

SOCIAL PROBLEMS
SOC 2310-501
ONLINE Syllabus

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Instructor: Barb Thompson
Course Section: 501

Email: bthompson58@unm.edu
CRN
Term: Fall, 2020

Credit hours: 3

Online office hours: 3-4p Mondays via ZOOM and by appointment.

www.zoom.com Code: 824 9117 7263 Password: 421191
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82491177263?pwd=WGIhUjBVdTNieE5jeFQ1bVZxODh4UT09>

Assignments: due by 11:59p on the assigned date

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Catalog Description:

This course studies the nature, scope, and effects of social problems and their solutions. The course will concentrate on sociological perspectives, theories, and key concepts when investigating problems, such as inequality, poverty, racism, alienation, family life, sexuality, gender, urbanization, work, aging, crime, war and terrorism, environmental degradation, and mass media. This course is designed to build students' sociological understanding of how sociological approaches attempt to clarify various issues confronting contemporary life, as well as how sociologists view solutions to these problems.

TEXTBOOKS/MATERIALS:

- The default text is Social Problems: Continuity and Change, by Steven E. Barkan, version 1.0. (ISBN: 9781453347195). This text is available for FREE DOWNLOAD at <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/>. You will not have access to supplemental materials if you use the free source. You can also purchase a paperback copy from the publisher, Flatworld <http://www.flatworld.com/>. Purchasing a paperback copy from them will also provide you with a digital copy for free, and allow you access to supplemental materials. Amazon also supplies this text. Please select whichever option works best for you. Having access to the textbook is necessary for successful completion of the course.
- You will also need access to UNM email,

- UNMLearn (<http://learn.unm.edu>) for supplemental material

COURSE OUTCOMES/ Student Learning Objectives (SLO):

After successful completion Sociology 2310 (Social Problems) you will exhibit an understanding of sociology through the identification of the social problems which stem from inequality or change. Students will demonstrate an understanding of what constitutes a social problem, and be able to describe theories by which social problems are examined. By the end of class, students will be able to:

1. Identify and explain major social problems in the United States, and how social problems become constructed as problems.
2. Describe and analyze policy-related solutions associated with social problems from various perspectives.
3. Critically examine social problems through the use of sociological theories, methods, and empirical techniques.
4. Identify connections, both national and global, between social problems and social inequalities (e.g., social class, race/ethnicity, and gender/sexuality)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/ATTENDANCE:

Students enrolled for credit, credit/no credit, or audit are expected to complete all online assignments. Attendance will be determined by participation in online discussion.

Academic integrity/Code of Conduct:

Students are expected to follow the following UNM guidelines:

- Academic Integrity Policy: Having academic integrity is paramount to your success in any class. This course has a zero tolerance for academic dishonesty. This includes “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...” and plagiarism-an academic theft committed when you copy an idea or any text than of more than six words from any source, including the internet, your friends, etc., without citing the source. To avoid plagiarism, you must enclose whatever you copy in quotations and cite the source. Any student suspected of academic dishonesty will be subject to the investigative and disciplinary process of UNM. This, and further information, is available at: <http://handbook.unm.edu/policies/section-d/d100.html>.

- The UNM Student Code of Conduct details behavioral rules and policies governing all students on all campuses at all activities. Each student is expected to maintain high standards of honesty in academic matters, with the University reserving the right to take disciplinary action. This, and further information is available at:
<http://pathfinder.unm.edu/campus-policies/student-code-of-conduct.html>
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) <http://www.cnm.edu/student-resources/academicrecords/academic-records-list/FERPA>

Grading will generally conform to the following:

A+=100-99%	B+=89-87%	C+=79-77%	D+=69-67%
A=98-94%	B=86-84%	C=76-74%	D=66-64%
A-=93-90%	B-=83-80%	C-=73-70%	D-=63-60%

Any grade below 60 will be assigned an F. According to UNM policy, (http://degrees.unm.edu/undergrad_programs/1312/degree_plans?disp_first=4+Year+Plan), the passing grade for 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”. Only letter grades will be posted on your transcript.

Students will earn points toward the grade of their choice in the following manner:

1. **FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS:** (Points as indicated in Task Assignments) Each unit will contain assignments, reflections, and a quiz, designed to gain information, make reflections, and assess your grasp of the material. Assignments are designed to supplement the readings.
2. **SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS (100 points each)** There will be a midterm and a final. You will have 1 opportunity to take each test. Tests are not time limited. It will be a short answer test and you may use books and notes. These tests allow you to demonstrate your attention to course materials, readings, and exercises and connect with it through personal reflection.

Assignments must be submitted online in .pdf or Word, **presented professionally, double spaced in 12 font of Arial or Times Roman**. While this is not an English class, your work should reflect your grasp of written communication skills and be prepared in a professional manner. Too many grammatical errors will detract from your work. If you know you have difficulty with writing skills, please make use of the Writing Lab.

If I notice you have difficulty in writing clearly, I will suggest you contact the writing lab which is available on line. Please do not be offended: I am only trying to help you be successful.

All assignments are due by 11:59p on the day it is due.

Please do not wait until the last days of the term to ask how to improve your grade. I will be happy to help you do your best in the class, but not at the last minute. **You should plan on at least 5 hours per week, depending on your reading speed, to complete the work needed for this class.** Work is considered on time and eligible for consideration for full points if it is submitted by 11:59pm on the date designated. Late work is allowed on a case-by-case basis, if (and only if) you message me prior to the due date with your reasoning.

Each student is also provided with a **“Life got in the Way” ticket**. The e-ticket can be used to get extra time to turn in an assignment, no questions asked. You must specify you are using it. You get one, so use it wisely. It does not allow you to skip the assignment, just allows you some additional time. If you choose not to use the ticket, you can redeem it at the end of the semester for 25 bonus points!

Assignments will be graded within 5 days, unless otherwise specified. This allows you to keep track of points accrued and missing assignments. Tracking your grade is a mutual activity between the two of us.

Special Needs: In accordance with University Policy 2310 and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), any student who, because of a disability, may require certain special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor 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 needs and require accommodations in the classroom or other academic setting, it is your responsibility to contact the Office of Equal Access Services at 505-925-8560 (<http://valencia.unm.edu/about/accessibility.html>).

Veterans and active military personnel with special circumstances (e.g. upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disabilities) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these in advance, if possible, to the instructor. For additional assistance, please contact Frances Duran (Campus Branch Registrar) at 505-925-8585 or fduran@unm.edu.

Accommodations for Spiritual Tradition and/or Faith-Based Observances: Please notify me of your obligations to spiritual tradition or faith affiliation if this affects your ability to complete work according to deadlines. Reasonable accommodation for such observances, upon advanced request, will be considered.

Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination: In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM faculty, teaching assistants, and graduate assistants are considered “responsible employees” by the Dep. of Education, (see p. 15 <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201404-title-ix.pdf>). This designation requires that any report of gender discrimination which includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Equal Opportunity (oeo.unm.edu). For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ONLINE CLASSES:

Netiquette:

Rule 1. Remember we are all human.

- Never forget that the person reading your mail or posting is, indeed, a person, with feelings that can be hurt. It is not nice to hurt other people's feelings. Never mail or post anything you wouldn't say to your reader's face. Or your grandma. Or her pastor.
- Social Problems should be thought provoking. Many of you/your colleagues have first-hand experience with the social problems we are studying. Emotions may be triggered by what we say on the Discussion Board. Remember: you never have to apologize for the harsh or unkind words unsaid/unwritten.
- Sarcasm and humor do not translate universally. And “I was only joking” is not an apology.

Rule 2. Adhere to the same standards of behavior online that you follow (we hope) in real life.

- Be ethical. Be kind. Be honest.
- Keep your discussions on topic and polite.
- Share your personal woes with your best friend, not your classmates.

Rule 3: Remember where you are.

This is a college-level course, conducted in English.

- Use your best writing skills. Use complete sentences. Spell Check is never foolproof. The blue underlined words should not be ignored. Abbreviated words or emojis may be appropriate for texts between friends, but they are not appropriate for this level of communication.
- You are sending your work through a server connected to the University. Do not include or submit any files, pictures, or writing that you would not present to the Dean of Students, the Chief of Police, and/or your mother.
- Capital letters should be used appropriately.

Rule 4. Respect other people's time and bandwidth.

- Post messages to the appropriate discussion group.
- Post your messages timely. A late post slows down the discussion.
- Try not to ask questions on discussion groups that have been answered previously.
- Read the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) document.

Rule 5. Have an electronic back up plan.

- Who will allow you to have access to a computer, internet, printer, or whatever you need to submit an assignment during the week?
- Who will allow you to have access to a computer, internet, printer, or whatever you need to submit an assignment during the weekend?
- Have extra ink, paper, mouse batteries, etc. Don't ask how I know.

Late Submissions: All work is expected to be turned in timely, by the deadlines posted online. Emergencies will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the instructor, with no guarantee of acceptance or credit. Part of what you learn in an online class is time management.

Withdrawals and Incompletes: If you think you need withdraw from an online class or take an incomplete, I would appreciate an email from you before you do it.

Electronic Communication:

All electronic communication will be done through Blackboard. This archives communication between us. Email to my UNM email will not receive a response.

Technical Requirements: Course participants are expected to have access to, and working knowledge of the following:

Microsoft Word: basic word processing functions, including creating and saving files

PowerPoint: the ability to access, create and use PowerPoint effectively

Adobe Acrobat Reader

YouTube

Although many Smart Phones may allow internet access, it is generally not sufficient to access this online course through that method. Computers are available free of charge at the VC. I am fully aware that you may be juggling computers and computer usage with other college students or public school students. VC will loan computers to registered students, and public schools have devices available

COMMUNICATION

1. Announcements: These will be made at the beginning of each new unit (every week). They will provide an overview of the topic, refer to the task list, reinforce contact information, and point out due dates. Additional announcements will be made if changes are needed within the unit period.

2. Course Messages: These will be used throughout the unit to facilitate communication with individual students. **You will be expected to check your course messages DAILY.** I will too. You can expect I will answer questions within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends/holidays. If more than 2 students raise the same issue/question, it probably means others have questions too, so I make an announcement. There is a “best practices” way to address messages and emails. Start each with an appropriate greeting (“Hello, Professor Thompson” or “Greetings, Ms. Thompson”) followed by your name and class.

3a. Discussion Boards: The purpose of the Discussion Board is to promote class communication. There will be a discussion thread per unit (one per week), initiated by me. Each will focus on student’s personal reactions to a topically related sociological issue. For example, in the sex and gender unit, the discussion topic might be “How do you think your life would be different if you swapped genders for a week?” Discussion board posts will be due after assigned text material should have been read. **Responses can be submitted only if an initial thread is done first.** To create an acceptable response, you should (a) respond to posts which interest you (b) follow the netiquette rules (c) reply in 3-5 sentences, with something responsive and communicative. Students will be advised that mostly, I lurk on discussion boards, with few comments, except to reinforce deeper-level thoughts or to address/redirect issues. Don’t assume, however, that I won’t notice if you don’t participate.

3b. The first post will be “For Further Investigation”: Some students may want to pursue a topic in greater depth than a class might offer. Some are already participating in sociologically-related activities, volunteering, know of resources other students might need or have interests they want to share. This section will be an on-going resource place. The Further Investigation section (with no points attached) will give students a chance to look at local resources, activities, videos, readings, etc. that didn’t make it into the unit.

4. Emails: These will be used to supplement course messages to students who need a little extra prompting or guidance. I will use emails after no response to a course message to remind them that I am monitoring their progress/lack of progress and offer a one-on-one session to address any concerns they might be having. Emails should never be viewed as “uh-oh...I’m in trouble.”

5. Virtual Office Hours: This application will be used for virtual office hours once weekly and by appointment. Students will be offered 25 points for attending virtual office hours at least one time during the semester.

Zoom In Happy Hour! Several times this semester, a Happy Hour will be offered as a way to further an online social opportunity. This is a no-obligation opportunity lasting 40 minutes. You can bring you kids, you pets, your significant other, or whatever. Show us your new home haircut or the dinner you have prepared. We can listen to music, play

with the Zoom background, tell jokes, or talk about whatever. Little or no learning content required.

Assignment schedule:

The textbook chapters are long, but not difficult to read. It is essential that you read them in order to complete assignments and pass the unit quiz. Because of this, **I have allocated 2 weeks for each unit.** That should allow you plenty of time to complete your chapter reading and any supplemental work. If any changes to the schedule are needed, these will be posted in Announcements.

Weeks/Dates/Topic	Readings	Aligns with SLO
Week 1 & 2 (8-17 to 8-23-20) Understanding Social Problems	Ch. 1, p. 7-25	SLO 1, 3
Week 3 & 4 (8-31 to 9-13-20) Poverty	Ch. 2, p. 27-62	SLO 1, 2, 3, 4
Week 5 & 6 (9-14 to 9-27-20) Racial /Ethnic Inequality	Ch. 3, p. 63-94	SLO 1, 2, 3, 4
Week 7-8 (9-28 to 10-11-20) Gender Inequality	Ch. 4 (p. 95-123)	SLO 1, 2, 3, 4
Week 9-10 (10-12 to 10-25-20) Sexual Orientation, and Behavior	Ch. 5 (p. 127-152) Ch. 9 (p. 251-285)	SLO 1, 2, 3, 4
Week 11-12 (10-26 to 11-8-20) Crime and Criminal Justice	Ch. 8 (p. 217-248)	SLO 1, 2, 3, 4
Week 13-14 (11-9 to 11-22-20) The Changing Family	Ch. 10 (p.288-312)	SLO 1, 2, 3, 4
Week 15-16 (11-23 to 12-6-20) Urban/Rural Problems	Ch. 14 (p. 409-435)	SLO 1, 2, 3, 4
Week 17 (12-7 to 12-12-20) Final Exam		

The syllabus is a guideline for this class. Changes may be made as needed, but you will be provided with sufficient notification for any graded activity.