

University of New Mexico-Valencia Campus
Contemporary Social Problems
2310-502 Spring, 2023

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Instructor: Barb Thompson
Course Section: 502
Credit hours: 3

Email: bthompson58@unm.edu
Term: Spring, 2023

Meeting time: MW 1:30-2:45p AAVA Rm. 131
Student consultation (office hours) MW 1:00-1:30p Rm. 131

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.unm.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 (CLO):

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 assignments online. Attendance will be noted by in-person participation. Typically, missing more than 4 classes is enough to warrant being dropped from the class.

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, either by lending work to another student or borrowing the work of another student, will receive a zero on the assignment. Further infractions 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:

- **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.
- **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 online. 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.

Assignments will be graded within 5 days, unless other 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 and F2F CLASSES turning work in online:

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. 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.

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 college classes is time management.

Withdrawals and Incompletes: If you think you need withdraw from a 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 Canvas. 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.

3. Discussion Boards: The purpose of the Discussion Board is to promote class communication. The discussion threads are initiated by me. Each will focus on student’s personal reactions to a topically related sociological issue. I can’t promise one every unit. 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.

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. Student Consultation Hours (formerly known as Office Hours): Face-to-face classes will have face to face consultation hours weekly. If the scheduled time does not work with your schedule, a consultation can be scheduled via ZOOM. Students will be offered 10 points for attending virtual office hours at least one time during the semester.

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 (1-16 to 1-29-23) Understanding Social Problems	Ch. 1, No class 1-16-23	SLO 1, 3
Week 3 &4 (1-30 to 2-12-23) Poverty	Ch. 2,	SLO 1, 2, 3, 4
Week 5 &6 (2-13 to 2-26-23) Racial /Ethnic Inequality	Ch. 3,	SLO 1, 2, 3, 4
Week 7-8 (2-27 to 3-12-23) Gender Inequality MIDTERM	Ch. 4	SLO 1, 2, 3, 4
Week 9-10 (3-13 to 3-26-23) Sexual Orientation, and Behavior	Ch. 5 Ch. 9 Spring Break 3-12 to 3-19	SLO 1, 2, 3, 4
Week 11-12 (3-27 to 4-9-23) The Changing Family	Ch. 10	SLO 1, 2, 3, 4
Week 13-14 (4-10 to 4-23-23) Crime and Criminal Justice	Ch. 8	SLO 1, 2, 3, 4
Week 15 and 16 (4-24 to 5-3-2021) Urban/Rural Problems And final exam	Ch. 14	SLO 1, 2, 3, 4

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.

UNM Spring Required syllabus updates:

Accommodations: UNM is committed to providing courses that are inclusive and accessible for all participants. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate an accessible classroom setting, in which students have full access and opportunity. If you are experiencing physical or academic barriers, or concerns related to mental health, physical health and/or COVID-19, please consult with me after class, via email/phone or during office/check-in hours (I am not legally permitted to inquire about the need for accommodations). We can meet your needs in collaboration with the [Accessibility Resource Center](https://arc.unm.edu/) (<https://arc.unm.edu/>) at arcsrvs@unm.edu or by phone (505) 277-3506.

Support: Contact me at bthompson58@unm.edu or in office/check-in hours and contact [Accessibility Resource Center](https://arc.unm.edu/) (<https://arc.unm.edu/>) at arcsrvs@unm.edu (505) 277-3506.

Credit-hour statement (alter as needed to suit your section):

This is a three credit-hour course. Class meets for two 65-minute sessions of direct instruction for fifteen weeks during the Fall 2022 semester. Please plan for a *minimum* of six hours of out-of-class work (or homework, study, assignment completion, and class preparation) each week.

Support: [Center for Academic Program Support](#) (CAPS). Many students have found that time management workshops can help them meet their goals (consult ([CAPS](#)) website under "services").

Title IX:

Our classroom and our university should always be spaces of mutual respect, kindness, and support, without fear of discrimination, harassment, or violence. Should you ever need assistance or have concerns about incidents that violate this principle, please access the resources available to you on campus. Please note that, because UNM faculty, TAs, and GAs are considered "responsible employees" by the Department of Education, any disclosure of gender discrimination (including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence) made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported by that faculty member, TA, or GA to the university's Title IX coordinator. For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, please see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>.

Support: [LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center](#) and the support services listed on its website, the [Women's Resource Center](#) and the [LGBTQ Resource Center](#) all offer confidential services and reporting.

OPTIONAL SYLLABUS LANGUAGE

Land Acknowledgement: Founded in 1889, the University of New Mexico sits on the traditional homelands of the Pueblo of Sandia. The original peoples of New Mexico Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache since time immemorial, have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to the broader community statewide. We honor the land

itself and those who remain stewards of this land throughout the generations and also acknowledge our committed relationship to Indigenous peoples. We gratefully recognize our history.

Resource: [Division for Equity and Inclusion](#).

Citizenship and/or Immigration Status: All students are welcome in this class regardless of citizenship, residency, or immigration status. Your professor will respect your privacy if you choose to disclose your status. As for all students in the class, family emergency-related absences are normally excused with reasonable notice to the professor, as noted in the attendance guidelines above. UNM as an institution has made a core commitment to the success of all our students, including members of our undocumented community. The Administration's welcome is found on our website: <http://undocumented.unm.edu/>.

Respectful and Responsible Learning: We all have shared responsibility for ensuring that learning occurs safely and equitably. UNM has important policies to preserve and protect the academic community, especially policies on student grievances (Faculty Handbook D175 and D176), academic dishonesty (FH D100), and respectful campus (FH CO9). These are in the *Student Pathfinder* (<https://pathfinder.unm.edu>) and the *Faculty Handbook* (<https://handbook.unm.edu>). Please ask for help in understanding and avoiding plagiarism or academic dishonesty, which can both have very serious consequences.

Support: [Center for Academic Program Support](#) (CAPS). Many students have found that time management workshops can help them meet their goals (consult ([CAPS](#)) website under "services").

Connecting to Campus and Finding Support: UNM has many resources and centers to help you thrive, including [opportunities to get involved](#), [mental health resources](#), [academic support including tutoring](#), [resource centers](#) for people like you, free food at [Lobo Food Pantry](#), and [jobs on campus](#). Your advisor, staff at the [resource centers](#) and [Dean of Students](#), and I can help you find the right opportunities for you.