Social Problems
SOCIOLOGY 1020-090, Spring 2020
3 Credit Hours

Course Syllabus (12/12/19)

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:


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 19th, 2020 (Chapters 1-7)
Exam #2: Thursday, April 23rd, 2020 (Chapters 8-14)
Papers Due: Wednesday, March 25th, 2020

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. Your paper topic must be approved in advance no later than Friday February 28th. 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).

**University Safety Statement**

The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding
campus safety via text messages. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu

Course Schedule and Outline for Sociology 1020-090

Week 1, January 6 - 10: Introduction to course and Chapter 1

Week 2, January 13 - 17: Chapter 2

Week 3, January 20 - 24: Chapter 3 and Discussion #1 is due Thursday Jan 23rd

Week 4, Jan 27 – 31: Chapter 4 and Chapter 5

Week 5, February 3 - 7: Chapters 6 and 7, Discussion #2 is due Thursday Feb 6th

Week 6, February 10 - 14: Chapter 8

Week 7, February 17 - 21: Review, Exam #1 is Wednesday February 19th

**Exam #1 will be available online for 24 hours beginning at 8AM, Wednesday Feb 19th***

Week 8, February 24 – 28: Chapter 9

Week 9, March 2 - 6: Chapter 10 and Discussion #3 is due Thursday, March 5th

Week 10, March 8 - 15: ***Spring Break: No Classes***

Week 11, March 16 - 20: Chapters 11 and 12

Week 12, March 23 – 27: Chapter 13 and Papers are due Wednesday, March 25th

Week 13, March 30 - April 3: Chapter 14, Discussion #4 is due Thursday, April 2nd

Week 14, April 6 - 10: Chapters 15 and 16

Week 15, April 13 - 17: Chapter 17, Discussion #5 is Due Thursday, April 16th

Week 16, April 20 - 21: Review for Exam #2

***Exam #2 will be available online for 24 hours beginning Thursday April 23rd***

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 any type of emergency, such as earthquake, utility failure, fire, active shooter, etc. Many of these instructions 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 a day and a security officer will be sent to walk with you or give you a ride to your destination.
***THIS IS A PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS, SOME MINOR CHANGES MAY BE MADE BEFORE CLASSES BEGIN ON MONDAY, January 6, 2020***

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