

Social Problems in Contemporary Society
SOC 2750G On-line
FALL 2016

Course Title: Social Problems in Contemporary Society
Course Number: 2750-600/601
Class Times: Arranged-Internet
Class Location: Internet

Instructor Roger Cunningham
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Office Hours: 8:30-9:30 am and 11:00-12:00 pm Tuesday and Thursday, and by appointment
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I check this email throughout the day. D2L is checked daily

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.

Text:

Macionis, John J. (2010) *Social Problems*. Pearson Prentice Hall.

Examinations and Writing assignments:

You will be given chapter exams and quizzes, typically two quizzes per chapter.

Exams/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 stay current on readings, assignments and assessment as you will be responsible for the material that is covered in lectures and video assignment, but that might not be found in the text.

Missed tests and quizzes may be counted as a zero. I will make the assessments available for multiple days, but there will only one attempt allowed and there will be a time limit.

Tests and quizzes will be worth approximately one half of the class grade. There will be discussion questions assigned which will cover the assigned videos and they will make up the remainder of the available class points.

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

In addition there will be five (5) short writing assignments in this course. Each assignment will require an application of competing perspectives of the material presented in the chapter being analyzed.

Class Discussion:

Class discussions will consist of answering questions and/or discussing specific topics that will be presented in addition to the material offered by the text. This will help facilitate a deeper understanding of the material and enhance your learning experience.

Lecture power point slides will be placed on the D2L system.

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

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.

Students with Disabilities

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

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.

e Course Outline:

This tentative outline means that student will be responsible for 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 exams.

Course Content: In the sixteen weeks of this term we will endeavor to cover the listed chapters. The following will be covered.

Chapter 1: Studying Social Problems

Chapter 2: Poverty and Wealth

Chapter 8: Alcohol and Other Drugs

Chapter 7: Sexuality

Chapter 6: Crime, Violence, and Criminal Justice

There will also be several videos that will need to be viewed, analyzed and discussed; therefore you will need access to adequate technology to view the material.

Final Examination:

All course work must be completed by the December 12. There will be no exceptions.