

**SOC 1020: Social Problems (CRN: 27358)**

**Course Syllabus**

Class time: Mon. & Wed., 2:30-3:45pm

Class location: Shapero Hall, Room 100

**Instructor:** Patricia Morton, Ph.D.

**Office:** Faculty Administration Building (FAB), Room 2251

**Office hours:** Mon. & Wed. 1-2 PM; additional hours by appointment

**Email:** [patricia.morton@wayne.edu](mailto:patricia.morton@wayne.edu)

I usually respond within 1-2 business days. Please do not email me through Canvas.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant:** Megan St. George

**Office:** Faculty Administration Building (FAB), Room 2264

**Office hours:** Tue. Noon – 1 PM; Wed. 3:45 – 4:45 PM

**Email:** [megan.st.george@wayne.edu](mailto:megan.st.george@wayne.edu)

I usually respond within 1-2 business days.

You are responsible for the information in this syllabus. Read it carefully & ask questions if necessary. If the answer is in the syllabus, please do not email the instructor or GTA. However, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the course materials and lectures, please email the GTA.

**Course Description**

This course is an introduction to social problems. An empirical overview of problematic conditions in the U.S. and other societies will be presented, along with some discussion of major theoretical paradigms that may be applied to the study of social problems within the field of sociology. Social problems covered in the course include poverty, violence, crime, inequalities related to racism, sexism, and ageism, and imperfections in the major social institutions of family, education, and criminal justice. The course will also look at potential solutions to such problems from a sociological perspective.

**Course Objectives**

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate the nature and characteristics of a number of social problems.
- See how social problems are manifest in our everyday lives.
- Highlight the role of how politics shape social problems.
- Understand various sociological perspectives and methods used to investigate social problems – i.e., use your sociological imagination to understand social problems.
- Critically view and assess society in light of a wide variety of social issues.
- Identify potential solutions to these social issues.

**Required Materials**

Textbook

Title: *Social Problems*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed.

Author: John J. Macionis

ISBN-10: 0-13-463260-5; ISBN-13: 978-0-13-463260-5

Copyright year/Publisher: 2018/Pearson

Canvas: There will be additional materials, including readings and assignments, posted on Canvas throughout the semester. Please check Canvas regularly to access these materials and receive any

updates regarding the course. If you have any concerns about accessing Canvas, please talk to the GTA by the second week of class.

iClicker: You are required to bring your iClicker to every class starting the second week of class.

iClicker 2 remotes can be purchased at the WSU book store in the textbook department. Remotes are located at the registers on the second floor of the book store.

You MUST PURCHASE AND REGISTER your clicker by the drop/add deadline (January 18th) to receive credit for your responses. Please use the iClicker registration link located on our course Canvas site in the left-hand column. If you have a used clicker, the previous owner does not need to unregister, but you will be charged a one-time fee of \$6.99 to register the used remote under your name. If you make a mistake registering, just register again – the correct information will take precedence and you will not be required to pay the fee again. Please note that REEF polling (the mobile application) will not be allowed.

### **Attendance**

Wayne State University (WSU) requires instructors to report student attendance for the first two weeks of class. If attendance is not confirmed, the registrar will drop the student from the class. Please refer to WSU's Go to Class! website for more information: <http://reg.wayne.edu/gotoclass.php>

Due to this policy and the fact that students who attend class do significantly better in the course than students who do not attend, the iClicker will be used for attendance. Attendance will usually be taken at the beginning of class. Therefore, it is your responsibility to make sure you come to class on time and bring your iClicker. Students will be allowed two unexcused absences. Also, there will be in-class activities that require your attendance and count as participation points. Finally, you will have the opportunity to ask questions about the course material. Thus, attendance is highly recommended.

### **Make-up Policy**

In general, late work is not accepted. If you plan on missing a class the day an assignment is due, you must arrange a time with the GTA to turn in the assignment before class begins on the due date to receive full credit. There are no make-ups for exams or in-class assignments except for medical/familial emergencies; WSU excused absences (e.g., religious observances; University-related sports travel); and academic engagements (e.g., conference presentations). In the latter cases, you will need to inform me of the excused absence at least a week in advance to arrange for you to make-up work and submit any assignments per the policy mentioned above (i.e., before class due date).

Religious holidays: Because of the extraordinary variety of religious affiliations of the University student body and staff, the Academic Calendar makes no provisions for religious holidays. However, it is University policy to respect the faith and religious obligations of the individual. Students with classes or examinations that conflict with their religious observances are expected to notify their instructors well in advance so that mutually agreeable alternatives may be worked out.

### **Classroom Conduct**

I expect everyone, including myself, to respect everyone, actively listen to each other during class discussions, and facilitate an environment conducive for inclusion, equity, and learning. To maximize the learning capabilities of all students, please do not hesitate to ask me questions at any time during lecture to clarify or restate any material that I may not have sufficiently explained. Your participation is always welcomed, and I encourage students to share any relevant information. I also ask that distracting behavior, such as texting, web surfing, and talking to fellow students about material unrelated to the course, be avoided during class. Therefore, cell phone use is not allowed, and cell

phones should be kept off or on silent. Laptops may be used for academic purposes only that relate to the course, but are discouraged as they tend to be more distracting to the student using them and those around him or her.

### Respect

Throughout the course of this class, you will be challenged to think critically about your viewpoints and those of others. While discussion may produce topics or viewpoints you might not necessarily agree with, respectful and cordial behavior is expected from all students. Disrespectful behavior towards any group or individual will not be tolerated. Any student who does not abide by this policy may be asked to leave class, and further violations will be dealt with in accordance with WSU policies. I also ask that any sensitive information shared during our class time stays within our classroom's walls. As a final note, I will also adhere to these guidelines.

### Content Note

Because this course focuses on social problems, the content and discussion in this course will necessarily engage with sensitive topics every week. Much of it will be emotionally and intellectually challenging to engage with. I will do my best to make this classroom a space where we can engage bravely, empathetically, and thoughtfully with difficult content every week. Nevertheless, I realize that there may be topics that are disturbing, even traumatizing, to some students. Please review the topics and textbook each week before class meets. If you suspect that specific material is likely to be emotionally challenging for you, please contact me or the GTA before the class meets to discuss any concerns and/or create an alternative assignment to the in-class assignments. Likewise, if you ever wish to discuss your personal reactions to course material with the class or with me or the GTA individually afterwards, I welcome such discussions as an appropriate part of our classwork. If you ever feel the need to step outside during a class discussion you may always do so without academic penalty. You will, however, be responsible for any material you miss. If you do leave the room for a significant time, please make arrangements to get notes from another student or see the instructor or GTA individually to discuss the situation. Finally, WSU offers free mental health services to students. Wayne State's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) provides counseling and psychological services to students free of charge. If you are interested, here is the CAPS website: <https://caps.wayne.edu/>.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

I have a zero-tolerance policy for academic dishonesty and misbehavior. Academic misbehavior means any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the institution or subvert the education process. All forms of academic misbehavior are prohibited at Wayne State University, as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. Students who commit or assist in committing dishonest acts are subject to downgrading (to a failing grade/zero for the test, paper, or other course-related activity in question, or for the entire course) and/or additional sanctions as described in the Student Code of Conduct.

Academic dishonesty and misbehavior is not limited to, but includes:

- Cheating: Intentionally using or attempting to use, or intentionally providing or attempting to provide, unauthorized materials, information or assistance in any academic exercise. Examples include: (a) copying from another student's test paper; (b) allowing another student to copy from a test paper; (c) using unauthorized material such as a "cheat sheet" during an exam.
- Fabrication: Intentional and unauthorized falsification of any information or citation. Examples include: (a) citation of information not taken from the source indicated; (b) listing sources in a bibliography not used in a research paper.
- Plagiarism: To take and use another's words or ideas as one's own. Examples include: (a) failure to use appropriate referencing when using the words or ideas of other persons; (b) altering the

language, paraphrasing, omitting, rearranging, or forming new combinations of words in an attempt to make the thoughts of another appear as your own.

- Unauthorized reuse of work product: Submission for academic credit, without the prior permission of the instructor, of substantial work previously submitted for credit in another course. Example: submitting a paper in a current course that was written for, and submitted in, a previous course.
- Other forms of academic misbehavior include, but are not limited to: (a) unauthorized use of resources, or any attempt to limit another student's access to educational resources, or any attempt to alter equipment so as to lead to an incorrect answer for subsequent users; (b) enlisting the assistance of a substitute in the taking of examinations; (c) violating course rules as defined in the course syllabus or other written information provided to the student; (d) selling, buying or stealing all or part of an un-administered test or answers to the test; (e) changing or altering a grade on a test or other academic grade records.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, first you will need to register with Student Disability Services for coordination of your academic accommodations. The Student Disability Services office is located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library (UGL) in the Student Academic Success Services department. The Student Disability Services telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-202-4216 for videophone use. Once you have met with your disability specialist, the GTA and I will be glad to meet with you privately during my office hours to discuss your accommodations. Student Disability Services' mission is to assist the university in creating an accessible community where students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their educational experience at Wayne State University. You can learn more about the disability office at [www.studentdisability.wayne.edu](http://www.studentdisability.wayne.edu).

### Student Disability Services

Location: David Adamany Undergraduate Library, Room 1600 (UGL)

Phone: 313-577- 1851; 313-202-4216 for videophone use

Online registration form: [https://wayne-accommodate.symplicity.com/public\\_accommodation/](https://wayne-accommodate.symplicity.com/public_accommodation/)

Website: <https://studentdisability.wayne.edu/>

### **Additional Student Services**

The Academic Success Center (Undergraduate Library) assists students with content in select courses and in strengthening study skills. Visit [www.success.wayne.edu](http://www.success.wayne.edu) for schedules and information on study skills workshops, tutoring, and supplemental instruction (primarily in 1000 and 2000 level courses).

The Writing Center is located on the 2nd floor of the Undergraduate Library and provides individual tutoring consultations free of charge. Visit [clasweb.clas.wayne.edu/writing](http://clasweb.clas.wayne.edu/writing) to obtain information on tutors, appointments, and the type of help they can provide.

Library research assistance. Working on a research assignment, paper, or project? Trying to figure out how to collect, organize, and cite your sources? Wayne State librarians provide on campus or online personalized help. Contact them at <http://library.wayne.edu/consult>.

The W Food Pantry provides WSU students with free resources such as non-perishable food, toiletries, and feminine hygiene items, to enhance student success. Bring your OneCard and a copy or photo of your class schedule for the current semester to use their services. For more information, visit <https://thew.wayne.edu/>.

## Emergency Preparedness

In the event that an emergency arises, please familiarize yourself with the University's emergency procedures. For details, please refer to WSU's Emergency and Safety Procedures:

<https://police.wayne.edu/procedures.php>

## Class Recordings

Students need prior written permission from the instructor before recording any portion of this class. If permission is granted, the audio and/or video recording is to be used only for the student's personal instructional use. Such recordings are not intended for a wider public audience, such as postings to the internet or sharing with others. Students registered with Student Disabilities Services (SDS) who wish to record class materials must present their specific accommodation to the instructor, who will subsequently comply with the request unless there is some specific reason why s/he cannot, such as discussion of confidential or protected information.

## Drop/Withdraw

In the first two weeks of the (full) term, students can drop this class and receive 100% tuition and course fee cancellation. After the end of the second week, there is no tuition or fee cancellation. Students who wish to withdraw from the class can initiate a withdrawal request in Academica. You will receive a transcript notation of WP (passing), WF (failing), or WN (no graded work) at the time of withdrawal. No withdrawals can be initiated after the end of the tenth week. Students enrolled in the 10th week and beyond will receive a grade. Because withdrawing from courses may have negative academic and financial consequences, students considering course withdrawal should make sure they fully understand all the consequences before taking this step. More information on this can be found at:

<https://wayne.edu/students/register/dropping>.

**Note:** I will not sign off on a withdraw for a student who committed academic dishonestly.

## Grades

Final grade will be determined by the following:

Attendance	5%
Participation	15%
Quizzes	20%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3 (Final)	20%

## Grading Scale

A: 94 and above	C: 74-76
A-: 90-93	C-: 70-73
B+: 87-89	D+: 67-69
B: 84-86	D: 64-66
B-: 80- 83	D-: 60-63
B-: 80- 83	D-: 60-63
C+: 77-79	F: below 60

If your grade has been entered into Canvas incorrectly, please contact the GTA as soon as possible. If you have a question about the grade you received, students must contact the GTA within **1 week** of the grade being issued. Please check first to see if the answer is in the syllabus or available on Canvas before contacting the GTA. Early Academic Assessment (EAA) requires me to enter your grade during

week seven of the semester. You will receive an email notification if the grade entered is a C or lower. I will not enter your grade if you have a C or better. You can track your grades on Canvas. Final grades with a decimal point of 0.5 or above will be rounded up (e.g., 89.5, will be rounded up to a 90). Any final grades with a decimal point below 0.5, will be rounded down. Grades will be rounded when submitted by the instructor.

### **Description of Graded Work**

#### *Attendance*

Please see attendance policy above.

#### *Participation*

Participation will be assessed by your contribution to class discussions and in-class activities. Regarding class discussions, please make well-thought and appropriate comments related to the course material; quality is better than quantity. In-class activities (ICA) will be administered throughout the semester to exercise our critical thinking skills and apply what we learn in class. These will be a combination of group activities and use of the iClicker student response system (your actual responses won't be graded). Thus, please bring your iClicker every day. Students cannot make-up a missed ICA. To allow for last minute emergencies, the lowest ICA will be dropped.

#### *Quizzes*

There will be 6 quizzes during the semester. The purpose of these quizzes is to encourage you to stay up-to-date on the readings, attend class, and review material that will be on the exam. If you are up-to-date on the readings and actively listen in class, the quizzes should be fairly easy. All quizzes will be completed online in a timed session on Canvas. Any materials that the student wishes to use may be utilized while taking the quiz, but the quiz must be completed within the allotted time and by 8:00 pm on Monday. The quizzes will open on Fridays.

Because you have several days to take the quiz, make-ups will not be offered for missed quizzes. If you miss completing a quiz online, you will receive a zero for that quiz. However, the lowest quiz grade will be dropped to allow for last minute emergencies. Each quiz is worth 20 points. Additional information regarding quizzes will be provided in class.

#### *Exams*

There will be three timed, online exams to be completed in Canvas. Exams 1 and 2 focus on the specific chapters covered immediately prior to the exam. The Final Exam is cumulative. All exams are in multiple choice format. I am not a fan of sheer memorization, but it is important that students understand concepts and terms related to social problems. Building a basic knowledge of social problems will provide students with a foundation that will enrich discussions regarding social problems in and outside of the class. There will be a review before each exam. Students will have 24 hours to take the exam, and class will not meet on exam due dates to allow students time to take the exam.

\*\*I allow a substantial window of time to take and complete your quizzes and exams on Canvas. Please note that a lack of planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part (see make-up policy above). Thus, plan accordingly to avoid any last-minute issues because sometimes technology fails. WSU has an amazing tech support department that is waiting to help you. They close at 8:00 pm. Please begin your exams and quizzes well before the time it is due (at least 1 hour) to allow for technical difficulties and time to speak with tech support. Unless you have a support ticket that shows you contacted support in enough time to complete the exam, extensions will not be given. Tech support can be reached at <https://tech.wayne.edu/helpdesk>.

**Schedule\***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignments/Exams</b>
Week 1 Jan. 7	Introduction & Syllabus. Ch. 1 Studying Social Problems	
Week 2 Jan. 14	Ch. 2 Economic Inequality	iClicker registered by Jan. 18 and brought to each class starting week 3.
Week 3 Jan. 21	Ch. 3 Racial and Ethnic Inequality	<u>No class on Monday Jan. 21 (MLK day)</u>
Week 4 Jan. 28	Ch. 3 continued	<u>Quiz 1</u> due Monday 1/28 by 8 pm
Week 5 Feb. 4	Ch. 4 Gender Inequality Ch. 7 Sexuality	<u>Quiz 2</u> due Monday 2/4 by 8 pm
Week 6 Feb. 11	Catch-up/Review for Exam 1 (Monday)	<b><u>Exam 1 Wed. 2/13 by 8 pm: No in-class meeting</u></b>
Week 7 Feb. 18	Ch. 5 Aging and Inequality	Online Implicit Bias test: <a href="https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html">https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html</a>
Week 8 Feb. 25	Ch. 9 Physical and Mental Health	<u>Quiz 3</u> due Monday 2/25 by 8 pm
Week 9 Mar. 4	Ch. 6 Crime, Violence, and Criminal Justice	<u>Quiz 4</u> due Monday 3/4 by 8 pm
<b>SPRING BREAK MARCH 11-15</b>		
Week 10 Mar. 18	Ch. 8 Alcohol and Other Drugs Ch. 10 Economy and Politics	
Week 11 Mar. 25	Catch-up/Review for Exam 2 (Monday)	<b><u>Exam 2 Wed. 3/27 by 8 pm: No in-class meeting</u></b>
Week 12 Apr. 1	Ch. 11 Work and the Workplace Ch. 12 Family Life	
Week 13 Apr. 8	Ch. 13 Education	<u>Quiz 5</u> due Monday 4/8 by 8 pm
Week 14 Apr. 15	Ch. 14 Urban Life Ch. 17 War and Terrorism	<u>Quiz 6</u> due Monday 4/15 by 8 pm
Week 15 Apr. 22	Review for Final Exam Final Exam	<b><u>Final Exam Wed. 4/24 by 8 pm: No in-class meeting</u></b>

\*This schedule is tentative and subject to change at the instructor's discretion and pace of the class. Please check **Canvas** for changes made to the course.