

# SOCIAL PROBLEMS

SOC 1020

## INSTRUCTOR:

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This 3-credit class studies major U.S. and international social problems. It investigates problems of modern society such as wealth and power, poverty, crime and justice, the economy and work, the healthcare system and national security. It examines how issues are defined as social problems and ways groups attempt to solve the problems.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Sociology courses contribute collectively to form major goals of the Sociology Program. In these courses students learn to: (1) communicate effectively; (2) think critically, analytically, and reason logically about social issues and/or social problems; (3) understand and use sociological principles, concepts, and theories to examine social behavior and issues, and (4) understand and review the application of sociological methods to social behavior and issues. Specific quizzes, exams and/or assignments in this course will assess students learning in one or more of the above objectives.

## COURSE RESOURCES:

### *Textbook(s)*

*Social Problems* 13<sup>th</sup> Edition by D. Stanley Eitzen, Maxine Baca Zinn and Kelly Eitzen Smith 2013 Pearson Education, Inc.

### *Additional Readings*

Readings will be taken from an array of sources: peer-reviewed journals and any other relevant texts/medium.

## COURSE ACTIVITIES:

This course has been created in a way that helps students stay on track by structuring the modules to fall within specific time frames. Quiz and assignment due dates have been posted in the course - please try to complete the work prior to these deadlines. Should you not meet the deadlines but still complete the work I will accept it and you will not be penalized for late submissions (thus allowing you to work at your own pace if necessary).

### *Readings*

We will read approximately three chapters from the textbook with each module, which equates to approximately one or two chapters each week.

### Quizzes

There are 5 quizzes worth 140 points each (14 questions @ 10 points apiece.) It is your responsibility to take the quizzes when they are available! You will have 25 minutes to take each quiz, which will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. The quiz questions come from: *My PowerPoint Lessons* and the Reading Material (any required reading material and the textbook chapters mentioned in the Modules). I have set up quizzes 1,2,3,4, and 5 so that you can take them twice - you can only take the Comprehensive Exam once so please plan accordingly. If this is your first online course experience, I suggest taking the practice quiz so that you can get a feel for the Quiz tool and time limits.

### Exams

The Comprehensive Exam is also worth 150 points (15 questions @ 10 points apiece,) and will comprehensively cover the contents of this course. You will have 35 minutes to take this exam, which will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. The Comprehensive Exam will randomly pull questions from the same test banks that the quizzes did, so you know what to expect - you may even see some questions you have seen before.

### Discussions

There are 3 graded Discussion Assignments; each is worth 50 points (a total of 150). Points will be awarded based on originality, content and substance. We will also use the Discussion tool as a way to share communication with each other regarding relevant course information. Things we post here can be viewed (and responded to) by any classmate and myself, and I reserve the right to delete anything that I feel is inappropriate or disrespectful.

### Modules (or Course Content)

I have broken the materials and quizzes into five modules/sections. This is where you will find my PowerPoint Lessons and the list of any required readings.

#### Module One:

Lesson 1: Sociological Approach to Social Problems (See Text chapter 1)

Discussion Assignment #1

Lesson 2: Wealth and Power (see Text chapter 2)

Lesson 3: Progressive Plan (see Text chapter 19)

Module One Quiz

#### Module Two:

Lesson 4: Crime and Justice (see Text chapter 12)

Lesson 5: Poverty (see Text chapter 7)

Lesson 6: Drugs (see Text chapter 13)

Module Two Quiz

#### Module Three:

Lesson 7: Gender (see Text chapter 9)

Lesson 8: Race and Ethnicity (see Text chapter 8)

Lesson 9: Sexual Orientation (see Text chapter 10)

Discussion Assignment #2

Lesson 10: Disability (see Text chapter 11)  
Module Three Quiz

**Module Four:**

Lesson 11: Work (see Text chapter 14)  
Lesson 12: The Family (see Text chapter 15)  
Lesson 13: Health and Medicine (see Text chapter 17)  
Lesson 14: Education (see Text chapter 16)  
Lesson 15: National Security (see Text chapter 18)  
Module Four Quiz

**Module Five:**

Lesson 16: Population (see Text chapter 3)  
Lesson 17: Demographic Change (see Text chapter 5)  
Lesson 18: Urban Problems (see Text chapter 6) &  
Lesson 19: Environment (see Text chapter 4)  
Discussion Assignment #3 Module Five Quiz

**Comprehensive Exam**

**GRADING:**

Course Breakdown: There are 3 Discussions, 5 quizzes and a comprehensive exam; none of these are proctored, so you should be able to take them from any computer that can access the course. I will add 3% in points to your overall score for completing the course evaluation. (I do not administer the course evaluation - so please watch for it to become available, complete it while it is available, and contact the Distance Ed. folks should you have any questions.)

Component	Points
Quiz 1	140
Quiz 2	140
Quiz 3	140
Quiz 4	140
Quiz 5	140
Comprehensive Exam	150
Discussion 1	50
Discussion 2	50
Discussion 3	50
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>1000</b>

**Grades will be assigned as follows:**

A 940-1000    A- 900-930    B+ 860-890    B 830-850    B- 800-820    C+ 760-790    C 730-750  
C- 700-720    D+ 660-690    D 600-650    F 590 or below

## COURSE POLICIES:

### *Instructor and Student Feedback/Communication*

I will post and read in the Discussions tool as mentioned above. I will use the Announcements tool to communicate changes to the course and other course information. I will contact collective and individual students via the Canvas **Mail tool**. My preferred method of communication with individual students is via this email. If you are not yet comfortable using the Canvas Mail please send your email to bethwilso@gmail.com. I will respond to email **within two week days** (Monday - Friday) and I welcome all feedback on the course!

If you experience a legitimate emergency (according to my standards) which will prevent you from completing required coursework on time, I expect you to communicate with me at the earliest reasonable opportunity. Please state the nature of the emergency, and when you expect to turn in the coursework.

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

### *Honor Pledge*

Students will be held accountable to the Honor Pledge which they have agreed to: "I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity."

### *Academic Dishonesty*

The Instructor of this course will take appropriate actions in response to Academic Dishonesty, as defined the University's Student Code:

Acts of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

1. Cheating: (1) using or attempting to use or providing others with any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, examinations, or in any other academic exercise or activity, including working in a group when the instructor has designated that the quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity be done "individually"; (2) depending on the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (3) substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, in taking an examination or preparing academic work; (4) acquiring tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty member, staff member, or another student without express permission; (5) continuing to write after time has been called on a quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity; (6) submitting substantially the same work for credit in more than one class, except with prior approval of the instructor; or (7) engaging in any form of research fraud.
2. Falsification: altering or fabricating any information or citation in an academic exercise or activity.
3. Plagiarism: representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes using materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the sale of term papers or other academic materials.

Full text of the Student Code available at available at available at <http://www.usu.edu/studentservices/pdf/StudentCode.pdf>:

*Special Needs*

Students with ADA-documented physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. Veterans may also be eligible for services. All accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in Room 101 of the University Inn, (435)797-2444 voice, (435)797-0740 TTY, (435)797-2444 VP, or toll free at 1-800-259-2966. Please contact the DRC as early in the semester as possible. Alternate format materials (Braille, large print or digital) are available with advance notice.