



The University of Western Ontario

SOCIOLOGY 2140 001

Social Problems

2018-2019

Tuesdays, 9:30 to 11:30 am, SH 3345

Instructor: Professor Gale Cassidy

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:30 – 3:30 pm

Department of Sociology, Office: SSC 5405

Email: gcassidy@uwo.ca

Course Description:

Survey of issues and theories in the study of social problems with particular attention to 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, population issues, and the impact of globalization 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.

Prerequisite(s): None

Antirequisite(s): None

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.

Required Text(s):

1. Understanding Social Problems: 5th Canadian Edition. 2016. M. Morgan Holmes, Linda A. Mooney, David Knox, and Caroline Schacht. Nelson Education: Toronto, ON.
2. Additional readings will be assigned during the course. Students will be notified in class and on OWL.

Method of Evaluation:

Multiple Choice Exams

Evaluation Breakdown:

Exam	Worth	Date	Make-up Exam Date
Midterm #1 Exam	30%	Tuesday, November 6 th 2018 @ 9:30 am	Friday, November 9 th @ noon
Midterm #2 Exam	30%	Tuesday, February 5 th 2019 @ 9:30 am	Friday, March 8 th @ noon
Final Exam	40%	During April, 2019 Exam Period	Friday, May 10 th @ noon

How to Contact Me:

Email – gcassidy@uwo.ca

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Phone – 519-661-2111 X83693

How to get important information:

All announcements, including class cancellations, additional readings, exam details, grades, etc., will be posted on OWL as an announcement with an email notification.

Important Policies***Policies on Examinations:***

No electronic devices will be allowed during examinations.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Policy on Missed Exams:

Make-up exams will be granted with approved documentation only. If you have a conflict with an exam date, it is your responsibility to discuss it with the Academic Counseling office as soon as possible, but no later than one week before the regularly scheduled exam and provide documentation of the conflict. If approved, you will be allowed to schedule a make-up exam.

If you miss an exam (this includes make-up exams) due to illness or for any other unforeseen reason, please notify me by email **within 24 hours** of the missed exam because I need to know that you missed the exam. You then must provide notification and documentation to your Academic Counselor **within 48 hours**. If your problem is medical in nature, you should be seen by your doctor on the date of the exam. If your Academic Counselor agrees that your reasons are legitimate and are supported by your medical doctor's documentation, you will be allowed to write a make-up exam.

Policy on Make-up Exams:

There will be a Sociology group make-up exam following each exam for students needing to write a make-up exam (with approved accommodation from your academic counseling office). The make-up exam may or may not be in the same format as the original exam.

If a student misses a make-up exam due to sickness or another documented reason, then the next exam will be re-weighted and contain material from the missed exam. In cases where there is no approved justification for the absence, the student will receive a grade of zero on the exam.

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 their laptop 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. No texting is permitted in class. It is considered a violation of the student code of conduct.

Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used. If clickers are to be used in class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. The use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence. The possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at

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

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 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

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

Mental Health

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western

(http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

Topics to be Covered

Tentative Dates	Topics	Readings
Sept. 11	Introduction	
Sept. 18	Thinking about Social Problems	Text, Ch. 1
Sept. 25 & Oct. 2	Illness and Health Care	Text, Ch. 2
OCTOBER 9TH – FALL BREAK – NO CLASS		
Oct. 16 & 23	Alcohol and Other Drugs	Text, Ch. 3
Oct. 30	Crime and Violence	Text, Ch. 4
NOVEMBER 6TH MIDTERM EXAM WORTH 30%		
Nov. 13	Family Problems	Text, Ch. 5
Nov. 20	Critical Studies in Race and Ethnicity	Text, Ch. 8
Nov. 27	Gender Inequality	Text, Ch. 7
Dec. 4	Youth and Aging	Text, Ch. 6
HAPPY HOLIDAYS		
Jan. 8	Media Issues	Assigned Reading
Jan. 15	Sexualities	Text, Ch. 9
Jan. 22 & 29	Poverty: National and International Issues	Text, Ch. 10
FEBRUARY 5TH – MIDTERM EXAM WORTH 30%		
Feb. 12	Sex Trade	Assigned Reading
FEBRUARY 19TH – SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS		
Feb. 26	Work and Unemployment	Text, Ch. 11
Mar. 5	Problems in Education	Text, Ch. 12
Mar. 12	World Population Issues	Assigned Reading
Mar. 19	Environmental Problems	Text, Ch. 13
Mar. 26	Armed Conflict in Global Perspective	Text, Ch. 14
Apr. 2	Wrap Up	
FINAL EXAM WORTH 40%		