

SOCIOLOGY 2013-003: SOCIAL PROBLEMS
Syllabus: Fall 2015
MWF 8:00-8:50 (ENVD 120)

Instructor: Sherri Sasnett-Martichuski
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Office Hours: MW - 9:00-10:30
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Required Text: *Understanding Social Problems* 9th Edition (2014) by Linda A. Mooney, David Knox and Caroline Schacht. Cengage Learning. ISBN-10: 1285746503 /ISBN-13: 978-1285746500.

Course Description:

There are a variety of ways to study social problems. Since this is a sociology course, we will study how certain social phenomena become social problems and why others do not (the social construction of social problems). We will discuss how social problems are constructed, evaluated, and addressed. In order to do this, we are going to rely on a few different theoretical perspectives and sociological concepts to help us explore and understand the structural causes and consequences of social problems (at both the societal and individual levels). My goal is to provide you with an increased ability to think critically about the world around you, and to enable you to understand and question the social context of the issues that communities around the world are facing on a daily basis.

Class Environment: This course covers a number of controversial topics that may make you uncomfortable. Please review the syllabus and the readings and see/contact me if you have any concerns. The material in this class should challenge some of your beliefs/opinions, but never in a threatening or unhealthy manner. While it is OK to disagree, and even challenge another classmate's statement or opinion, all classroom discussions will be conducted in a respectful manner or you will be asked to leave the room. Remember, none of us agrees on everything, and this is usually a good thing! (See "Classroom Behavior" below for more information)

Attendance: I will not "take" attendance. But, be aware that the quizzes and exams will contain questions from lecture as well as the weekly reading material. Also, if you miss a class, you are responsible for getting the lecture notes and class announcements from another student. I will not post/share class slides or "re-lecture" during office hours. I will answer lecture related questions, after you have read the material and reviewed the class notes (that you got from another student).

Communication: Check D2L and your CU email account regularly for announcements relevant to the class. I will read and respond to email sent from this class Monday through Thursday, 9-5, and Friday 9-12. Please include "SOCY 2031" in the subject line of all email correspondence. In order to prioritize my email, this

will ensure that your email gets top priority!

Grading: There will be 12 quizzes (approx. weekly) and 3 exams during the semester. I will drop your 2 lowest *quiz* scores. Your grade will be determined on a “points” basis.

Quizzes = 10 pts each for a total of 100 pts (12 quizzes; 2 are dropped)

Exams = 100 pts each for a total of 300 pts

Total Class Points = 400

****Notice that the quizzes combine to equal the same weight as an exam! Missing quizzes will hurt your grade!**

****There will be no extra credit opportunities in this class.**

All quizzes and exams are delivered online (D2L). As a result, you need to become familiar with the Desire2Learn (D2L) website immediately. If there are technical problems, please call ITS at 303-735-4357. To access D2L, go to <https://learn.colorado.edu> ; Login with you indentikey. Your courses can be accessed from the "My Courses" section on "My Home."

Note on the timing and structure of quizzes and exams:

There will be 12 quizzes (approx. weekly), each worth 10 points (two will be dropped – see above). The quizzes will be delivered online (D2L). There will be 10 randomized, multiple-choice questions on each quiz. No two quizzes will have the same order of questions. You will have 20 minutes to take the quiz. You will have a 48 hr window of availability to take the quiz, BUT you will only have 20 minutes to complete the quiz once you have started the quiz. You will see two questions at a time, and you must answer the questions before you move forward to the next page (you cannot go backwards).

There will be three multiple-choice exams, each worth 100 points (see above). Each exam will be delivered online (D2L), and you will not be required to attend class that day. You DO need a reliable Internet connection. Each exam will consist of 25 randomized, multiple-choice questions. No two exams (two students) will have the same questions or the same order of questions. You will have 50 minutes to take the exam. You will have a 48 hr window of availability to take the exam, BUT you only have 50 minutes to complete the exam once you have started the exam. You will see two questions at a time, and you must answer the questions before you move forward to the next page (you cannot go backwards).

While this may seem like “open note” testing, you must study and know the material well – you will not have time to look up many questions during the quizzes and exams. It is also up to you to keep up with the time (there is a running clock on D2L as you take the test that says how much time you have left). You will be locked

out of the quizzes and exams when your time runs out.

And, once again, YOU NEED TO BE SOMEWHERE WITH A RELIABLE INTERNET CONNECTION! You can only access the exam once, and if your Internet drops you, you will be locked out of the test. If your home Internet is not reliable, you need to go somewhere else to take the exam (e.g., the library).

****Because of the structure of the quizzes and exams, there will be no make-up opportunities if a quiz or an exam is missed.**

Topics and Schedule:

Date	Topic	Read (textbook)	Assignments (D2L)
M 8/24	Introduction/Syllabus		
W 8/26	Ch. 1 - Thinking About Social Problems	Ch. 1	
F 8/28	Ch. 1 - Thinking About SPs		Quiz 1
M 8/31	Ch. 2 - Health Care	Ch. 2	
W 9/2	Ch. 2 - Health Care		
F 9/4	Ch. 2 - Health Care		Quiz 2
M 9/7	Labor Day - No Class		
W 9/9	Ch. 3 - Alcohol and Other Drugs	Ch. 3	
F 9/11	Ch. 3 - Alcohol and Other Drugs		Quiz 3
M 9/14	Ch. 4 - Crime and Social Control	Ch. 4	
W 9/16	Ch. 4 - Crime and Social Control		
F 9/18	Ch. 4 - Crime and Social Control		Quiz 4
M 9/21	Ch. 5 - Family Problems	Ch. 5	
W 9/23	Ch. 5 - Family Problems		
F 9/25	No Class *****		Exam 1
M 9/28	Ch. 6 - Economic Inequality	Ch. 6	
W 9/30	Ch. 6 - Economic Inequality		
F 10/02	Ch. 6 - Economic Inequality		Quiz 5
M 10/5	Ch. 7 - Work and Unemployment	Ch. 7	
W 10/7	Ch. 7 - Work and Unemployment		
F 10/9	Ch. 7 - Work and Unemployment		Quiz 6
M 10/12	Ch. 8 - Problems in Education	Ch. 8	
W 10/14	Ch. 8 - Problems in Education		
F 10/16	Ch. 8 - Problems in Education		Quiz 7

M 10/19	Ch. 9 - Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration	Ch. 9	
W 10/21	Ch. 9 - Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration		
F 10/23	Ch. 9 - Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration		Quiz 8
M 10/26	Ch. 10 - Gender Inequality	Ch. 10	
W 10/28	Ch. 10 - Gender Inequality		
F 10/30	Ch. 10 - Gender Inequality		Quiz 9
M 11/2	Ch. 11 - Sexual Orientation	Ch. 11	
W 11/4	Ch. 11 - Sexual Orientation		
F 11/6	No Class *****		Exam 2
M 11/9	Ch. 12 - Population Growth and Aging	Ch. 12	
W 11/11	Ch. 12 - Population Growth and Aging		
F 11/13	Ch. 12 - Population Growth and Aging		Quiz 10
M 11/16	Ch. 13 - Environmental Problems	Ch. 13	
W 11/18	Ch. 13 - Environmental Problems		
F 11/20	Ch. 13 - Environmental Problems		Quiz 11
M 11/23	Thanksgiving Break		
W 11/25	Thanksgiving Break		
F 11/27	Thanksgiving Break		
M 11/30	Ch. 14 - Science and Technology	Ch. 14	
W 12/2	Ch. 14 - Science and Technology		
F 12/4	Ch. 14 - Science and Technology		Quiz 12
M 12/7	Ch. 15 - Conflict, War, and Terrorism	Ch. 15	
W 12/9	Ch. 15 - Conflict, War, and Terrorism		
F 12/11	Ch. 15 - Conflict, War, and Terrorism		
T 12/15	Final Exam (D2L-Online)		Final Exam

Relevant CU Policies

Disabilities: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter **from Disability Services** within the **first two weeks of class** so that I can address your needs. Disability Services determines accommodations based on *documented* disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671; e-mail at dsinfo@colorado.edu.

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Medical Conditions: Injuries, Surgeries, and Illnesses guidelines under Quick Links at Disability Services website and discuss your needs with me.

Classroom Behavior: Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty members have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity, and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with students' legal names. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference within **the first two weeks** of the semester so that I may adjust my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

Academic Integrity

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include cheating, plagiarizing, aiding academic dishonesty, fabricating, lying, bribing, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students found in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). For other information on the Honor Code, see: <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode>

Religious Observances

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please notify me within **the first two weeks** of the semester if religious observance will cause you to miss a class, test, or assignment. See http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Discrimination and Harassment

Any student who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. For information about the ODH and the campus resources available regarding discrimination or harassment, see <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>