

# SOC 207: POVERTY IN AMERICA

## Precept Syllabus

Fall 2019

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<b>Preceptor:</b>	Lauren Konken	<b>Precept 13:</b>	Thurs 9:00-9:50AM
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:lkonken@princeton.edu">lkonken@princeton.edu</a>		Location TBD
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Wed. 1:30-3:20PM Green Hall 3-N-24	<b>Precept 14:</b>	Thurs 10:00-10:50AM Location TBD

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### Precept Description and Expectations

Precepts for this course will meet weekly for 50 minutes and participation is mandatory, including active involvement in discussions, occasional small assignments and activities. Rather than a lecture based format, precepts will provide an opportunity for you to engage in a deeper, respectful discussion with your peers about concepts and readings from class, as well as your own questions about the material. The general goal of precept to help you develop and practice a vocabulary about poverty. Precept participation accounts for 20% of your final grade. It takes into consideration having completed all the readings, full oral participation, active involvement in class, and completion of any additional small written assignments connected with precept when relevant. Unexcused absences, non-participation, minimal involvement, uninformed participation (i.e. not doing the readings or exercises), and failure to complete small written assignments in precept count against the participation grade.

**Students may not generally use computers or phones in precept.**

### Important Dates:

Fieldwork Proposal (10%) ..... Monday Sept. 30th.  
Fieldnotes 1 (10%) ..... Monday Oct. 14th.  
Fieldnotes 2 (10%) ..... Monday Nov. 18th.  
Reading Responses (20%) . Throughout the semester.  
Precept Participation\* (20%) Throughout the semester.  
Final Paper (30%) ..... Tuesday Jan. 14th.

\* For a number of weeks throughout the semester, you may also be asked to write a paragraph responding to a short discussion prompt prior to precept that is specific to our section meetings. These prompts will range from short responses to general discussion questions to preparation for debates, or to read short excerpts from current events to inform our discussion. You will receive instructions related to these memos by Monday night the week of precept.

### Email Policy

Please reserve emails for urgent notifications and questions, and for making appointments. Ask questions about logistics in class or in precept, and only after checking whether the syllabus has the answer. Save substantive questions for precept and office hours, unless they're time sensitive to your fieldwork. If my office hours conflicts with your schedule, don't hesitate to email me to schedule an appointment.

**Absences**

The only acceptable documented excuses are medical (the student or an immediate family member suffers from a medical condition of sufficient severity to make completion of the work impossible, if and only if accompanied by documentation from a medical professional (or the equivalent) stating explicitly both the medical condition and sufficient severity so as to preclude work), or religious holidays observed by the student precluding participation. If you will be absent, please contact me **beforehand** to make arrangements for a make-up assignment or to attend another section.

**Grading policy**

This course follows the standard penalty on late work of 1/3 letter grade per 24-hour period or any part thereof - except exams, which of course must be submitted on time. That means a B+ becomes a B, etc. Technical problems are the responsibility of the student.

**Reading Responses**

Post your weekly reading responses on Blackboard by **5PM on Wednesday**. The discussion forums can be found under the Assignments tab > Reading memo forums > Your precept > Thread of the week. Please **don't** use the general group discussion board auto-generated with our precept group page. I'll use that to occasionally post documents and slides.

Reading responses should be 1-2 paragraphs - never more than the equivalent of a single-spaced page. I won't provide written comments, but I will bring up reading responses in discussion.

Reading responses will be graded on a 0-3 range:

- 3: On time, thoughtful and engaged with the readings.
- 2: Late (submitted between 5:00PM and 10:00PM), but thoughtful.
- 1: Late and/or shows very limited engagement with the readings.
- 0: Submitting after 10PM, or no memo posted.

You are only required to write 8 memos throughout the semester. If you write more than 8, we will drop the lowest grades. You will not receive a memo grade every week, but you can email me at any time to ask about your progress and if you can improve.