



Sociology 1020—Social Problems

ONLINE, Spring 2016

Instructor: Yvette Young

Class Website: weber.instructure.com/courses/XXXXXX/

Email: Please Use Canvas Email

Office Location: SS Room 132

Office Hours: By Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Social Problems is a survey course that covers a wide range of issues that we face in society today. This course is also an introduction to some of the main topics and theories of sociology. Students will discuss, read, think, and write on both domestic and international issues such as poverty, inequality, migration, the environment, race, gender, health care, and education.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Identify problems we face in modern society and understand some of their complexities and how they affect your life.
2. Differentiate between and apply the sociological theories to problems as a framework for understanding possible causes, purposes, and solutions.
3. Learn to think critically and creatively about social problems.
4. Be motivated to take individual action to improve the world in which we live.

REQUIRED TEXT

Eitzen, D. Stanley, Maxine Baca Zinn, and Kelly Eitzen Smith. 2014. *Social Problems*. Pearson. ISBN: 9780205949182

COURSE STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

The material for this class is organized on weekly pages on Canvas. The weekly pages are linked on the course home page (weber.instructure.com/courses/388799). Each week's page lists the required readings and provides links to lecture videos and slides. The weekly pages also contain links to assignments and additional resources.

Part One:	Weeks 1-3	<i>The Political Economy of Social Problems</i>
Part Two:	Weeks 4-7	<i>Problems of People, the Environment, and Location</i>
Part Three:	Weeks 8-10	<i>Problems of Inequality</i>
Part Four:	Week 11	<i>Social Structure and Individual Deviance</i>
Part Five:	Weeks 12-13	<i>Institutional Problems</i>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Class attendance and participation are essential components of success in this course. Attendance will be taken only occasionally, but many of the class activities will be graded.

Your final grade will be based on the following:

- Seen, Heard, Read About 10%
- Class Participation 15%
- Quizzes 15%
- Current Event Papers (2) 30%
- Exams (2) 30%

Computer Skills Required

Ability to use a web browser to surf the Canvas pages and upload files is required. Many of the required course materials are posted online. **It is your responsibility to maintain your computer and related equipment in order to participate in the online portion of the course.**

If you experience computer issues, you are required to notify the instructor before any assignments are late. Please familiarize yourself with campus technical support resources and computer labs in the event of any computer issues.

Announcements:

Your instructor will post periodic reminders for upcoming assignments, new information, assignment and assessment deadlines, and other pertinent course related information. Announcements can be accessed on the class website.

In order to receive these weekly announcements in a timely manner, please set-up your Profile on Canvas to forward announcements to your email, SmartPhone, iPad, or other mobile device. If the information has been posted as an announcement or sent as a class email it is your responsibility to adhere to any deadlines or requirements contained therein.

Grading Scale	
A	94-100
A-	90-93.9
B+	87-89.9
B	84-86.9
B-	80-83.9
C+	77-79.9
C	74-76.9
C-	70-73.9
D+	67-69.9
D	64-66.9
D-	60-63.9
E	0-59.9

Assignments

Assignments and course requirements for each week are described on Canvas. The deadlines listed on Canvas are firm. Late assignments will be accepted at the discretion of the instructor. Points will be deducted from any late assignments that are accepted. Any assignment that is more than one week late will not be accepted.

Late Assignment Submissions:

All assignments are due before class on the date listed. Any assignment received even one minute after the deadline or later will be considered late.

- The Canvas clock is the final word on the time “stamp” on all assignments, assessments, discussions, and other submissions.
- All late submissions will be penalized 10% per day or portion of day late.
- No assignment will be accepted that is over 7 days late.

The only exceptions to this policy are those due to officially sanctioned University activities, religious holidays, and illness with medical documentation. Please plan ahead in order to submit assignments early or no later than the deadline to avoid the loss of points due to late submissions or missed opportunities.

Instructor Contact:

If you need to contact the instructor with any questions or problems please use the Canvas email. This will ensure that the instructor receives and replies to your message in a timely manner.

Please note the following FAQs relating to the course requirements:

- **It is your responsibility to maintain your computer and related equipment in order to participate in the online portion of the course.**
- Equipment failures will not be an acceptable excuse for late or absent assignments. If you have technical difficulties you can obtain assistance from the IT Service Help Desk:

218 Lampros Hall | (801) 626-7777

<http://www.weber.edu/help> | csupport@weber.edu

- You are responsible for making sure your assignments, including attachments, are received before the deadline **and in a common, readable file format** (i.e. .docx, .txt, .pdf). Please ensure you have attached the correct file before closing the Canvas Assignment page.
- You are responsible for submitting the assignment in the required format, with the required naming convention, correct file extension, and using the software type and version required for the assignment.
- Canvas uses electronic dating to close (the Assignment Drop Box, Discussion Postings, and Assessments/Quizzes), so late submissions over one week late will be locked out.
- The instructor uses an online plagiarism detection service in this course.

DETAILED COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Seen, Heard, Read About (10% of Final Grade):

There are two *Seen, Heard, Read About* assignments. For each assignment you will post 1 example of a social problem that you have seen, heard or read about in the news or popular media to the assignment discussion board. You will write 1 paragraph describing the social problem and 1 paragraph discussing it using a sociological perspective. *Seen, Heard, Read About* assignments can be completed any time you hear about an event or phenomenon that relates to the social problems we cover. For each assignment you will be required to reply to at least two of the examples posted by other students, discussing the example using sociological concepts.

Class Participation (15% of Final Grade):

There are a variety of activities and short exercises that take the place of traditional class participation. These may include brief writing assignments, online discussions, worksheets, internet research, etc. Class participation assignments are hosted on Canvas.

Quizzes (15% of Final Grade):

There are quizzes approximately every other week. Quizzes consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. The questions cover the material from the text for that week.

Current Event Papers (30% of Final Grade):

You will submit two papers that respond to events in the news. Papers will be 4 pages (1000-1200 words) in length. Papers should summarize the event and then analyze it using sociological concepts from the readings, films and lecture slides. These papers should reflect your understanding of the issues at stake as well as your critical review of the readings. Papers will be graded on a 100-point scale.

Exams (30% of Final Grade):

There are two exams in this class, a midterm and a final. They will consist of multiple choice, true/false, matching, short answer and essay questions and will be given online. The exams are open-book and are hosted on Canvas, so you can take them from any location. You will be given a list of review topics comprising materials from both lecture, activities, and course readings.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

As specified in PPM 6-22 IV D, cheating and plagiarism violate the Student Code. Plagiarism is “the unacknowledged (uncited) use of any other person’s or group’s ideas or work.” Students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism are subject to failure of a specific assignment, or, in more serious cases, failure of the entire course. WSU subscribes to Turnitin.com, an electronic service that verifies the originality of student work. Enrollment in this course may require that some or all of your assignments be submitted to Turnitin this semester. Documents submitted to Turnitin are retained, anonymously, in the company’s databases.

NETIQUETTE

This course involves extensive online interaction between the students enrolled in the course. Some of the social problems we discuss are “sensitive” topics, and many are issues about which people have strong feelings. It is crucial that discussions and disagreements remain civil and academic in tone. University policies regarding classroom and online behavior are detailed at the end of the syllabus.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

📖 Reading is in a required text 📄 Reading posted on Canvas 🔗 Misc. Link

Date		Topics	Assignments
Week 1 1/11	Part One:	The Political Economy of Social Problems Introduction and Course Overview	
Week 2 1/18 1/19	Topic Readings	The Sociological Approach to Social Problems Martin Luther King Day 📖 Eitzen, Zinn and Smith: Chapter 1 📄 Glassner, "Introduction: Why Americans Fear the Wrong Things": xix-xxxvi	
Week 3	Topic Readings	Wealth and Power: The Bias of the System 📖 Eitzen, Zinn and Smith: Chapter 2 📄 Johnson, "Privilege, Oppression, and Difference": 12-40 📄 Glassner, Chapter 1	
Week 4	Part Two: Topic Readings	Problems of People, the Environment, and Location World Population and Global Inequality 📖 Eitzen, Zinn and Smith: Chapter 3 📄 Lappé and Colling, 149-158	
Week 5	Topic Readings	Threats to the Environment 📖 Eitzen, Zinn and Smith: Chapter 4 📄 Diamond, "Easter's End"	
Week 6	Topic Readings	Migration President's Day 📖 Eitzen, Zinn and Smith: Chapter 5, 98-110 📄 Falicov, "Migration and Marginalization"	Seen, Heard, Read About #1 Due
Week 7		Midterm Exam	
Week 8	Part Three: Topic Readings	Problems of Inequality Poverty 📖 Eitzen, Zinn and Smith: Chapter 7 📄 Elliot Liebow, "The Lives of Homeless Women"	Current Event Paper #1 Due
Week 9	Topic Readings	Racial and Ethnic Inequality 📖 Eitzen, Zinn and Smith: Chapter 8 📄 Ralph Ezekial, "The Racist Mind" 📄 Glassner, "Black Men: How to Perpetuate Prejudice Without Really Trying": 109-127	
Week 10	Topic Readings	Gender Inequality 📖 Eitzen, Zinn and Smith: Chapter 9 📄 Reader: Miller, "Women in the Military"	
Week 11		Sexual Orientation 📖 Eitzen, Zinn and Smith: Chapter 10 📄 Naples, "Reactions to Being a Lesbian"	Seen, Heard, Read About #2 Due
Week 12	Part Four: Topic Readings	Social Structure and Individual Deviance Crime and Justice 📖 Eitzen, Zinn and Smith: Chapter 12 📄 Glassner, "Crime in the News": 21-49 📄 Reader: Hunt, "Police Accounts of Normal Force"	

Date		Topics	Assignments
Week 13	Part Five: Topic Readings	Institutional Problems Education □ Eitzen, Zinn and Smith: Chapter 16	Current Event Paper #2 Due
Week 14	Topic Readings	Solving Social Problems: Where Do We Go From Here □ Eitzen, Zinn and Smith: Chapter 19	
Finals		Final Exam	

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. It is the student's responsibility to check Canvas for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be clearly noted in advance through course announcement or Canvas email.

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in Room 181 of the Student Services Center (or Room 221 at the Davis Campus). SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats upon request. Please refer to SSD's website for more information: <http://weber.edu/ssd>

EMERGENCY CLOSURE

If for any reason the university is forced to close for an extended period of time, we will conduct our class on Canvas. Look for announcements on in Canvas mail. Code Purple is a good way to be alerted to campus closures, and you are encouraged to sign up for it.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code (http://www.weber.edu/ppm/Policies/6-22_StudentCode.html). Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article IV) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, and I will do so, beginning with warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.

Students who are distracting to the instructor and/or other students may be asked to leave the classroom. This includes students enrolled in an online course who should follow basic netiquette and professional behavior via the online course delivery. "Netiquette" stands for "Internet Etiquette", and refers to the set of practices developed over the years to make the online course experience pleasant for everyone. Like other forms of etiquette, netiquette is primarily concerned with matters of courtesy in communications.

Discussion threads, e-mails, and chat rooms are all considered to be equivalent to classrooms, and student behavior within those environments shall conform to the Student Code. Specifically:

- Be open-minded and supportive to all viewpoints, even with you do not agree.
- Speak with respect to each other and the instructor.
- Posting photos or comments that would be off-topic in a classroom are still off-topic in an online posting.
- Profanity or off-color language and photos are never appropriate.
- Using angry or abusive language is called "flaming;" it is not acceptable and will be dealt with according to the Student Code.
- Do not use ALL CAPS, except for titles, since it is the equivalent of shouting online, as is overuse of certain punctuation marks such as exclamation points !!!! and question marks ?????.
- Course e-mails, e-journals, and other online course communications are part of the classroom and as such, are University property and subject to GRAMA regulations and the Student Code. Privacy regarding these communications between correspondents must not be assumed and should be mutually agreed upon in advance, in writing.