Social Problems
SOCIOLOGY 1020-090, Fall 2019

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Bruce Rigby
Class Meetings: This is an Online Course
Office Hours: “Virtual” Office meetings or 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 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
- The Environment and Society
- Terrorism

While some of these issues do not appear to affect us directly in our day-to-day lives, they do have an
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, October 2, 2019 (Chapters 1-8)
Exam #2: Monday, December 9, 2019 (Chapters 9-17)
Papers Due: Wednesday, October 30, 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 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, October 30th, 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. 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, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu.

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Course Schedule and Outline for Sociology 1020-090
Week 1, August 19 - 23: Introduction to course and Chapter 1

Week 2, August 26 – 30: Chapter 2

Week 3, September 2 - 6: Chapter 3 and Discussion #1 is due Thursday Sept. 5th

Week 4, September 9 - 13: Chapter 4 and begin Chapter 5

Week 5, September 16 - 20: Chapters 5 and 6, Discussion #2 is due Thursday Sept. 19th

Week 6, Sept. 23 – 27: Chapters 7 and 8

Week 7, Sept. 31 - October 4: Review, Exam #1 is Wednesday October 2nd and Discussion #3 is due Thursday October 3rd

***Exam #1 will be available online for 24 hours beginning at 8AM, Wednesday Oct 2nd***

Week 8, October 6 - 13: Fall Break, No classes

Week 9, October 14 - 18: Chapter 9 and begin Chapter 10

Week 10, October 21 - 25: Chapter 11 and begin Chapter 12, Discussion #4 is due Thursday October 24th

Week 11, October 28 – November 1: Chapter 13 and

***Papers are due Wednesday October 30th***

Week 12, November 4 - 8: Chapter 14 and Discussion #5 is due Thursday November 15th

Week 13, November 11 – 15: Chapter 15

Week 14, November 18 – 22: Chapter 16

***Thanksgiving Break is November 28-29, No classes***

Week 15, November 25 – 27: Chapter 17

Week 16, December 2 – 6: Review for Exam #2

***Exam #2 will be available online for 24 hours beginning Monday, December 9th***
***THIS IS A PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS, SOME MINOR CHANGES MAY BE MADE BEFORE CLASSES BEGIN ON MONDAY, August 19, 2019***

***Please Note there is NO comprehensive final exam in this course***
CSBS EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

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 in 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. Flip 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 911!

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 24/7 and a security officer will be sent to walk with you or give you a ride to your desired on-campus location.