



Dixie State University

**SOCIAL PROBLEMS
SOC 1020-02
SPRING TERM 2015**

Instructor:

Robert H. Oxley, Ph.D.

Course:

SOC 1020: Social Problems
(3.0) 3 Credit Hrs.

Section: Meeting/Times:

SOC 1020-02

CRN: 27523

(M/W/F) 1:00-1:50 PM

Text:

**Leon-Guerrero, A. (2014). *Social Problems: Community, Policy, and Social Action* (4th. ed.)
Los Angeles, CA: SAGE Publications**

Building/Room:

Browning Center RM 210

Course Description:

This course examines the “problems” of our world as social constructions. There will be an investigation of the processes by which activists, experts, and the media make claims about what they perceive as injustices and inequalities in their worlds’.

Instructors Office Hours:

Room 236 (McDonald)

Mon. and Wed.

12:00 -1:00 PM

Tues. 8:00-9:00 AM

Instructor's Office Phone:

(435) 652-7892

Consideration of current social problems, such as family stability, racism, sexism, poverty, crime, globalization, and ecological problems using sociological theory and empirical studies. Analysis of structural factors underlying these problems and potential solutions will be explored.

Prerequisite: SOC 1010 is suggested but not required.

Instructor's E-mail:

roxley@dixie.edu

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Cultivate a “sociological imagination.”
2. Assess the underlying causes of social problems.
3. Identify the theoretical frameworks used in the analysis of current social problems, i.e. functionalist, conflict, feminist, and/or interactionist perspectives.
4. Explore social indicators to determine the prevalence of social problems.

5. Demonstrate an understanding of the sociology of social problems as a scientific discipline i.e. the gathering of and analyzing of empirical data in a systematic prescribed fashion.
6. Explain the role of institutions in the creation and/or resolution of various social problems.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of the ideas, people, and events that are generally thought to be important by sociologists of social problems.
8. Investigate perceived inequality associated with social class, race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation.
9. Examine potential solutions to identified social issues.

Method of Instruction: lecture, group discussions, quizzing, group work, videos.
(Any combination or all of the above methodologies)

Faculty/Student Responsibilities:

1. As a college student, you are expected to schedule at least two hours of study time outside of class for **each** hour the class meets. (minimum of 6 hours per week)
2. Each student is responsible for reading the text plus supplemental Learning Activities (CANVAS) and **not** relying entirely on the instructor presenting every detail.
3. Any dishonesty involved with quizzes, exams, or plagiarism on the discussion assignments or on the position paper will result in a grade of zero. Also, at the discretion of Dr. Oxley, removal from this course and further action as deemed by the Dean of Humanities and/or the Dixie State University Administration.
4. The Mid Term Examination, the Final Examination, the Quizzes, and the Discussion Board assignments with peer appraisals **MUST** be taken/submitted on the prescribed date and time. The Position Paper **MUST** be submitted on the prescribed date and time.
5. Dixie State University

<http://catalog.dixie.edu/>

6. **DSU POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND SEMESTER IMPORTANT DATES**

Click on this link – <http://www.dixie.edu/reg/syllabus> - for comprehensive information on the Semester Dates, the Final Exam Schedule, Dixie State University resources such as the library, Disability Resource Center, IT Student Help Desk, Online Writing Lab, Testing Center, Tutoring Center, and Writing Center. In addition, please review the DSU policies and statements with regards to Academic

Integrity, Disruptive Behavior and Absences related to Dixie State University functions.

7. **Special Accommodations:** *If you are a student with a medical, psychological, or learning disability or think you might have a disability and would like accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center (435) 652.7516 in the North Plaza. The Disability of the student requesting special services and determine the appropriate accommodations related to their disability.*

Testing/Evaluation:

Understanding of course material will be determined by quizzes, discussion board assignments, mid-term exam, final exam and a position (research) paper. **Extra Credit work is not available in this course.**

Assessment:

Quizzes, Discussion Board Assignments with 2 + 2 Peer Appraisals (CANVAS), Mid Term Exam, Position Paper, and the Final Exam.

Attendance Policy:

- Attendance is taken daily. Consistent class attendance is necessary to successfully complete this course.
- Be punctual!
- If the class cannot meet for some reason, students will be notified. If the College is closed because of bad weather, you need to listen to a local radio station and/or TV broadcast.
- Find a "study friend" and exchange phone numbers and/or email addresses with at least two other students for class information if you are absent.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>	<i>Email Address</i>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Classroom Etiquette:

For your benefit and for the benefit of your classmates-

- At all times be considerate to your classmates and to your instructor.
- **No food or beverage is allowed in any classroom.**
- Come to class "on time", ready to ask questions about previous lessons/assignments.
- Ask pertinent questions: contribute to discussions; avoid "private" conversations that distract the instructor and other students.

- Remember that the faculty is the one to end the class-do not prepare to leave early.
- **“Turn Off “cell phones** (do not disturb your fellow classmates).

Keys to Success:

- **Have a positive attitude about learning and the class.**
- **Attend all class sessions and be punctual.**
- **Scan the textbook before the class and read prescribed text pages plus all supplemental CANVAS materials after the Module Topic session is completed for that specific class period.**
- **Work with your "study friends." and/or Learning Team members. Ask for help when needed.**
- **Don't expect to understand every module topic the first time it is presented; review often; spend as much time as necessary to master the material.**
- **Enjoy the class!**

Additional Student Responsibility:

1. The student is responsible for all announcements and material presented in class, for completion of all homework and reading assignments, and for actively participating in the learning process. Communication is the key— roxley@dixie.edu

Important class and college information will be sent to your dmail email account. This information includes your DSU bill, financial aid/scholarship notices, notification of dropped classes, reminders of important dates and events, and other information critical to your success in this class and at DSU. ALL DSU students are automatically assigned a dmail email account. If you do not know your user name and password, then go to www.dixie.edu and select “dmail” for complete instructions. You will be held responsible for information sent to your dmail email, so please check it often.

2. The student is responsible for informing the instructor about any health conditions which might create a classroom emergency (i.e., seizure disorders, diabetes, heart conditions). A “Student Profile Form” will be distributed, completed and submitted by each student during the first class session.
3. The student is responsible for discussing with the instructor any needs for test taking or other accommodations. The instructor must have received notification from the Disability Resource Center Coordinator for eligibility determination. THE DRC is located on the ground floor of the Financial Aid Office. Visit or call (435) 652-7516 to schedule an appointment to discuss the process. The DRC coordinator determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.

4. If you plan to email this professor with questions or leave a message for your instructor via phone you must identify yourself and the class you are referring to before beginning your “brief” message or question. Be sure to leave a return phone number.

Missed or Late Assignments/Assessments:

All exams, quizzes, discussion board assignments and the position paper must be completed/submitted on the date/time that they are due/presented. Late assignments (quizzes, discussion board assignments, exams, position paper) will NOT be accepted late and will result in a grade of “zero” for that type of assessment.

Determination of Final Grade:

Example of Final Grade Computation:

The grade on each of the following five components will account for a percentage of the final course grade:

- Mid-Term Exam Scheduled: Monday, March 2, 2015 (1:00-1:50 PM)
- Position Paper DUE: Monday, April 13, 2015 (1:00 PM)
- Quizzes Periodically throughout the Fall Term (7)
- Discussions Periodically throughout the Fall Term (7)
- Final Exam Scheduled: May 1, 2015 (FRIDAY) (12:00 Noon-2:00 PM) (Browning Center ROOM 210) ***NOTE: TIME CHANGE for the Final Exam (Two Hour Block)**

***NOTE: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, (January 19, 2015) No Classes**

****NOTE: President’s Day, Monday (February 16, 2015) No Classes Will Be Held**

*****NOTE: Semester Spring Break; (March 9-13, 2015) No Classes Will Be Held**

******NOTE: Last Class Session (pre-Final Exam Week): WED. April 29, 2015**

Determination of Final Grade: (continued)

Final grades will be transcribed on a 4.0 scale and calculated as follows:

- Discussions (seven @ 30 points each) = 187/210 points (21% of Final Grade)
- Quizzes (seven @ 30 points each) = 183/210 points (21% of Final Grade)
- Position Paper = 152/170 points (17% of Final Grade)
- Mid Term Exam = 181/200 points (20% of Final Grade)
- Final exam = 192/210 points (21% of Final Grade)

Total = 895 divided by 1000 = 89.5% (round-up to 90.0) = Final Course Grade “A”

******NOTE: There are no make-up dates for quizzes. You must be present on the day that each quiz is given.**

*****NOTE: Discussion Assignments and Peer Appraisals must be submitted on CANVAS on or before the prescribed due date/time. NO MAKE-UP for Discussion Board assignments will be available.**

*****NOTE: The Mid Term Examination and the Final Examination must be completed on the prescribed date & time. NO MAKE-UP will be provided.**

Grading Scale:

- 90 - 100 % = A
- 80 - 89% = B
- 70 - 79% = C
- 60 - 69% = D
- 59%-below = (failed the course)

Sequence of Instruction:

NOTE TO STUDENTS: The basic module topics in this course will be covered but may be presented using a modified version of the calendar found below. Supplemental information will be supplied by Dr. Oxley via email and/or CANVAS

Weekly	COURSE MODULE TOPIC SCHEDULE (CANVAS) & Lecture
1	Module 1-Sociology & the Study of Social Problems
2	Module 2-Social Class and Poverty
3	Module 3-Race and Ethnicity
4	Module 4-Gender and Sexual Orientation
5	Module 5-The Media
6	Module 6-Family Problems
7	Module 7-Education <u>MID TERM EXAMINATION:</u> (March 2, 2015; Monday: 1:00 PM until 1:50 PM: Browning Ctr. RM 210)
8	Module 8-Work and the Economy
9	Module 9-Health and Medicine
10	Module 10-Substance Abuse
11	Module 11-Crime & the Criminal Justice System
12	Module 12-The Environment
13	Module 13-War, Militarism and Terrorism
14	Module 14-Social Problems and Social Action
15	Module 15-Social Problems and Social Action
16	<u>FINAL EXAMINATION:</u> (MAY 1, 2015; Friday: 12:00 Noon-2:00 PM <Note Time Change for the Final Exam> Browning Ctr. RM 210)

NOTE: This Social Problems Course pace will require that you keep that progression with reading & CANVAS assignments & lecture/exercise review.

Final Thought

As a result of using the Socratic methodology it is important to participate in class. Without active participation in the class the only possible ingredients for the final grade are the raw numbers from the results of quizzes, mid-term exam, position paper, discussion board, and the final exam. If, on the other hand, you have demonstrated a further grasp of the material through class participation, then your final grade may be raised (maximum of 2%). Participation is evaluated by willingness to contribute in both small group (Learning Team) and in full class discussions through questions, insights and observations.

EDUCATION: That which discloses to the wise and disguises from the foolish their lack of understanding.

Ambrose Bierce