

Social Problems Section 4  
Spring 2008

Course Title: Social Problems in Contemporary Society  
Course Number: 2750-004  
Class Times: 0800-0915 Tuesday Thursday  
Class Location: Blair Hall 1103

Instructor Roger Cunningham  
Office: Blair Hall 3134  
Phone: 581-3453  
Office Hours: 0930-1200 hours Tuesday, Thursday, and by appointment  
E-Mail: [recunningham@eiu.edu](mailto:recunningham@eiu.edu) Please use this mail address **ONLY**  
**DO NOT USE WEB CT EMAIL**

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will present social problems as a subject of study using the tools of Sociology. We will discuss relevant current events in addition to lecture and selected readings. I will encourage you to bring relevant information to class for discussion and debate.

The course's objectives are to provide you with the tools for a critical analysis of contemporary social problems, and experience in applying those tools. We will approach these objectives through lecture, class discussion, in-class assignments, and information found in the text.

The secondary goal is to improve your ability to sort out important facts, retain those facts, and be able to apply them appropriately in logical arguments.

The last goal will be to further develop your analytic skills.

You will be able to accomplish the first goal by regular class attendance and participation. The second and third will be accomplished by adequately meeting the class requirements/assignments.

Text:

Macionis, John J. (2005) *Social Problems*. Pearson Prentice Hall.

Examinations:

You will be given Chapter tests and several in-class assignments (number to be determined).

All take-home writing assignments must be typed using number 12 font and double spaced. Late assignments will not be accepted and will result in a zero grade for the assignment.

Tests will be based on the course objectives and will be (multiple choice/guess), true and false examinations. The examinations will cover both the readings and lectures. Please take note—it will be important to attend class and take notes, as you will be responsible for the material that is covered in lectures, but will not be found in the text.

Missed tests may be counted as a zero. In case of a serious need to be absent on a test day, and if I agree **in advance**, an alternate test can be arranged.

Tests will be worth most of the class grade. Attendance and participation will be used to augment borderline grades.

The grading scale:	100 – 90	A
	89 – 80	B
	79 – 70	C
	69 – 60	D
	59 and Below	F

#### Class Discussion:

Even though this is a lecture-based course everyone will be expected to have read his or her assignments and be prepared to discuss the material.

Lecture notes will be placed on the WebCT system. **Students can print the slides and use the slides as a guide for note taking during class—this is encouraged.**

#### Consequences of Academic Dishonesty:

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on exam, paper or project; failure of the course; and/or expulsion from the university. For more information refer to the guidelines “Academic Integrity Standards at Eastern Illinois University” posted in the classroom

#### Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible.

#### Classroom Conduct:

Do not talk during the class

Do not “text” during the class

Do not arrive late to class, unless you have made prior arrangements

Do not leave trash in the class

**Be respectful of your classmates and their opportunity to learn**

### **DISABILITIES STATEMENT**

Students with documented disabilities are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) if they wish to discuss any necessary academic accommodations.

### **MEDICAL EMERGENCY STATEMENT**

For medical emergencies, go to the nearest phone and call 911. All faculty offices have telephones and during normal business hours (8-12 and 1-4:30), the Sociology Office (Blair 3170) is open. Be sure to state the floor and room number of the emergency to the 911 operator. If possible, someone should go to the central entrance of Blair Hall to direct EMS personnel to the medical emergency scene. If the medical emergency is on the second or third floor, someone else should hold the elevator on the first floor for EMS use.

### **TORNADO STATEMENT**

In case of a tornado warning, proceed to the center of the hallway on the first floor, near the posted severe weather signs. Under no circumstances should you attempt to leave the building.

### **BUILDING FIRE STATEMENT**

In case of fire, activate the fire alarm and exit the building. When a fire alarm sounds, everyone must exit the building and cannot re-enter the building until allowed by the building coordinator or fire department official. Fire alarms are located at the north and south ends of the corridors just inside the fire doors. The closes exits for all classrooms in Blair are on the north and south ends of the building. Under no circumstance should the elevator be used. Group assembly areas for all classes in Blair are either on the patio area between Blair and Old Main or on the southeast corner of the North Quad. As you exit the building, continue moving well away from the exits so that you do not impede the egress of other students or the work of fire officials. Move a safe distance away from the building.

Tentative Course Outline:

This tentative outline means that student will be responsible for attending class, thus keeping up with the material and assignments each week. You will be given ample time (at least one week of advance notice) to prepare for all tests and/or assignments which will be graded.

Course Content: In the 42 class sessions, not including the final, we will endeavor to cover 6 or 7 chapters. The topics covered in the last few weeks of class will be selected later in the term. The following will be covered.

- Chapter 1: Studying Social Problems
- Chapter 2: Poverty and Wealth
- Chapter 6: Crime and Criminal Justice
- Chapter 7: Violence
- Chapter 8: Sexuality
- Chapter 9: Alcohol and Other Drugs

**Final Examination: Will be Tuesday, April 29, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m., all students must take the final on the assigned day. There will be no exceptions.**