONE LATE MAKEUP** allowed per student, per semester. **NO makeups for Midterm #3.***

Retake Midterms: *Students may do a retake exam on their **LOWEST** exam score, if their overall class grade is below 92% at the time of the retake exam. Any student with 92% or higher in the class is not eligible for a retake exam. Students that are eligible may retake the lowest midterm exam. Retakes to compensate for a “Zero” grade will have a 10% late penalty due to the extended time for testing. Only one midterm may have a retake exam, both midterms cannot be taken. Retake Midterms are offered per the syllabus calendar.*

ONLINE DISCUSSION PARTICIPATION: (45) points total

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 required discussions. These are graded discussion assignments... **(9) nine required and graded discussions and (3) three optional extra credit assignments. Each discussion is worth 5 points.**

Online participation fosters student learning, and helps to strengthen the culture in the classroom. Some of the discussions are required, graded assignments, and others are optional extra credit discussion boards. Participation allows students to express their thoughts and ideas in writing, for all of the class to read and respond to if desired. There is no makeup work available for missed online discussions. No late postings allowed, and no emailed responses to the instructor is accepted. Extra credit is offered to compensate for limited missed assignments.

A completed discussion board has two parts, including an original response at 175-200 words answering the question(s) prompt from the instructor. Also, students are required to respond back to one of their classmate’s posting (50-75 words). **Write the word count of your response at the end of your posting, to be considered for full credit. Full credit will not be given if no written and posted word count.** (5 points maximum credit each discussion)

DO NOT RESEARCH or give information from other sources. This should be in your own words, using your own ideas, thoughts and opinions. **COPYING FROM A SOURCE,** even with citations or crediting the source is not acceptable for credit. This is your chance to express yourself and your opinions.

These are opinion-based responses relating to a topic question posted on the discussion board. The response must be meaningful and applicable. Grading is based upon following the guidelines, not upon so-called right or wrong answers. **Remember** that this is an interactive class assignment...your classmates will be able to read what you write, and they will be able to respond back to you.

Power outages, loss of internet or technology, are never acceptable reasons to miss the discussion deadlines. NO LATE work is accepted under any circumstances. Once the discussion board is closed, it will not be re-opened. I realize that we cannot predict when a problem will occur, however, students are given several days in which to complete discussion boards. Please do not wait until the final hours of the deadline to submit discussions.....as you are taking a chance that no problems will occur. If a problem does occur, missed points will result.

SCHEDULED ONLINE DISCUSSIONS

<i>Dis 1 – Aug 31</i>	<i>11:59 pm deadline</i>	<i>Dis 7 - Oct 12</i>	<i>11:59 pm deadline</i>
<i>Dis 2 – Sep 7</i>	<i>11:59 pm deadline</i>	<i>Dis 8 (EC) - Oct 25</i>	<i>11:59 pm deadline</i>
<i>Dis 3 - Sep 14</i>	<i>11:59 pm deadline</i>	<i>Dis 9 - Nov 2</i>	<i>11:59 pm deadline</i>
<i>Dis 4 (EC) - Sep 20</i>	<i>11:59 pm deadline</i>	<i>Dis 10- Nov 9</i>	<i>11:59 pm deadline</i>
<i>Dis 5- Sep 28</i>	<i>11:59 pm deadline</i>	<i>Dis 11 – Nov 23</i>	<i>11:59 pm deadline</i>
<i>Dis 6 – Oct 5</i>	<i>11:59 pm deadline</i>	<i>Dis 12 (EC) – Dec 2</i>	<i>11:59 pm deadline</i>

EXTRA CREDIT POLICY: (15 points maximum) Online Discussion Boards

The only extra credit offered in this class is (3) three extra credit discussion assignments (see discussion board for details). No further extra credit is offered. A RETAKE exam is also offered that allows students the possibility to improve their grades. This is considered a form of extra credit opportunity.

***THIS is the only extra credit offered in the class. No additional extra credit is offered. Please DO NOT ASK.**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS CLASS

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

For in-person classes: class curriculum and class assignments will be discussed at the first classroom meeting.

How do we access the online class material?

Go to the college website and access our class homepage on CANVAS. All available class material is located on our class homepage. Announcements are available, as well as downloadable material. The extra credit discussion boards are located 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.

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

If a student misses the original exam deadline, contact the instructor immediately. Make-up exams will be given per the syllabus calendar. ONLY one make-up exam per student allowed during the semester.

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

Probably not. Major exams usually constitute a total of 70-75% of your overall grade. There is limited extra credit to compensate for the low exam grades. Students are allowed one RETAKE EXAM for the semester. 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.

What is a RETAKE EXAM?

Students are allowed to take one RETAKE EXAM during the semester. RETAKE exams are only offered as scheduled on the syllabus. A RETAKE exam can be a make-up exam of a missed exam, or a second-chance to improve one midterm exam grade. ONLY ONE RETAKE EXAM may be taken per student. Multiple Retakes are not allowed, no exceptions. See the syllabus for retake exam allowance.

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

Limited . Students are graded based on the assigned work and the Major Exams. If any extra credit is available it will be described in your class syllabus. Please do not ask for any additional extra credit. See the class grading scale.....since plus/minus grading is used, I do not automatically round-up grades. Plus/minus grading should suffice and should accurately award students the grade they deserve based upon grading criteria.

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>.