

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO—VALENCIA
SYLLABUS FOR SOCIAL PROBLEMS (FALL 2015)
SOC 211 SECTION 501 /COURSE #41024 / 16 WEEK (8/17 – 12/12)
TIME: M/W: 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM / Location: A101

Professor: Dr. Julia W. So
Office Hours: 10:15 AM – 12:00 Noon (Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday)
11:15 AM – 12:00 Noon (Thursday)
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM (Friday during the second 8-week semester)
or by appointment
Office Location: **A-111**
SOC Review Sessions: 10:15 AM – 11:15 PM (Thursday) at **A-101**
Office Tel/eMail: 505-925-8567 / juliaso@unm.edu (will respond by next business day)



COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is intended to promote a better understanding of the major social problems facing contemporary United States—their causes and possible solutions. It is designed to familiarize students with the criteria defining the term “social problems” and the process in researching such phenomena as well as to explore possible solutions. Topics for this semester include specific problems facing various social groups, and the problems in the institutions of family, education, and work. To provide a broader understanding on contemporary public issues, students are required to research a separate topic and share the results with their peers.

REQUIRED TEXT & MATERIALS

1. **Social Problems (13th ed.)** Eitzen, D. Stanley, Zinn, Maxine Baca, & Smith, Kelly Eitzen. 2014. Pearson. ISBN-13: 978-0-205-88188-8 (You may rent the textbook, purchase etext or a loose-leaf version from other vendors, if available).
2. UNM Lobo ID card – for taking exams and checking out materials at UNM-VC Library
3. UNM Net ID and a valid UNM email address
4. Online access to *UNM Learn @ learn.unm.edu* to download all handouts and access to class capture
5. Personal account to access *Films On Demand* (be sure to create your account when you are on campus)
6. A 3-ring binder
7. One pack of 3-tab dividers to organize your notes, handouts, and assignments
8. Black or blue ball-point erasable pen – for taking quizzes and written exams
9. #2 pencil and an eraser that does not smear– for taking scantron exams

COURSE PREREQUISITE

Students will be dropped automatically from this course if you did not earned a C or above in SOC101.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the semester, when you do your part as a student, you will be able to:

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- Connect the subjective and objective definition of social problems
- Develop a *sociological imagination* that enables you to relate "personal troubles" to "public issues"
- Apply one of the three sociological paradigms when examining social problems
- Describe the steps in conducting sociological research
- Discern the impact of social actions on social problems
- Explain the source of structural inequalities of various social groups
- Identify issues facing the institutions of family, education and the workplace
- Have a broad understanding of the problems with respect to human trafficking, hate crimes, date rape, gun control/mass shooting, climate change, police brutality/abuse of power, obesity, sugar consumption, legal drug abuse, homeless teenagers, and identity theft.

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES: In accordance with University Policy 2310 and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), any student who, because of a disability, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements needs to contact me as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. If you are a student with documented physical or learning disability, please notify me during the first week of class. If you have special need and require accommodation in the classroom or other academic setting, it is your responsibility to contact the Office of Equal Access Services at 505-925-8560 (<http://www.unm.edu/~vcadvise/equalaccess.htm>).

VETERAN SUPPORT SERVICES: If you are a veteran, I strongly encourage you to identify yourself to me, especially if you seek awareness for or needing accommodations. For additional assistance, please contact Frances Duran (Campus Branch Registrar) at 505-925-8585 or fduran@unm.edu

HOW TO EXCEL THIS COURSE

This course is also designed to help improve your critical thinking skills and prepare you for upper level courses. If you want to learn and do well in this course, I highly encourage you to:

- attend class regularly
- arrive punctually--it is a matter of self-respect. You are considered tardy if you are 10 minutes late or leave 10 minutes before class is dismissed and do not give me advance notice. Two tardies are counted as one absence. When late, please enter the classroom quietly.
- participate in your assigned learning team activities, and turn in your team activity sheet at the end of each class to earn your participation grade.
- use laptops or other electronic writing devices only to take notes.
- complete all reading assignments before coming to class.
- turn in all assignment on their respective due dates at the beginning of class.
- submit only your own work.
- obtain class notes from your peers and watch class capture when you miss a class,
- **spend six to nine hours per week on activities pertaining to this course. The activities include reading the assignments to seek answers for the questions in the handouts, reviewing and organizing the lecture notes so to create your own study notes, working with your team for the presentation.**

Code of Conduct

Students will be disciplined when engaged in any behaviors that "affect adversely the University's educational function, to disrupt community living on campus, or to interfere with the rights of others to pursue their education, to conduct their University duties and responsibilities or to participate in University activities" (UNM-Valencia 2014-16 Catalog p.121). The catalogue is downloadable at: <http://valencia.unm.edu/academics/Catalog/index.html>

This course has a zero tolerance policy on **academic dishonesty** and **plagiarism**. When found guilty, the student will be dropped from this course and a report will be submitted to the Department Chair and the Instruction Dean. The same report will be kept in the student's academic file.

- **Academic Dishonesty** includes “but not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments: claiming credit for work not done by you or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students,” etc. Any student suspected of academic dishonesty will be subject to the investigative and disciplinary process of UNM (Catalog p.11).
- **Plagiarism is intellectual theft.** Plagiarism is when you copy an idea or any text that is more than six words from any source, including the Internet or your friends, without citing the source. To avoid plagiarism, you must enclose whatever you copy in quotation marks and cite the source.
- **Mutual respect** is expected between students as well as between students and the professor. All forms of harassment or abuse will be handled according to the Student Code of Conduct Policy of UNM (Catalog p. 121-128).
- **Dress Code**--Classroom is a public place for learning. Appropriate attire and decency is expected. Please refer to UNM Student Handbook at: <http://pathfinder.unm.edu/>

COMMUNICATION WITH ME

1. The best way to reach me is via eMail.
2. If you stop by my office without an appointment during office hours, please be aware that you may have to wait for your turn to speak with me.
3. Make an appointment with me in advance to reduce your waiting time at my office.
4. You are welcome to speak with me before or after class. Please be aware that these conversations have to be brief and are not private conversations.
5. Drop by anytime during review sessions on Thursdays.

YOU CAN EXPECT ME TO...

- drop you when you do not show up on the first day of class.
- come to class on time and be prepared to teach.
- contact you when you miss two class sessions.
- drop you from this course when you miss four class sessions.
- not to accept work that is not typed.
- not to accept late or hand-written work.
- respond to your eMails or phone messages by the next business day.
- return all activity sheets, quizzes, and exams within two weeks.
- keep your phone/digital device until the end of the class session, if you use it in class.
- give you only one verbal warning when you are disruptive in class before I ask you to leave.
- call campus police to escort you out of the classroom if disruptive behavior continues.
- drop you from this course when you commit academic dishonesty or plagiarism.

THE EVALUATION OF FINAL COURSE GRADE IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING:

Learning Team Presentation	20%
Learning Team Participation	20%
<u>Three exams</u>	<u>60%</u>
Total Possible Points	100%

LEARNING TEAM PRESENTATION (20% OF COURSE GRADE)

The Learning Team presentation constitutes 20% of your course grade. You and your Learning Team are to work on a presentation. Topics and detailed information will follow.

LEARNING TEAM PARTICIPATION (20% OF COURSE GRADE)

Class session format includes lectures, group activities, videos, and/or small group discussions. Students are randomly assigned to Learning Teams of three. Your team is to take quizzes together, discuss materials and participate in team activities throughout the semester. As a team, you are to assign a speaker at each class session. The assigned speaker will speak for the team in class. To earn credit, your team is to submit the Learning Team Activity Sheets at the end of each class sessions. On the sheet, your team is to write three concepts learned, two concepts that your team members are still confused, and one concept that your team is interested. This means you have to discuss before you write anything down. You do not earn any grade for the day that you are absent, or when your team does not turn in the sheet.

THREE EXAMS (60% OF COURSE GRADE)

Three exams are scheduled for this course. The average of three exams constitutes 60% of your course grade. Scheduled exam format includes true/false, multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the-blanks, and short answer essays. Exam materials include lecture, textbook, videos, handouts, and ALL assigned articles. **If you miss the first exam, you will be dropped from the course unless you contact me prior to exam and provide bona fide documentation.** Under extenuating circumstances, only ONE make-up exam is permitted with bona fide supporting documents from a third party. Make-up exam is an essay exam and has to be taken before the scheduled exam. Be sure to have your Lobo ID with you on exam days.

The final grade on your transcript will be based on the following:

99 - 100	A+
94 – 98.9	A
90 – 93.9	A-
87 – 89.9	B+
84 – 86.9	B
80 – 83.9	B-
77 – 79.9	C+
<u>72 – 76.9</u>	<u>C*</u>
67 – 71.9	D+
64 – 66.9	D
60 – 63.9	D-
Less than 60	F

*According to UNM policy at http://degrees.unm.edu/undergrad_programs/682/degree_plans , the passing grade of all sociology courses is a “C.” Students must complete all course requirements to earn credit for the course. Those who fail to complete the requirements will be assigned an “F”.

**To protect your privacy, grades will only be given out face to face.

In the event that UNM is closed on the day of final because of inclement weather or other reasons, your course grade will be calculated based on all work assessed up to that point in the course. For example, your final course grade will include the grades from: (1) three exams, (2) group presentation, (3) Learning Team participation, and any extra credits essays.

Earning Extra Credit

You have two opportunities to earn up to 4 points of extra credit toward your final course grade.

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- A) You are to participate in a site visit of the FBI Albuquerque Office on Friday 10/2 from 9 AM to 11:30 PM. You are to write a minimum of 250-word reflection essay sharing three main points that you learn from the site visit and describe how you relate to the main points. Check schedule for due date.
- B) Attend a campus-wide presentation, held at noon on Monday 10/5 at A101, by Adrien Lawyer, Co-founder and Co-director of the Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico. He will share his experience as a transgender man. You are to write a 250-word (minimum) reflection essay sharing three main points that you learn from the presentation and describe how you relate to the main points. Check schedule for due date.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS/READING ASSIGNMENTS/EXAMS

Unit I – Defining, Studying & Solving Social Problems

Wk	Mo	Date	Ch.	Topics
1	8	17	1	First day of class Sociological Imagination / Defining Social Problems
		19		Learning Team Assignment / Prospectus & Topics
2		24		Studying Social Problems (handout)
		26	19	Due – Assessment on Task & Relationship Style Solving Social Problems
3	8	31		
	9	2		9/2 Exam I on Unit I
		4		Last day to withdraw a course without a grade

Unit II – Problems Facing Individuals

Wk	Mo	Date	Ch.	Topics
4	9/7 Labor Day			
	9	9	5 & 8	Due - Prospectus for Learning Team Presentation The Brown Population (p.99-110) The Minority Population (p.197-210)
		11		Last day to change grading options
5		14	5	The Gray Population (p.110-127)
		16		
6		21	11	The Disabled Population (p.265–273)
		23		
7		28	9	The “Pink” Population (p. 230-240)
		30		
	10	2		FBI Site Visit
8	10	5	10	The “Rainbow” Population (p.240-263) Campus presentation: Transgender 101 by Adrien Lawyer at noon at A101
		7		
		10/8 & 10/9 Fall Break		
9		12	7	Due— Two Extra Credit Essays: one on Transgender 101 and one on the FBI Site Visit The “Powerless” Population— Children & the Poor (handout)
		14		

10		19		Exam II on Unit II
	10/21			Guest speakers from the NM Corrections Department (To be confirmed)

Unit III – Problems in the Institutions of Family, Education, & Work

Wk	Mo	Date	Ch.	Topics
11	10	26	15	
		28		
12	11	2		Cherlin. "The Deinstitutionalization of the American Marriage."
		4	16	
13		9		
		11		Types of Discrimination (handout)
		13		Last day to withdraw without the approval of the Dean of Instruction or Director of Students Affairs
14		16	14	FLSA & Discrimination in the workplace (p.359 – 368)
		18		
15		23		
				11/25 Exam 3 on Unit III
				11/26 & 11/27 Thanksgiving Holiday
	11	29		All PPT Files due at 11:59PM
16	11	30		Learning Team Presentation (5 points will be deducted from exam III, if absent--absolutely no exceptions).
	12	2		Learning Team Presentation (5 points will be deducted from exam III, if absent--absolutely no exceptions).
		7		Last day to withdraw with the approval of the Dean of Instruction or Director of Students Affairs

Exam III is your final exam. On the scheduled final exam date which is WED 12/9, please show up between 9:00 and 9:30 AM for course evaluation & peer evaluation of Learning Team members. If absent, five points will be deducted from exam III—absolutely no exceptions!

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU SUCCEED ACADEMICALLY (INFO DOWNLOADED FROM UNM-VALENCIA WEBSITE ON 6/13/2015)

- The Purdue Online Writing Lab at: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu>
- *Course Success Tips 101* downloadable from the Treasure Folder of this course
- Class Capture—accessible from *UNM Learn* (Inside the Treasure Folder)
- The Learning Center: (505) 925-8907
- Student Support Services: (505) 925-8574
- The Wellness Center: (505) 925-8830
- Campus Police: (505) 925-8570

Your Success in this Course Depends on YOU!
Your Success in Life Also Depends on YOU!

There are four types of people in this world:

- The doers
- The talkers
- The watchers
- The oblivious

Which type are you?
Which type do you want to be?