

# **Social Problems**

## **SOCIOLOGY 1020-090,**

### **Fall 2014**

### 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.**

**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

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, 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: TBA**

**Exam #2: TBA**

**Papers Due: TBA**

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 (TBA), by 6:00 PM MDT.

**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. The grading rubric for discussions is:

10 points: Excellent

7-9 points: Acceptable

4-6 points: Marginal Effort

0 points: Not Submitted

**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:** 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.**

**\*\*\*This is a preliminary syllabus that may be modified prior to classes beginning on 8/25/14\*\*\***