



# **Social Problems**

## **SOCIOLOGY 1020-020**

### **Spring 2014**

#### Course Syllabus

**Instructor: Bruce Rigby**

**Class Meetings: Mondays 6-8:45 PM, Bountiful 102**

**Office Hours: Before/after class 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 Canvas system**

#### Required Text:

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

#### 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: Monday, February 24, 2014**

**Exam #2: Monday, April 21, 2014**

**Papers Due: Monday, March 24, 2014**

Exams will cover material from your text, in-class lectures, and any other material presented in class. Exams will be taken electronically via the Canvas system. 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 student 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 Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup> in class. This paper is worth 75 points towards your final grade. Late papers will lose substantial points.

#### **5. Discussions**

There will be 5 electronic 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. These discussions are worth 5 points each towards your final grade.

#### **6. Testing**

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

**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 in 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.

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

**Week 1, January 6-10: Chapters 1 and 2**

**Week 2, January 13-17: Chapter 3 and begin Chapter 4**

**Week 3, January 20-24: Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday, NO CLASS**

**Discussion #1 is due Wednesday, January 22nd**

**Week 4, January 27-31: Chapter 5**

**Week 5, February 3-7: Chapter 6**

**Week 6, February 10-14: Chapter 7 and Review**

**Discussion #2 is due Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Week 7, February 17-21: Presidents Day Holiday, NO CLASS**

**Week 8, February 24-28: Exam #1**

**Exam #1 is available for 24 hours beginning on Monday, February 24th**

**Week 9, March 3-7: Chapter 8 and begin chapter 9**

**Discussion #3 is due Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Week 10, March 9-16: SPRING BREAK, No Classes**

**Week 11, March 17-21: Finish Chapter 9 and Chapter 10**

**Week 12, March 24-28: Chapter 11 and Papers due Monday March 24th**

**Week 13, March 31-April 4: Chapter 12**

**\*\*\*Discussion #4 is due Wednesday, April 2nd\*\*\***

**Week 14, April 7-11: Chapter 13**

**Week 15, April 14-18: Chapter 14 and review for Exam #2**

**\*\*\*Discussion #5 is due Wednesday, April 16th\*\*\***

**Week 16: April 21-25: Exam #2**

**Exam #2 will be available for 24 hours beginning on Monday, April 21st.**

**\*\*\*THIS IS A PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS, SOME MINOR CHANGES MAY BE MADE BEFORE CLASSES BEGIN ON MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014\*\*\***

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