

# Social Problems

SOCIOLOGY 1020-090, Spring 2013

## Course Syllabus

**Instructor:** Bruce Rigby

**Class Meetings:** This is an Online Course

**Office Hours:** “Virtual” Office meetings or on campus by appointment

**Office:** 311 BEHS Phone: 581-5842 or 581-6153 (message)

E-Mail: [bruce.rigby@soc.utah.edu](mailto:bruce.rigby@soc.utah.edu) or through the Blackboard Vista mail feature.

### Required Text:

**Social Problems: A Down-To-Earth Approach**, James Henslin, Tenth Edition, Allyn and Bacon, 2011, ISBN: 978-0-205-00416-4.

There may be additional readings that are available through *e-reserve* at the Marriott Library.

**System Requirements:** This is an online class that can be “attended” from anywhere there is an internet connection. Assignments and discussions will be submitted electronically. There is a “Check Browser” tab on the Blackboard Vista homepage. I would highly suggest you utilize that utility to ensure your system will operate efficiently within this course. The recommended browsers are Firefox and Safari (Safari 4 has had some issues, we would recommend you NOT upgrade while taking this course). 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

The primary goal of this course is to provide students with a basic understanding of current social problems and to utilize a sociological perspective in understanding those problems. We will examine a variety of social problems including poverty, illiteracy, racism, sexism, crime and criminal justice, aging, urbanization and population, and 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, 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 75 points, and the discussions are worth 25 points. There are 300 points possible for this course.

## **3. Important Dates:**

**Exam #1: Thursday, February 21, 2013**

**Exam #2: Tuesday, April 23, 2013**

**Papers Due: Tuesday, April 2, 2013**

Exams will cover material from your text, 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.

## **4. 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 Tuesday, April 6, 2010 by 4pm, MST.

## **5. 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.

## **6. 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.

**7. Student Code:** All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, and in all electronic interactions according to the student code, spelled out in the student handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the code. The code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) 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 responsibility of the faculty to enforce responsible classroom behaviors. Violations of the student code may result in a written warning, dismissal from the class, a failing grade, or dismissal from the university. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavioral Committee.

**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.

**Course Schedule and Outline for Sociology 1020-090**

**Week 1, January 7 – 12: Chapters 1 and 2**

**Week 2, January 14 – 19: Chapter 3**

**Week 3, January 21 – 26: Chapter 4 and Discussion #1 is due Wednesday, January 23rd**

**Week 4, January 28 - February 2: Chapter 5**

**Week 5, February 4 – 9: Chapter 6**

**Week 6, February 11 – 16: Chapter 7 and Discussion #2 is due Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Week 7, February 18 – 23: Review and Exam #1,  
Exam #1 is available for 24 hours beginning on Thursday, February 21st.**

**Week 8, February 25 - March 2: Chapter 8**

**Week 9, March 4 - 9: Chapter 9 and Discussion #3 is due Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Week 10, March 11 -17: SPRING BREAK, No Classes**

**Week 11, March 18 – 23: Chapter 10**

**Week 12, March 25 – 30: Chapter 11**

**Week 13, April 1 – 6: Chapter 12 and Papers Due Tuesday, April 2nd by 6 pm, MST**

**\*\*\*Discussion #4 is due Wednesday, April 3rd\*\*\***

**Week 14, April 8 – 13: Chapter 13**

**Week 15, April 15 -20: Chapter 14 and review for Exam #2**

**\*\*\*Discussion #5 is due Wednesday, April 17th\*\*\***

**Week 16: April 22 – 24: Exam #2 will be available for 24 hours beginning on Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

**\*\*\*THIS IS A PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS, SOME MINOR CHANGES MAY BE MADE BEFORE CLASSES BEGIN ON MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2013\*\*\***

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