

SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND SOCIAL CHANGE
SOCI1020
3 Credit Hours

Course Information

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the increasingly acute and intense problems such as alcoholism, violence, drugs, crime, inequality, lifestyle preferences and environmental abuse within the context of social change. We will utilize various theoretical sociological perspectives.

Course Objectives:

After completing the course students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the varied social structural factors that facilitate and help perpetuate social problems.
- Understand and apply sociological perspectives to social problems.
- Familiarize students with adequate understanding of a scientific approach and applied research in the analysis of social problems and their solutions.
- Gain insight into problems and their solutions by studying them in societies and cultures that is different from our own (global perspective).
- Demonstrate the role of technology in society.
- Discuss policy issues in connection to contemporary debates on social problems.
- Separate myths from facts.
- Make a distinction between personal and social problems.
- Increase student's ability to analyze, interpret, and articulate facts and ideas orally and in writing.

Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

Students must be able to read and write at the college level. Students will be expected to write and express themselves in grammatically correct, concise, Standard English. Grades will be based on writing skills, presentation, thorough research effort, and timeliness.

Course Topics:

- Understanding Social Problems
 - Alcohol and Other Drugs
 - Crime and Delinquency
 - Violence
 - Sexual Deviance
 - Poverty
 - Gender and Sexual Orientation
 - Race, Ethnic Groups, and Racism
 - Government and Politics
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- Work and the Economy
- Education
- Family problems
- Health Care and Illness: Physical and Mental
- War and Terrorism
- The Environment

Specific Course Requirements:

This is a distance-learning course. To enroll in this course and be successful, students must have access to their own computer with an Internet web browser (such as Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox), and will have to contract with an Internet service provider.

Students must know how to navigate D2L (Desire 2 Learn), address technical problems immediately, and check e-mail every day for general announcements. Students enrolled in this course **must** complete all requirements as outlined in the syllabus in order to receive a grade.

Textbooks, Supplementary Materials, Hardware and Software Requirements

Required Textbooks:

Please visit the Virtual Bookstore to obtain textbook information for this course: <http://rodv.bkstr.com>

Supplementary Materials:

Web-based material available through links within the course units.

Hardware Requirements:

The minimum requirements can be found at http://www.tn.regentsdegrees.org/students/hardware_software.htm.

Software Requirements:

The minimum requirements can be found at http://www.tn.regentsdegrees.org/students/hardware_software.htm.

Instructor Information

Please see the separate page inside the course to find instructor contact information as well as a statement of virtual office hours and other communication information.

Assessment and Grading

Testing / Grading Procedures:

Activity & Points

Activity	Points
Exam #1	100
Exam #2	100
Exam #3	100
Exam #4	100
Assign. #1	100
Assign. #2	100
Assign. #3	100
Disc. #1	20
Disc. #2	20
Disc. #3	20
Disc. #4	20
Disc. #5	20
Total points	800

Testing Procedures

- All testing will be completed online.
- Exams must be submitted on time. Exams will be available until 11:55 p.m. Central Standard Time, on the last day of the testing period. **Must log in before 11:00 p.m. if not, access will be denied.**
- The timeline for the exams, assignments, and discussions can be found on this syllabus and inside D2L under the Course Calendar.
- Contact RODP Helpdesk in the event of technical difficulties.
- Examination grades will be posted **immediately upon submission.**

Exams

There are four multiple choice exams each worth 100 points {400 total points}. Use the course overview, outcomes, PowerPoint slides, and keywords to review for each chapter exam. These items are located under each chapter module on the homepage under course content. Cheating on exams will result in a grade of "F" in the course. Cheating in this class means giving or receiving help on an exam.

Missed Exam Policy Students will lose 50% points whenever the instructor resets the exam. If you have a medical issue such as emergency surgery, death in the family, pregnancy, accidents, psychological problem or anything major email me. I will verify all submitted documents before granting an extension. Do not weave a story you know is not true. I will grant extension **only** in cases where **you, your spouse, children, and parents are ill.** Remember the 50% reset penalty will still be enforced (some credit is better than nothing). **Personal computer crash will not qualify for exemption to the established due dates unless RODP/D2L system is down.**

Grading Procedure:

Students will be required to take four examinations online, three written assignments, and a bulletin board

discussion. Cheating on exams and assignments will result in a grade of "F" in the course. Cheating in this class means giving or receiving help on an exam, or assignments and plagiarizing papers. Exams will only be reset without penalty if and only if there is an RODP systems failure.

Grading Scale:

90-100% = A
80-89% = B
70-79 % = C
60-69% = D
Below 60% = F

Assignments and Participation

Assignments and Projects:

- **There are three written assignments each worth 100 points {300 total points}.** Follow the guidelines provided with each assignment in the dropbox.
- Assignment grades will be posted two weeks after the due date.
- Cheating in this class means giving or receiving help on assignment and plagiarizing papers.
- Cheating on assignment will result in a zero grade or **F** in the course.
- Assignments are considered received on the day the instructor is able to open it.
- Use Microsoft Word to submit your assignment in the dropbox. If not, I will give you a zero on the assignment.
- **There will be only one extension on an assignment and one reset on the exam both with the usual penalty found on the syllabus.**
- **I do not accept PDF, wps, or Microsoft Works, type's documents. If you use them to submit your work, I will give you a zero on the assignment. No exception!**

Class Participation:

Students will be required to participate in the bulletin board discussions as part of the overall grade for this course. The instructor will monitor the discussions in order to ensure fair use of the interactive aspect of the course. In addition, you will be receiving a fair amount of e-mail messages, and I will expect you to communicate with me weekly. Thus you are required to check the bulletin board frequently for announcements and postings of a new topic for discussion. All students must participate in threaded discussion postings. Please post questions relating to the course on the bulletin board frequently. This is a great way to receive a fast response from everyone.

Punctuality:

The instructor will allow you ample time to complete your assignments. Further information on tardiness will be furnished by the instructor.

Course Ground Rules

Academic Honesty: Discussion postings, exams, and assignments must be your own work. Lack of

documentation will be considered plagiarism which will result in an **F** for the assignment/exam/discussion.

Books and notes are not to be used during exams. Be sure to document your source(s) in the written assignments. **Students are expected to:**

- Read all the assigned material for each unit before each exam as indicated on the syllabus.
- Learn how to navigate D2L.
- Keep current of all course materials.
- Use D2L class email to contact me.
- Address technical problems immediately.
- Observe course etiquette at all times.

Guidelines for Communications

Email:

- Always include a subject line.
- Remember without facial expressions some comments may be taken the wrong way. Be careful in wording your emails. Use of emoticons might be helpful in some cases.
- Use standard fonts.
- Do not send large attachments without permission.
- Special formatting such as centering, audio messages, tables, html, etc. should be avoided unless necessary to complete an assignment or other communication.
- Respect the privacy of other class members

Discussion Groups:

- Review the discussion threads thoroughly before entering the discussion. Be a lurker then a discussant.
- Try to maintain threads by using the "Reply" button rather starting a new topic.
- Do not make insulting or inflammatory statements to other members of the discussion group. Be respectful of others ideas.
- Be patient and read the comments of other group members thoroughly before entering your remarks.
- Be cooperative with group leaders in completing assigned tasks.
- Be positive and constructive in group discussions.
- Respond in a thoughtful and timely manner.
- More information is available in this link to [discussion guidelines](#).

Chat:

Chat is seldom used in RODP. If for some reason it is opened:

- Introduce yourself to the other learners in the chat session.
 - Be polite. Choose your words carefully. Do not use derogatory statements.
 - Be concise in responding to others in the chat session.
 - Be prepared to open the chat session at the scheduled time.
 - Be constructive in your comments and suggestion
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Web Resources:

- [Columbia Guide to Online Style](#) by Janice R. Walker and Todd Taylor
- Citation Styles Online <http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/cite6.html>

Library

The [Tennessee Virtual Library](#) is available to all students enrolled in the Regents Degree Program. Links to library materials (such as electronic journals, databases, interlibrary loans, digital reserves, dictionaries, encyclopedias, maps, and librarian support) and Internet resources needed by learners to complete online assignments and as background reading must be included in all courses.

Plagiarism

What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is representing someone else's intellectual property as your own. You put yourself at risk of plagiarizing when you fail to adequately cite the original source material from which you took words and ideas.

Students With Disabilities

Qualified students with disabilities will be provided reasonable and necessary academic accommodations if determined eligible by the appropriate disability services staff at their home institution. Prior to granting disability accommodations in this course, the instructor must receive written verification of a student's eligibility for specific accommodations from the disability services staff at the home institution. It is the student's responsibility to initiate contact with their home institution's disability services staff and to follow the established procedures for having the accommodation notice sent to the instructor.

Syllabus Changes

The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary to this syllabus. If changes are necessitated during the term of the course, the instructor will immediately notify students of such changes both by individual email communication and posting both notification and nature of change(s) on the course bulletin board.

Technical Support

Telephone Support:

AskRODP Help Desk (toll free number 1-866-550-7637) or go to the AskRODP website at: <http://help.rodpc.org/>

If you are having problems:

- logging into your course
- timing out of your course
- "technical" related issues for D2L (it takes a long time to click around my course)
- using your course web site tools

If you contact Technical Support by phone please be at your computer and be prepared to provide the

following information: (If you do not know the information below please call 1-866-550-7637)

- Your username
 - Your password
 - The URL, (address, "http://...") you are unable to access
 - Your instructor's name (Ex.: Dr. Charles Cooper)
 - Your course number, section and name (EX: EDU 1120 Introduction to Teaching)
 - Are you using a PC or MAC
 - Your operating system (Windows 98, NT, 2000, Vista, etc.)
 - Browser type and version (EX: Internet Explorer 7)
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