Social Problems in Contemporary Society
Soc 2750G Section 2
Fall 2016

Course Title:	Social Problems in Contemporary Society
Course Number:	2750-002
Class Times:	12:30-1:45 Tuesday and Thursday
Class Location:	Blair Hall 1165
Credit Hours:	3
Instructor	Roger Cunningham
Office:	Blair Hall 3122
Phone:	Cell 217 273 2292
Office Hours:	8:30-9:30 am and 11:00-12:00 pm Tuesday and Thursday, and by appointment
E-Mail:	recunningham@eiu.edu **Please use this mail address** **I check this email throughout the day. D2L can be used, but I do not check it as regularly as the eiu.edu account**

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Catalog course description: Sociological considerations of the historical development, definitions and nature of social problems, ranging from the global to the interpersonal, and grounded within theoretical frameworks.

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.

In successfully completing this course, students will:

(1) Describe the role of power (social, political, economic) in defining and addressing social problems (critical thinking, citizenship).
(2) Describe the study of social problems is not value free and objective, but socially constructed and political (critical thinking, citizenship).
(3) Analyze the essential link between "private troubles" and "public issues," between the fate of individuals and the social forces surrounding them (critical thinking, citizenship).
(4) List the stereotypes and myths commonly held about the social problems considered (critical thinking, citizenship)
(5) Analyze social problems using the following characteristics: caused by multiple factors operating at multiple levels of social life; involve intergroup conflict; require resolution through social action
(critical thinking, citizenship).
(6) Analyze and apply competing perspectives of material presented to social problems, and compare these to their own perceptions of the social problems covered (writing, critical thinking)

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, viewing/analyzing videos using sociological theory, 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. (2010) *Social Problems.* *Pearson* Prentice Hall.

Examinations:

You will be given two, in depth quizzes, per chapter, typically with a one week notice.

I will also be offering one extra credit assignment. It will be completely voluntary and will not adversely impact your grade if you do not wish to participate.

Quizzes will be based on the course objectives and will be multiple choice or 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 that might not be found in the text.

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

Quizzes 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

Attendance and Participation:
Attendance and participation will be used to augment borderline grades. For example if you have quiz scores that put you with in two (2) percentage points of the next higher grade and have five (5) or fewer unexcused absences I will raise your grade to the next level, i.e. 88% increases to a 90%,78% increases to an 80%, 68% increases to a 70%. **It is your responsibility to provide documentation if you are absent for an unavoidable reason.**

Class Discussion:
Even though this is a lecture-based course everyone will be expected to have read their assignments and be prepared to discuss the material. The chapter should be read prior to the beginning of lecture. This will help facilitate a deeper understanding of the material and enhance your learning experience.

Lecture notes will be placed on the D2L 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 form 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.

The Student Success Center
Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides Individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

Classroom Conduct:

Do not talk during the class—chatter between students disrupts the class
Do not "text" during the class
Please "**silence**" cell phones prior to our class period
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

No electronic devices can be used during testing periods
No one will be allowed to leave the room during testing

Violation of the conduct code could result in disciplinary action by the University

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.

Wed., Dec. 14 8:00-10:00 a.m.

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 of 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 quizzes.

Course Content: In the 42 class sessions, not including the final, we will endeavor to cover 4 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 8: Alcohol and Other Drugs
Chapter 7: Sexuality

Final Examination: Will be:

Mon., Dec. 12 12:30-2:30 p.m. Mon., Dec. 12 12:30-2:30 p.m.

All students must take the final on the assigned day. Any exceptions will be governed by University policy; normally there will be no exceptions.