

**SOCIOLOGY 2020**  
**SOCIAL PROBLEMS**  
**FALL, 2014**

- INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. George Ntiri
- OFFICE HOURS:** By Appointment (313-577-2930) or (313-598-8888)
- REQUIRED TEXT:** D. Stanley Eitzen and Maxine Baca Zinn, SOCIAL PROBLEMS 11<sup>th</sup> and later Editions.
- COURSE OBJECTIVE:** The aim of this course is to provide students basic understanding of the conditions and behaviors that are deemed harmful to society, their dynamics and solutions. To do this, we will use a set of sociological perspectives as framework for the analysis of a range of social problems for insights into their causes, consequences and possible solutions.
- LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**
- The student will demonstrate an understanding of how social problems are created and sustained by society
  - The student will be able to distinguish between personal and social problems
  - The student will be able to identify issues of inequality such as social class, racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia as sources of contemporary social problems.
  - The student will be able to identify myths, stereotypes and ideologies that distort understanding of contemporary social problems and their solutions.
  - The student will be able to use sociological approach or imagination to examine contemporary social problems and public debates about their solutions.
- COURSE FORMAT:** A lecture format will be combined with class discussion to allow student participation and contributions to the class.
- COURSE EVALUATION:** There will be three examinations. The first two examinations will include lectures and the reading assignments as indicated below. The third examination will be comprehensive.
- Exam I        Chapters 1 - 6
  - Exam II       Chapters 7 - 13
  - Exam III will be comprehensive

CLASS ATTENDANCE: Will count for ten (10) percent of the course grade. Each absence beginning with the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) absence will be assessed one (1) percent grade point up to a maximum of ten (10) percent for twelve (12) absences.

EXAM DATES AND  
GRADING:

Exam I	October 8	30%
Exam II	November 5	30%
Exam III	December 10	40%

**\*THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS**

ACCOMMODATION  
FOR STUDENTS  
WITH DISABILITIES:

If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services for coordination of your academic accommodations. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department. SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-577-3365 (TDD only). Once you have your accommodations in place, I will be glad to meet with you privately to discuss your special needs.

## READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week of	TOPIC	READING
August 25	<b>INTRODUCTION</b> 1. COURSE OVERVIEW	Lecture
September 1	2. Sociological Approach to Social Problems	Chapter 1
8	3. Wealth and Power	Chapter 2
15	<b>PEOPLE, ENVIRONMENT AND LOCATION</b> 1. World Population and Global Inequality 2. Threats to the Environment	Chapters 3-4
22	3. Demographic Changes in the U.S. 4. Problems of Place	Chapters 5–6
29	<b>INEQUALITY:</b> 1. Overview 2. Poverty 3. Race and Ethnicity	Chapters 7-8
October 6	4. Gender 5. Sexual Orientation 6. Disability	Chapters 9 – 11
13	<b>DEVIANCE:</b> 1. Overview 2. Crime and Justice	Chapter 12
20	3. Drugs	Chapters 13
27	<b>INSTITUTIONS:</b> 1. Overview 2. Work	Chapter 14
November 3	3. Families	Chapter 15
10	4. Education	Chapter 16
17	5. Health	Chapter 17
24	6. National Security	Chapter 18
December 1	<b>SOLUTIONS, SUMMARY AND REVIEW</b>	Chapter 19
8	<b>EXAMINATION III</b> Wednesday, December 10, 2014 8:30 a.m.	