Siena Heights University
At Lansing Community College
Summer Semester Course Syllabus 2010

Course Number: SOC 379
Course Name: Issues in Social Justice
Semester Hours: 3
Dates: Thursdays from May 6 until June 24, 2010
Instructor: Martha Madigan, PhD.
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Siena Heights University Program Outcome Statement

Graduates of Siena Heights University programs will have gained the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to continue developing as self-respecting professionals. They will be capable of:

- Making sense out of their daily work and personal lives,
- Taking appropriate actions, and
- Realizing that their search for final answers must be life-long.

"The value of an education in a liberal arts college is not the learning of many facts but the training of the mind to think something that cannot be learned from textbooks."

--Albert Einstein

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will examine a number of contemporary social issues and the application of ethical and just resolutions and opinions. Using experiential activities and small group discussion, students will develop a theoretical framework for understanding oppression and will begin to develop change agent skills.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

To help students acquire knowledge and acceptance that justice, as it applies to humans, means that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, or economic status should be treated the same relative to governmental goods, services, and resources; that principles of social justice are to assist in developing moral responses to critical social problems; and that social change is possible and desired if there is cooperation and/or collaboration by the involvement of interested members of communities.
COURSE METHODS:
Course methods may include any or all of the following: Reading assignments, lecture, discussion, videos, case studies, small group activities, a visit to the DHS and a research paper. Students must be well prepared for participation by reading the required chapters prior to each class.

ATTENDANCE:
Class attendance and participation are vital. Because this class is built on discussion, role-play and group projects, it is advised that if a student should miss more than one class, he/she may wish to consider dropping the class. Class discussions and in-class exercises make up the grades for attendance and participation which cannot be made up. I know you would not miss class without a very good reason, but there is no substitute for being there. One of the class periods will offer time to work on the DHS project.

QUALITY OF WORK:
All papers are to be typed, double-spaced and written using 12-point, Times New Roman font, in APA style.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:
D.H.S Report 30 pts
You are to visit a D.H.S. office and research information about available programs (the research can be done online or in person). Then submit a 3-5 page paper in APA format on your findings about how the program works and your conclusion about the experience.

Final Research Paper: 40 pts.
Choose a topic of social justice not covered in class and write a 4-6 page analysis of that issue—the pros and cons—and then drawing your own conclusion about the social justice position of this issue.

Attendance/Participation 80 pts
Because these topics will be discussed in class, CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION ARE VITAL. Points built into the system that determines your grade for this class.

☑ Class attendance and participation (8 classes @ 10 points each) 80
☑ D.H.S Report 30
☑ Final Research Paper: 40 pts
☑ TOTAL 150 points

GRADING SCALE:
A = 100-91 %
B = 90-81 %
C = 80-71 %
D = 70-60 %
F = 59 % or lower
POLICIES:

Late Assignments - If a student needs to turn in work late he/she MUST contact the instructor PRIOR to the due date to make the arrangements. Late assignments will be accepted until one week prior to the course end date, but students will receive a full letter grade decrease per week (beginning the afternoon the assignment is due) for late assignments.

Quality of Work: All papers are to be typed in 12-point, Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1 inch margins – APA style. Too many people try to artificially lengthen papers by using Courier (or some other larger) font or adding returns and unnecessary spaces.

Attention – Sadly it has become necessary to add the following policies, because of previous abuse by students.

Cell phones and pagers - must not disrupt a class. All cell phones and pagers must be either turned off or set to “vibrate” when the student is in class. Text-messaging during class will not be allowed. Please be courteous to your fellow class mates. If this becomes a problem during a class, the student will be asked to leave.

Laptop Computers - the same policy will be extended to computers in class. If you are taking notes on your laptop, that is okay with me, but if you are surfing the web, playing games or emailing during the class you will be asked to leave and forfeit the day’s points.

Students with Learning Disabilities - Siena Heights University is committed to providing a learning environment that benefits all students. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, a reasonable accommodations policy for students with disabilities requires a student to provide written documentation of his/her disability to the Academic Advising Office. If a student is in need of an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, please contact me so we can discuss the course format, anticipate your needs and explore potential accommodations. I rely on the Office for Students with Disabilities for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. If you have not previously registered with the Office for Students with Disabilities, I encourage you to do so. Just a reminder, requests for accommodations are not retroactive.

*Academic dishonesty is unethical behavior, which violates the standards of scholarly conduct. It includes such behaviors as cheating on assignments or examinations, plagiarizing, submitting the same or essentially the same papers for more than one course without the consent of all instructors concerned, misappropriating library materials, or the destroying or tampering with computer files. Also included in academic dishonesty is knowingly or intentionally helping another to violate any part of this policy.

*Plagiarism is the failure to give credit for the use of material from outside sources, including the Internet. It includes, but is not limited to: verbatim use of a quote without
quotation marks and adequate documentation; submission of a paper prepared in whole or part by another person as one’s own work; using the ideas, facts, words, photographs, pictures, graphics, or data of someone and claiming them as your own; or not documenting facts, words or data gathered during research.

*(Siena Heights University Undergraduate Catalogue)*

Any student who is caught plagiarizing in this class will receive a 0.0 grade on the plagiarized work and the incident must be reported to the cite director - always.