

## SYLLABUS

Sociology 1020: CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL PROBLEMS	
Term	Winter 2020
CRN	27358
Meeting Time	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-11:15 am
Meeting Location	2009 Science
Instructor	Nicole Trujillo-Pagán, Ph.D.
Email	<a href="mailto:npagan@wayne.edu">npagan@wayne.edu</a>
Office Hours	Wednesdays, 8:30-11:30 am or by appointment
Office Location	3315 FAB

**Commented [NT1]:** I have three offices in FAB. I am almost always in 2215 FAB, which is in the Humanities Center. If there's no one at the front desk, you'll have to call the number on the door for someone to let you in.

### Description

In this course, we analyze social problems as a product of how groups organize and mobilize claims for public action. We define social problems as **conditions** that a) **undermine the well-being of some or all members of a society** and b) are a **matter of public controversy**. We also consider how groups frame social problems and the implications it has on favoring some interventions over others. Class discussions encourage developing counter claims. This means the course requires significant student participation and willingness to engage different perspectives.

### Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Apply your sociological imagination in a variety of settings, including weekly discussions focused on understanding personal troubles as a product of social issues,
2. Presenting claims and counter-claims about social problems, including using multiple forms of evidence on Detroit's bankruptcy and control over natural resources, and
3. Demonstrate strong verbal presentation skills using video to expand your audience beyond the classroom.

### Course Policies

#### 1. Internet

You will need regular access to reliable internet service in order to meet course expectations.

#### 2. Support and Communication

I answer emails promptly during the week. If you do not receive a response within 24 hours, resend your email.

If you ask a question by email that is covered in the syllabus, I reserve the right to not respond.

This course requires Canvas and Revel proficiency. I believe Revel will help optimize your course experience. I beg your patience if/when we experience a hiccup.

- WSU Help Desk: (313) 577-HELP (4357)
- Revel Support: (855) 875-1801. You can also reach a dedicated representative through the Revel links for help.
- Revisions to this syllabus will be posted on Canvas.
- Emails are directed to students through Canvas. If you use a non-WSU email account, you are responsible for ensuring emails are correctly forwarded.

### 3. *Syllabus and Course Outline*

The syllabus is a contract between the instructor and the student. Student are responsible for obtaining any clarification and/or answers to any questions she/he/they may have about the course **before** the end of the add/drop period. Beyond that period, the student's decision to remain in the course represents her/his/their acceptance of course requirements.

### 4. *Assignments*

There are **no make-up opportunities** for missed assignments/quizzes.

Your video should be uploaded to Canvas by Friday, March 28. Late submissions will be penalized by three (3) points for every week they are late.

**Exception:** If you have a documented excuse for missing an assignment deadline, you must submit a signed and dated doctor's note indicating your lack of availability during the time the assignment was scheduled. In other words, the note cannot indicate illness a day before or after the due date. The medical note may be scanned and emailed to the instructor, placed in her box in the Sociology Department, or mailed to her attention at the Sociology Department. You have one week from the due date of the assignment to contact and provide documentation to the instructor. In the case of an exam missed with a valid doctor's note, your alternate assignment will consist of writing a take-home essay.

### 5. *Differently-Abled Students*

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 (TTY: telecommunication device for the deaf; phone for hearing impaired students only). Once you have your accommodations in place, you or SDS should contact me via email to discuss your needs. 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.

**Commented [NT2]:** I've gotten great questions by email. As I explained, the most up-to-date syllabus (that includes revisions), will be on Canvas. I'll also keep a running log of answers and questions you may find useful:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vSG6MLxEiUvL8eNr8XtrhAXiFUsNZghecXJX\\_Ir1hU0/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vSG6MLxEiUvL8eNr8XtrhAXiFUsNZghecXJX_Ir1hU0/edit?usp=sharing)

## Grading Criteria

- Quizzes: 70%
- Video: 25%
- Final Essay: 5%

A	100-93
A-	92.9-90
B+	89.9-87
B	86.9-83
B-	82.9-80
C+	79.9-77
C	76.9-73
C-	72.9-70

## Quizzes

A significant degree of material will be reviewed in the classroom through lecture and discussion. You will also have [ungraded](#) videos, exercises and discussions to support your learning on REVEL.

[Graded q](#)Quizzes are based on required readings. They include true/false, multiple choice and short essay questions. They are conducted on [REVEL Canvas](#).

## Video

During the two weeks after spring break, you will complete a project on a critical social problem facing Detroit. The course is organized to provide you with a framework for not only understanding, but also *analyzing* the problem. Ultimately, you are graded on how effectively you marshal evidence to support your claim about the nature of the social problem.

The “problem” involves land, water and air in Detroit. You will find materials on Canvas to support your analysis, including the instructor’s preliminary summary of how and why space involves a contentious negotiation between Detroiters and non-residents.

Surely you’ve seen the t-shirts: “Detroit vs Everybody.” Your goal is to engage this claim in the form of a video that you will upload to Canvas. Students will be able to view and comment on your video. The nature of comments on your video will also count toward your grade because they reflect the extent to which your claim can elicit meaningful dialogue on the problem.

## Final Essay

The final essay will be in the form of a learning transcript. You will provide a narrative evaluation of what you have learned in the course.

## Required Books

You can obtain a hardcopy of the required text. It is also available electronically to read and/or hear on REVEL.

ISBN 9780134736259 – Revel eBook for *Social Problems in a Diverse Society*, 7<sup>TH</sup> ed by Kendall

**Commented [NT3]:** I recently learned that “test taking teaches people how to be test takers.” You may recall I said I was a first-generation college student and I didn’t really know how to learn for first two years of college. Pearson educated me that many undergraduates struggle to develop “metacognition,” e.g. identifying what they don’t know that they don’t know. To offer students a greater degree of support, I’ll leave the REVEL Chapter Quizzes ungraded. You can test yourself there before you take the graded quiz on Canvas on the Monday they are due.

This means you don’t need REVEL to succeed in the course, but it is a supplement to enrich your learning. *Refunds come from point of sale.*

COURSE OUTLINE				
Week		Topic	Read Chapter Before Tuesday	Evaluation
1	1/7	Theoretical Perspectives and Why they Matter		
2	1/14	What is a Social Problem?	1	
	1/17	<b>Last day to withdraw with tuition cancelation</b>		
3	1/21	Inequality	2, 13	Quiz on Ch. 1, 2 and 13 (15%)
4	1/28	Race, Ethnicity	3	
5	2/4	Media	14	Quiz on Ch. 3 and 14 (10%)
6	2/11	Population and Environment	15	
7	2/18 (No school 2/20)	War and Terrorism	17	Quiz on Ch. 15 and 17 (10%)
8	2/25	Gender, Sexuality and Sexual Orientation	4, 6	Quiz on Ch. 4 and 6 (10%)
9	3/3	Substance Abuse and Crime	8, 9	Quiz on Ch. 8 and 9 (10%)
<b>10</b>	<b>3/10</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>		
11	3/17	Urban Problems (Detroit: Land, Water and Air)	16	
	3/19	Review resources posted on Canvas that support your video assignment. Come prepared to 3/24 session with questions.		
	<b>3/22</b>	<b>Last Day to Request Course Withdrawal</b>		
	3/24	Urban Problems, continued		
12	3/26	Work on video		Video due by Friday, 3/28 (25%)
13	3/31	Health Care	10	
14	4/7	Age and	5	
15	4/14	Family	11	Quiz on Ch. 10, 5, 11 (15%)
Final	4/28	8-10am		Short Essay (5%)