

Social Problems
SOCIOLOGY 1020-090, Spring 2019
3 Credit Hours

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Bruce Rigby

Class Meetings: This is an Online Course

Office Hours: On campus by appointment

Office: 308 BEHS Phone: 581-5842 or 581-6153 (message)

E-Mail: bruce.rigby@soc.utah.edu or through the Canvas mail feature.

Required Text:

Social Problems: Community, Policy, and Social Action, Anna Leon-Guerrero, Sixth Edition, 2019, Sage, ISBN: 978-1-5063-6272-4

System Requirements:

This is an online class that can be “attended” from anywhere there is an internet connection. This class is available through the University of Utah Canvas Learning system. Assignments and discussions will be submitted electronically. You must also be able to view PowerPoint presentations, as well as have a Media Browser on your system. Students must be able to use an internet browser, send attached files via e-mail, and create text messages.

1. Objectives

This course meets the Social and Behavioral Sciences Intellectual Explorations (BF) requirement. Throughout the semester, this course will address the following Learning Outcomes: Critical Thinking, Written Communication, Foundations and Skills for Lifelong Learning.

This course will provide students with a basic understanding of current social problems and how to utilize a sociological perspective in understanding those problems. We will examine a variety of social problems, and through graded discussions, Exams, and a term paper the student will be required to become familiar with social issues including:

- Poverty
- Illiteracy
- Racism
- Sexism
- Crime and criminal justice
- Aging
- Urbanization and population
- Terrorism

While some of these issues do not appear to affect us directly in our day-to-day lives, they do have an

overall effect on our social world.

By approaching these topics from a sociological perspective, the student will learn to think critically and creatively about why these problems persist in our society and what could be done to manage or solve them.

2. Grading Procedures

The final course grade will be determined by your performance on 2 equally weighted objective type exams, 5 electronic discussion boards, and a semester paper on a topic of the student's choice, providing it is relevant to the course material and approved by your instructor. There is no comprehensive final exam in this course.

Each exam will be worth 100 points towards your final grade. The paper is worth 50 points, and the discussions are worth 50 points. There are 300 points possible for this course.

Important Dates:

Exam #1: Wednesday, February 20th, 2019 (Chapters 1-7)

Exam #2: Thursday, April 25th, 2019 (Chapters 8-14)

Papers Due: Wednesday, March 27th, 2019

Exams will cover material from your text, the online Power Points, and any other material from the learning modules. If you miss an exam, an essay type make-up must be scheduled with the instructor within one week of the regular exam. Make-up exams will only be allowed in the case of hospitalization or a death in the immediate family.

3. Paper

One paper is required in this course. The paper will be written by the student on a topic approved by your instructor on a current social problem. The student must apply one of the key sociological theories from the text in the analysis of the chosen social problem. The paper should be 5-7 pages in length and should be well researched using outside resources such as books, articles from peer reviewed journals, and other sources available through the University of Utah libraries. The paper is due Wednesday, March 27th, by 6:00 PM MDT.

4. Discussions

There will be 5 discussion boards for students to post comments to during the semester. They will be on various sociological topics that your instructor feels are relevant to this course. Your instructor will post frequently in the discussion thread to ask follow-up questions and comment on the discussion topic. The grading rubric for discussions is:

10 points: Excellent

7-9 points: Acceptable

4-6 points: Marginal Effort

0 points: Not Submitted

5. Testing

Exams in this course will be taken electronically. Exams will be available for a 24 hour period. Students will have 45 minutes to complete the exams. Exams may NOT be retaken.

6. Student Code: Per University of Utah regulations (Policy #6-400). “A student who engages in academic misconduct,” as defined in Part I,B. and including, but not limited to, cheating, falsification, or plagiarism, “may be subject to academic sanctions including but not limited to a grade reduction, failing grade, probation, suspension or dismissal from the program or the University, or revocation of the student’s degree or certificate. Sanctions may also include community service, a written reprimand, and/or a written statement of misconduct that can be put into an appropriate record maintained for purposes of the profession or discipline for which the student is preparing.” Please refer to the Student Code for full elaboration of student academic and behavioral misconduct policies (<http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>).

ADA NOTICE: University guidelines for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) require the following to be included in all syllabi:

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

All written information in this course can be made available in alternate format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

7. Title IX Information: Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran’s status, or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677 (COPS).

Course Schedule and Outline for Sociology 1020-090

Week 1, January 7 - 11: Introduction to course and Chapter 1

Week 2, January 14 - 18: Chapter 2

Week 3, January 21 - 25: Chapter 3 and Discussion #1 is due Thursday Jan 24th

Week 4, Jan 28 – Feb12: Chapter 4 and Chapter 5

Week 5, February 4 - 8: Chapters 6 and 7, Discussion #2 is due Thursday Feb 7th

Week 6, February 11 - 15: Chapter 8

Week 7, February 18 - 22: Review, Exam #1 is Wednesday February 20th

****Exam #1 will be available online for 24 hours beginning at 8AM, Wednesday Feb 20th****

Week 8, February 25 – March 1: Chapter 9

Week 9, March 4 - 8: Chapter 10 and Discussion #3 is due Thursday, March 7th

Week 10, March 11 - 15: *Spring Break: No Classes*****

Week 11, March 18 - 22: Chapters 11 and 12

Week 12, March 25 – 29: Chapter 13 and Papers are due Wednesday, March 27th

Week 13, April 1 - 5: Chapter 14, Discussion #4 is due Thursday, April 4th

Week 14, April 8 - 12: Chapters 15 and 16

Week 15, April 15 - 19: Chapter 17, Discussion #5 is Due Thursday, April 18th

Week 16, April 22 - 23: Review for Exam #2

*****Exam #2 will be available online for 24 hours beginning Thursday April 25th*****

CSBS EMERGENCY PLAN

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BUILDING EVACUATION

EAP (Emergency Assembly Point) – When you receive a notification to evacuate a building either by campus text alert system or by building fire alarm, please proceed in an orderly fashion to the EAP designated for that building. Once everyone is at the EAP, you will receive further instructions from Emergency Management personnel. You can look up the EAP for any building you may be on campus at <http://emergencymanagement.utah.edu/eap>.



CAMPUS RESOURCES

U Heads Up App: There's an app for that. Download the app on your smartphone at alert.utah.edu/headsup to access the following resources:

- **Emergency Response Guide:** Provides instructions on how to handle an emergency, such as earthquake, utility failure, fire, active shooter, etc. Charts with this information are also available around campus.
- **See Something, Say Something:** Report unsafe or hazardous conditions on campus. If you see a life-threatening or emergency situation, please call 801-585-2677.

Safety Escorts: For students who are on campus at night or past business hours and would like an escort to your car, please call 801-585-2677. You can call 24 hours and a security officer will be sent to walk with you or give you a ride to your dorm.

*****THIS IS A PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS, SOME MINOR CHANGES MAY BE MADE BEFORE CLASSES BEGIN ON MONDAY, January 7, 2019*****

*****Please Note there is NO comprehensive final exam in this course*****