



# Sociology 2140/001

## Social Problems

### 2016 – 2017

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**Instructor:** Professor Gale Cassidy  
**Office:** SSC 5405  
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**Lectures:** Tuesdays 9:30 am to 11:30 am  
**Classroom:** UCC 146  
**Office hours:** Wednesdays 2:00 to 3:00 pm, after class, or by appointment

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#### Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course, students will be able to

- discuss how social problems are defined and how they differ from personal issues.
- understand the major theoretical perspectives used to understand social problems.
- see how social class affects individual life chances.
- understand social structure and how it shapes and influences social interactions.
- recognize that inequalities based on age, gender, race, and sexual orientation exist.
- recognize various issues regarding drug and alcohol abuse.
- appreciate the various issues confronting contemporary Canadian families.
- identify the issues regarding the educational system in Canada.
- understand why an international perspective is important to understanding social problems

#### Course Description

This course will provide an overview of issues and theories in the study of social problems with particular attention to the social problems and the challenges of everyday life experienced by members of contemporary Canadian society. Social concerns such as poverty, prejudice and discrimination, crime and violence, drug and alcohol addiction will be examined. The course will also look at the social challenges experienced by people because of their gender, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and religion, as well as the role of media and government in the social construction of these barriers to full participation in a democratic society. Lastly, global issues such as environmental threats, global inequality, war and terrorism will be considered. The format of the course will be lectures, accompanied by films, guest speakers and discussions, which will enable students to explore the diverse range of disparity in the world and its impact on their lives and the lives of others.

#### Course Materials

1. *Understanding Social Problems: 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Edition*. 2016. M. Morgan Holmes, Linda A. Mooney, David Knox, and Caroline Schacht. Nelson Education: Toronto, ON.  
ISBN: 13: 978-0-17-667524-0
2. Additional readings will be assigned during the course. Students will be notified in class and on OWL.

**Prerequisites and Antirequisites**

None

**Evaluations**

	<b>Worth</b>
<b>Midterm #1</b>	30%
<b>Midterm #2</b>	30%
<b>Final Exam</b>	40%

**OWL Website**

It is very important that you access the OWL website throughout the course. Important information you will require will be posted there, including the course syllabus, weekly schedule, PowerPoint slides, marks, class cancellations, etc. Ensure that you will receive emails that are sent to your UWO email account by me using OWL.

**Class Attendance**

Good class attendance is critical to getting the most out of this course. There is a direct correlation between attendance in class and marks achieved by students. While readings and class lectures fit together, some material will only be covered in class. You are responsible for everything that occurs during class time including discussions, videos, guest speakers, etc. You are also responsible for any announcements made during class. It is a good idea to “buddy” up with a classmate, in order to exchange notes if you must miss a class, since lectures notes will not be supplied to students. Some videos shown in class may be available in the library, but others will not be available for private viewing.

**Cell Phones and Laptops in the Classroom**

**The use of cell phones for any reason is not permitted in the classroom. Students accessing their cell phones for any reason will be considered disruptive and may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct, including, but not limited to, being asked to leave the class. Also, laptops are to be used only for taking notes in class. Using them for any other purpose could also result in sanctions.**

**Examinations**

The examinations are NOT cumulative and will cover all course material, including lectures, assigned readings, class discussions, films, guest presenters, etc. They will consist of multiple choice questions. Computer-marked multiple choice tests and/or exams WILL be submitted for similarity reviews by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. No electronic devices are permitted in exams.

**Grades**

Due to privacy regulations, I am unable to send marks or discuss issues regarding grades by email. Midterm exam grades will be posted to the OWL site when they become available (within one week of the exam). Final exam grades will not be available until approved by the department.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO extra work assigned for the purpose of improving grades. It is unfair to other students in the class who are not given the same opportunity. Also, I am unable to increase marks unless warranted. PLEASE DONT ASK!

**A Note on Plagiarism**

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

*Plagiarism Checking*

Students may be required to submit their assignments to turnitin.com on the class WebCT website after they are completed. These papers will be subject to submission for textual originality.

**Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class**

Laptops are permitted in class but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter, they will be told to close the lid and they will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cell phones are turned off at the beginning of class.

**Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness**

[www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf) Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: [http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical\\_accommodation.html](http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html)

**Accessibility Options**

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. [www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)

**Scholastic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

[www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

**Student Support**

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/index.html](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.