



Introduction to Social Problems

Prof. Mansoo Yu, University of Missouri

SHORT COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers various social problems by understanding differences and similarities in multiple factors associated with each type of social problems and discussing micro and/or macro solutions to address such problems among countries where enrolled students are interested. Topics include no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, and gender equality. These topics are consistent with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In order to achieve the goal of this course, students will: 1) discuss social problems in a global perspective, 2) examine factors associated with each social problem across the globe, 3) brainstorm possible micro/macro solutions to address such problems, and 4) brainstorm ideas for global partnerships for sustainable development. This class will meet daily as a seminar, incorporating class discussions. Hence, active participation in class activities is appreciated.

READING MATERIALS

No textbook is required. All reading materials will be available prior to class in PDF format.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Class Attendance Policy: The expectation is that students will attend every session and participate in class discussions and activities. Without prior notice, one missing class will result in a deduction of one point. Class periods will start and end at the prescribed times. Late arrivals and early departures by students can disrupt the class, so promptness is appreciated. Students should notice to the instructor if they have to be late or leave early. Otherwise, two times of late arrivals or early departures will result in one point deduction from attendance grade. Please note that **SKKU regulations require students attend at least 80% of all classes.**

Class Participation Policy: Active participation and full preparation are expected. All students will have the opportunity to take the lead on class discussions to cover reading assignments. In order to obtain the full participation points, at least two participations in class discussions throughout the semester are required.

Grading Criteria

*Discussion Lead	15 pts
*Topic paper	20 pts
*Solution paper	20 pts
*Final Presentation	25 pts
Class Attendance	10 pts
<u>Class Participation</u>	<u>10 pts</u>
Total	100 pts

*A guide will be discussed in class.

Grading scale is either Pass (60 pts or above) or Fail (59 pts or below). If students need a letter grade, please reach out to the instructor. We use the following scale for a letter grade:

A+ (99 or more), A (98.9-93.0 points), A- (92.9-90.0 points), B+ (89.9-86.0 points), B (85.9-83.0 points), B- (82.9-80.0 points), C+ (79.9-76.0 points), C (75.9-73.0 points), C- (72.9-70.0 points), D+ (69.9-66.0 points), D (65.9-63.0 points), D- (62.9-60.0 points: **D- or above: Pass**), F (59.9 or below--**Fail**).

For the paper assignments, it is recommended to use double spacing with a 12-point font. You may use external sources to complete the assignment. For external references, please use APA 7th style for citations.

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html

Academic Integrity Policy: The academic community considers academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, or quoting, please consult with me.

COURSE SCHEDULE

– WEEK I –

Monday (1 July)

Introduction & Class Overview

What is a Social Problem? UNESCO SDGs

Tuesday (2 July)

Good Health: Mental Health

Read: Dessauvagie et al. (2021), Maleku et al. (2021), Lee et al. (2020), Group assignment discussions

Wednesday (3 July)

Good Health: Physical Health

Read: Han & Yu (2023), Matias et al. (2021), Alcaraz et al. (2020), Class activity

Thursday (4 July)

Good Health: Substance Use Problems

Read: Yu et al. (2017), Chun et al. (2020), Jang et al. (2018), & Class activity

– WEEK II –

Monday (8 July)

Good Health: Health Care Access, Health Literacy

Read: Good Health and Well-being (SDG-3), Aduana et al. (2020), Nutbeam & Lloyd (2021)

Assignment: Topic paper due

Tuesday (9 July)

Issues among Young Populations

Read: Rudy et al. (2023), Kim et al. (2020), Bonor et al. (2020), Memmott-Elison et al. (2020)

Wednesday (10 July)

Refugees and Immigrants, Human Rights

Read: Jang & Yu (2022), Tefera & Yu (2022), Human rights discussion

Thursday (11 July)

Reduced Inequalities: Social Equality (SDG-10) & Gender Equality (SDG-5)

Read: Equality factsheets, Empowerment star

– WEEK III –

Monday (15 July)

Quality Education (SDG-4)

Read: Education can transform the world, Class activity

Tuesday (16 July)

No Poverty (SDG-1) & Zero Hunger (SDG-2)

Read: Bhattacharya et al. (2021), Pereira et al. (2010), Social Determinants of Health

Wednesday (17 July)

Violence: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (SDG-16)

Read: Understanding community violence (examples), Foell et al. (2021), Olate et al. (2014)

Thursday (18 July)

Climate Action (SDG-13): Climate Change

Read: Romanello et al. (2021)

Assignment: Solution Paper Due

– WEEK IV –

Monday (22 July)

Knowledge Synthesis I

Tuesday (23 July)

Knowledge Synthesis II

Wednesday (24 July)

Assignment: Final presentation, Course wrap-up