

Social Problems
SOC 2020
Fall 2014
Tuesday/Thursday 10:40am-12:20pm
Wayne State University
0169 EDU

Instructor: Jennifer Haskin
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Office: 2244 FAB
Office Hours: 12:30pm – 2pm Tuesday/Thursday
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Course Description. In this course, we will learn about major contemporary social problems that reveal structural strains, value conflicts, deviations and changes in society. We will also analyze socio-cultural factors creating problems and of possible solutions.

Required Text. Macionis, John. *Social Problems*. 5th edition. Pearson. **Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard.**

Course Policies and Other Important Information

Contact Information. The **best** way to contact me is via email: jennhaskin@wayne.edu. Please put “SOC 2020” in the subject line of your email. You can also leave a message in the office at your own risk (chances are I will not get it in a timely manner). I will respond to email within 24 hours. If you do not get a response from me within 24 hours, assume that I did not receive your email and send it again.

Communication. All course information will be broadcast via the Internet, posted on Blackboard. Each of you has been assigned an email account by Wayne State University and if you decide to use a different account, it is up to you to forward your WSU email to that alternative account. I will post any notices, including **a weekly announcement**, revisions to the syllabus, articles of interest, and other information on Blackboard. Choosing not to check your email, or Blackboard is not an excuse for missing assignments or other information relevant to this course. You can learn about Blackboard at: <http://computing.wayne.edu/blackboard/>.

Missed Classes. The student is responsible for all announcements made during class, whether or not s/he is present. Major announcements will be posted to the blackboard. It is the student’s responsibility to get class notes from another student and to seek clarification about the nature of the missed material from me. I will not repeat course lectures during office hours and I will not give students a copy of my lecture notes. I am willing to answer questions about classroom activities, whether or not you were there for the activities.

Late Work Policy. Late work is not accepted.

Challenging Grades. If you believe that you have been graded unfairly on any assignment, you must first contact me via email and see if this is a simple mistake or oversight. If this does not resolve your question you must then address your concerns to me in writing. You should provide specific points...for example if you believe that a multiple-choice question was graded incorrectly, you must provide evidence from the course book(s) to document your statement. Once I have reviewed your request for a grade change, one of several things may happen. If you are able to show that you are correct your grade will be changed. I may request an in person meeting if I need more clarification on your argument. If you still feel after this process that your grade is not reflective of your effort, your next line of appeal would be through the Sociology Department. Be advised that challenged grades can result either in an increase, a decrease or no change in one's grade.

Incomplete/Withdrawal Policy. I do not give Incompletes. Information on Wayne State policies can be found at <http://reg.wayne.edu/students/information.php> - [dropping](#). The withdrawal system at WSU is student-initiated, so if you are hoping to withdraw from the course you must do so yourself via pipeline. Students who do not formally withdraw from the course but stop attending and do not complete the course requirements will receive a failing grade in the course. Note that September 10, 2014 is the last day to drop a class with tuition cancellation and November 9, 2014 is the last day to withdraw from a class.

Cell Phones and Laptops: Students are asked to shut off, or put on vibrate, all communication devices during class time. Please do not use your phones to text or retrieve messages during the class time. Doing so will be distracting to the class process. **I will ask those who choose to violate this policy to leave the classroom at once.** I will allow laptops for note taking ONLY. Those who choose to use laptops must sit in the front rows of the classroom. If I find that this privilege is being abused, I will revoke it for everyone in the classroom. I do not allow audio recording of lecture. I want you to be present and taking notes.

Academic Dishonesty: Assignments must be clearly distinguishable from those of other students or sources. Plagiarism is considered cheating; any quoted material must be placed in quotation marks with proper references to the author included. "You may use statistical data or paraphrase other published works, but ONLY if you provide the complete citation, which includes author's last name and year. This means, even if you use your own words, but the ideas are from something you read you must give credit to that author" (Brumley, 2008). If you think you might be plagiarizing, then you probably ARE! Copying entire paragraphs from sources is not appropriate even if citations are provided. Evidence of cheating or plagiarizing will result in automatic failure of the test/assignment and possibly the course. Please see the student code of conduct for more information on WSU's policies regarding student conduct <http://doso.wayne.edu/assets/codeofconduct.pdf>

Extra Credit. I do not give extra credit, extra assignments, or other extra opportunities for improving grades. Moreover, I do not negotiate grades, except when you believe there is an explicit error in the grading procedures. No grades will be determined by a curve. Students earn grades; they are not given.

Advisement and Office Hours. I am always willing to discuss the results of an assignment, as well as readings or lectures that you may be struggling with to understand. It is your responsibility as a student to come to me if you have any questions, concerns, or comments relating to the class and your work in that class! Therefore, it is always your responsibility as a student to ask if you are concerned about your grade. Do not wait until the last week or so of the semester to try to do something about a failing grade. At that point it is just too late. You should always ask whenever you have a question about how you are doing in the class instead of ignoring the situation. Again, if you are having any difficulties, I strongly recommend you discuss those immediately with me.

Syllabus. This syllabus is your guide for the semester. The schedule is fairly set and little if anything will change. However, I reserve the right to modify the program if it is necessary. If you have any questions about when an assignment is due, what the reading is, what the course policies are, or how your grade is calculated and what percentages each assignment is worth, you should consult this document. **I will not use valuable class time to repeatedly explain the details that are already outlined in the course syllabus.** Thus, if you do not understand something that is written on the syllabus, you should send me an email or stop by my office. This same policy follows for all assignments. You will always receive all assignments written in detail and I do not intend on using class time to review these and address questions where the answers are found in the written assignment.

Attendance/Participation. Class attendance and participation is required. Research confirms that class attendance and final grade are positively correlated. In other words – higher attendance rates = higher grades. Be prepared to respond to questions I ask in class. Attendance is worth roughly 14% of your final grade, but is yours to lose. Normal class attendance and participation will get you all these points.

Accommodation for Special Needs. If you need an academic accommodation because of a disability, please advise me and make an appointment as soon as possible to verify the disability and arrange for accommodation. [Student Services Website](#).

Upon Successful Completion of this course, you should be able to

- Analyze social problems through the discipline of sociology and have an understanding of some of the key debates/problems in the nature of social life
- Articulate some of the central challenges facing our society and the world in the 21st century and be able to evaluate them
- Engage more critically in discussions about your own role as a citizen and propose ways to alleviate the major social problems facing society today

General Course Expectations

- Attend all class meetings and actively participate in class.
- Be responsible for what you have missed should you be absent from class.
- Read and complete all required assignments prior to coming to class.
- Ask questions right away if you do not understand an assignment!

- Get additional help from the The David Adamany Undergraduate Library Writing Center if necessary.
- Respect everyone in the classroom. This includes, but is not limited to, respectful means of communication, not disrupting class by using phones or other technology in ways that is not related to class, and quiet consumption of food & beverages.
- Don't procrastinate! This goes both for assignments and in contacting me with questions or concerns.

Assignments

In Class Pop Quizzes. Every so often, I will give a pop quiz at the beginning of class. You will not know in advance when these quizzes will be, and anyone arriving late to class will not be allowed to take one. Each quiz is worth **10 points**.

Unit Test. Our course is divided into 5 "Units." At the end of each unit, there will be a short multiple-choice, matching, true/false test that you will take through Blackboard. Tests will be made available for a period of 48 hours, and must be completed in one sitting. You may not make up a test for any reason. Each test is worth **20 points**.

Final Exam. Your **cumulative** final exam will be a combination of multiple choice/true-false/fill in the blank, and is scheduled for December 10, 2014 http://reg.wayne.edu/finals/final_exam_schedule_fall_2014.pdf. Just like Unit Tests, the Final Exam will be given through Blackboard. It will be available from 8am on December 10, 2014 to 11:59pm December 10, 2014. You will need to complete your exam in one sitting. The final exam is worth **100 points**.

Changes to the syllabus. I reserve the right to make adjustments to this syllabus throughout the semester. Please pay close attention to all announcements in class and on blackboard.

Grading

Category	Number	Points Each	Total Points	Grade %
In Class Pop Quizzes	10	10	100	28.6%
Unit Tests	5	20	100	28.6%
Final Exam	1	100	100	28.6%
Attendance/Participation	25	2	50	14.2%

Grading Scale

93-100% A	87-89.9% B+	77-79.9% C+	67-69.9% D+
90-92.9% A-	83-86.9% B	73-76.9% C	63-66.9% D
	80-82.9% B-	70-72.9% C-	60-62.9% D-
			Below 60% F

Date	Reading	Topic
8/28/14	Syllabus	Introductions and Syllabus
Unit 1: Sociology's Basic Approach		
9/2/14	Chapter 1	Sociology: Studying Social Problems
9/4/14	Chapter 1	
UNIT 1 QUIZ WILL BE AVAILABLE 9/4 AT 5PM		
Unit 2: Problems of Social Inequality		
9/9/14	Chapter 2	Poverty and Wealth
9/11/14	Chapter 2	
9/16/14	Chapter 3	Racial and Ethnic Inequality
9/18/14	Chapter 3	
9/23/14	Chapter 4	Gender Inequality
9/25/14	Chapter 4	
9/30/14	Chapter 5	Aging and Inequality
UNIT 2 QUIZ WILL BE AVAILABLE 9/30 AT 5PM		
Unit 3: Problems of Deviance, Conformity, and Well-Being		
10/2/14	Chapter 6	Crime, Violence and Criminal Justice
10/7/14	Chapter 7	Sexuality
10/9/14	Chapter 8	Alcohol and Other Drugs
10/14/14	Chapter 9	Physical and Mental Health
UNIT 3 QUIZ WILL BE AVAILABLE 10/14 AT 5PM		
Unit 4: Problems of Social Institutions		
10/16/14	Chapter 10	Economy and Politics
10/21/14	Chapter 10	
10/23/14	Chapter 11	Work and the Workplace
10/28/14	Chapter 12	Family Life
10/30/14	Chapter 12	
11/4/14	Chapter 13	Education
11/6/14	Chapter 13	
11/11/14	Chapter 14	Urban Life
UNIT 4 QUIZ WILL BE AVAILABLE 11/11 AT 5PM		
Unit 5: Global Problems		
11/13/14	Chapter 15	Population and Global Inequality
11/18/14	Chapter 15	
11/20/14	Chapter 16	Technology and the Environment
11/25/14	No Class	
11/27/14	No Class	
12/2/14	Chapter 16	Technology and the Environment
UNIT 5 QUIZ WILL BE AVAILABLE 12/2 AT 5PM		
12/4/14	REVIEW	
12/10/14	Final Exam	

