



**SOCIOLOGY 2140-  
650 SOCIAL  
PROBLEMS  
Summer 2019**

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**Course Description:**

This course is designed to familiarize students with the issues and theories in the sociological study of social problems, with particular attention to contemporary Canadian society.

***Prerequisite(s) and Antirequisite(s):***

None

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Understand the major sociological theories and research used to understand social problems
- Understand that various inequalities based on age, gender, ethnicity, and sexual orientation exist
- Appreciate the various social issues confronting Canadians and the global community
- Understand the strategies being utilized to reduce inequalities in social problems

**Required Text:**

Available at the Bookstore: Holmes, Mooney, Knox, Schacht, *Understanding Social Problems* (Fifth Canadian Edition), 2016, Toronto: Nelson. ISBN: 9780176745929

## Method of Evaluation:

### *Evaluation Breakdown:*

Course grades will be determined on the basis of two formal discussion questions, a mid-term, a participation grade, and a final exam. The following distribution applies:

First formal discussion (submission due)	Week Four	10%
Midterm exam	Week Seven	30%
Second formal discussion (submission due)	Week Ten	10%
Participation	Continuous	15%
Final Exam	July 29th – August 1st, TBA	<u>35%</u>
		100%

## Important Policies

### **Policies for Assignment Deadlines:**

The schedule on the Owl site for the course will show the specific due dates for graded material.

### **Posted Discussion Questions:**

Part of your grade will be based on two separately posted formal discussion questions (each worth 10% of your final grade). These questions will be posted in the Forums section of the course under Formal Discussions. The messages are "threaded" together around an original posting that raises a specific question or subject for discussion. The question will be posted on a specific day (as indicated on the OWL schedule). Once the question is posted, students will have one week to contribute to the discussion. The posting date (the date the instructor posts the discussion question), the closing date and time will be indicated on the OWL schedule). There will be no excuses accepted for late submissions. As everyone has an entire week in which to log on and overcome any technological difficulties that may unexpectedly arise, excuses are not plausible. Students' grades for this portion of the course will not be based solely on posting a response to the discussion (e.g. simply responding to the question). Both grammar and content will be considered. I will be looking for substantive comments in relation to the question (e.g. the student's ability to relate comments to course material as well as reflective ideas on other students' postings). More information as to the precise format of the discussion component will be available on OWL when the question is posted. Standards of "netiquette" will be adhered to. Please see <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/index.html> for details.

### **Participation Grade:**

As the course Forums section allows everyone to read all of the posted messages, we will also use this forum for class participation. Your grade for class participation will be based on your submissions (with the **exception** of the introductory message and the formal discussion questions) to the Unit Weekly Discussions. You can earn up to 15% of your grade by submitting messages spaced throughout the course related to the course content. For

example, these messages can be in response to issues raised in the course notes, or you may wish to share your thoughts or ideas on the readings. You may also want to apply aspects of the course material to the news of the day. In order to facilitate active participation by all, you may not post more than 2 participation comments per week. It is recommended that you participate once a week in order to receive full credit for this component.

Although **not** for credit, you may also use the General Discussion section of Forums to raise any substantive or technical questions you may have. Just create a new topic for these discussions.

Finally, as I hope to be able to encourage a sense of community among students through the use of this form of communication, I will require that all students post an introductory message to the discussion section in the first week of classes (see the Forums area of OWL).

### **Technical Support: Student Problems with OWL...**

If you are experiencing problems, please contact the WTS Help Desk at (519) 661-3800. For hours and additional contact information please visit [www.uwo.ca/wts/helpdesk/](http://www.uwo.ca/wts/helpdesk/). Troubleshooting and help information is available for students in the [OWL Help Documentation](#).

### **Exams:**

Exams will be based on material covered in the on-line course notes and the assigned readings. You are responsible for all material covered. Both the midterm and final exam will be two hours in length. Each of the exams will consist of multiple choice questions. The tests and examinations are not cumulative. **Note: Both the midterm test and the final exam will be written in person at one of the designated exam centres.**

In the case of midterm tests, the approval of the Dean is not required when rescheduling term tests. However, to be considered for a make-up, you must notify the instructor **before** the scheduled exam (by e-mail, or phone or in person) **and** you must provide appropriate documentation as soon as possible.

There will be no provision for make-up exams or other work for the purpose of improving grades. Be sure that you note the date of the midterm test and the final exam schedule. No electronic devices are permitted in exams.

### ***Scantron exams:***

You should also be aware that "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."

### **Policies for Missed Exams:**

Make-up exams and extensions for assignment deadlines will be granted with approved documentation only. If you have a conflict with one of the exam dates, 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 within 24 hours of the missed exam. No documentation is required when you notify me, but I need to know that you missed the exam within 24 hours. 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 or on the date an assignment is due. 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 (or hand in your assignment at a later date).

### **Make-up Exams**

There will be one makeup date set by the Department for students needing to write a make-up exam (with approved accommodation from your academic counseling office). This makeup 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 weight of the mid-term will be added to the weight of the final 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 Accommodation for Medical Illness**

[http://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.

[http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)

### **Scholastic Offences**

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.

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:

[http://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)

### **Copyright:**

Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, wiki material, and other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without my written consent.

### **Mental Health**

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.

## Course Schedule and Readings:

### Syllabus and Reading Assignment General Information:

It is advised that you read the assigned readings prior to accessing the on-line lessons/course notes. The on-line course notes can be thought of as the equivalent of lectures in a traditional setting. As such, they are an important part of the course and it is expected that you will give the course notes the same attention that you would lectures/classes in the traditional setting. Please check the OWL schedule very carefully, including any changes that are required throughout the term.

<i>Unit -Week ending</i>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Textbook Readings</b>
<b>Unit 1 – May 10</b>	Introduction to the Course and The Study of Social Problems; Research Methodology	Holmes et al., Ch. 1
<b>Unit 2 – May 17</b>	Illness and Health Care	Holmes et al., Ch. 2
<b>Unit 3 – May 24</b>	Alcohol and Other Drugs  <i>Discussion # 1 question will be posted May 24</i>	Holmes et al., Ch. 3
<b>Unit 4 – May 31</b>	Crime and Violence  <i>Discussion # 1 question will be due May 31</i>	Holmes et al., Ch. 4
<b>Unit 5 – June 7</b>	Family Problems	Holmes et al., Ch. 5
<b>Unit 6 – June 14</b>	Youth and Aging	Holmes et al., Ch. 6
<b>Midterm exam</b>	<i>Late June, TBA (worth 30%)</i>	
<b>Unit 7 – June 21</b>	Gender Inequality	Holmes et al., Ch. 7

<i>Unit -Week ending</i>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Textbook Readings</b>
<b>Unit 8 – June 28</b>	Race and Ethnicity	Holmes et al., Ch. 8
<b>Unit 9 – July 5</b>	Sexualities	Holmes et al., Ch. 9
	<i>Discussion # 2 question will be posted July 5</i>	
<b>Unit 10 – July 12</b>	Poverty	Holmes et al., Ch. 10
	<i>Discussion # 2 submission will be due July 12</i>	
<b>Unit 11 – July 19</b>	Work and Unemployment	Holmes et al., Ch. 11
<b>Unit 12 – July 26</b>	Environmental Problems	Holmes et al., Ch. 13
<i>Final Exam –date TBA: July 29 – August 1st, 2019 (worth 35%)</i>		