

**Dixie State College**  
**Sociology 1020: Introduction to Social Problems**

Instructor: Logan B. Reid

Class-time: Tues 5:15 – 7:45pm                      Classroom: MCDON – Room  
103                      Office: Potter Room (McDonald Building) or Southwest Behavioral Health Center -  
474 W. 200 N.

(435) 634-5652 -- Call or email for an appointment.

**Required Textbooks:**

For this course, assignments and test information will come from the following textbooks: Social Problems, by Joel Best. A few copies of the textbook are available in the library to be checked out for one hour.

**Course Website:**

All course information and assignments can be found on the course website located on Canvas:

Go to [www.dixie.edu](http://www.dixie.edu) ([Links to an external site.](#)); Under the “Welcome” tab on the left of the page, click “Canvas”; Log in with your campus username and password, and select “Social Problems”.

**Course Description:**

Fulfills General Education Social & Behavioral Sciences requirement. This course provides an introduction to the basic concepts and analysis of some of the major problems and issues of contemporary society dealing with crime, sexuality, drug abuse, violence, and families, in addition to larger social problems such as war, poverty, race and ethnic relations, population and the environment through lectures, guest speakers, film, writing assignments, and exams. FA, SP. In addition, this course will also explore some of the social causes of these societal problems and the consequences of some of their public policy solutions, all through the eyes of sociology.

This course will attempt to encourage students to think critically and scientifically about the broad array of problems confronting our society and people throughout the world. This class will go further than a simple description and opinion-based analysis of the problems discussed; it will attempt to help students understand these problems scientifically, and be able to communicate this understanding to others. We will explore many prominent theoretical perspectives in sociology and apply them to the social problems studied as well as many of their public solutions. Therefore, this course will also cover an introduction to Sociology.

**Course Objectives:**

This course has 4 main objectives. Students completing Introduction to Sociology should:

- 1- Be able to demonstrate an ability to identify the ideas, people, and events that are generally thought to be important by sociologists of social problems; and an ability to examine human behaviors as a way of understanding social problems.
- 2- Develop informed points of view based on sociological knowledge and exhibit elements of critical thinking, writing skills, and effective communication of informed points of view based on sociological knowledge.

3- Students will also begin to develop the critical and analytical thinking skills and scientific methodology to examine human behavior and understand sociology of social problems as a scientific discipline (i.e. the gathering and analyzing of empirical data in a systematic fashion) necessary for further study and research into social problems.

4- Be able to demonstrate an understanding of functionalism, conflict, and symbolic interactionism as the major theoretical perspectives of sociology and demonstrate an understanding of the five main institutions of society (family, religion, education, economy, and politics) from a sociological perspective.

### **Student Evaluation & Assessment:**

Grades will be determined from the total points possible in the class. I give you one free quiz, and one free pop-quiz.

Make-up quizzes/activities will not be given. They are posted online and you are given five days to complete them, so there is no excuse for missing one. Plan ahead and make sure you are available for the quizzes. Follow this link to view the DSC Absences policy: <http://new.dixie.edu/reg/?page=spring2011> (Links to an external site.)

### **Assignments:**

Students are required to complete 7 assignments for this class. Assignments must be turned in through Canvas (except your Creative Collage, which you will turn in during class the day it is due). Late assignments will not be accepted. I DO NOT ACCEPT EMAILED ASSIGNMENTS. You must turn them in through Canvas. I encourage you to keep a copy of all of your assignments. (For more information about assignments view the description and requirements of each assignment under the "Assignments" page on Canvas.

### **Classroom Expectations:**

As an instructor, I promise to work hard to: (1) prepare meaningful classes that cover the course material, (2) engage students, (3) help students learn and achieve the outlined objectives of the course, and (4) create a comfortable and enjoyable atmosphere where students feel free to voice their opinions and share their ideas. In return, I expect students to: (1) come to class prepared and on time, (2) be respectful of me and other students (pay attention, turn off electronic devices,) (3) treat other students and their ideas/opinions with civility and respect.

The Sociology Program at Dixie State respects the rights of faculty to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede the learning process. Disruptive classroom behavior will not be tolerated. Due to the nature of the subject, sensitive material will frequently be discussed in this course. All opinions are welcome and encouraged, but should be expressed with tact and discretion out of respect for your peers. I reserve the right as the instructor to stop any conversation I deem inappropriate and/or ask students to leave the classroom if I feel that behavior is inappropriate. Out of common courtesy students should be thoughtful about turn-taking, turning off their cell phones and/or other distracting electronic devices, and arriving to class on time. Unless a student has special needs and provides documentation that their use of above equipment is essential, such use of equipment is not allowed in this classroom. Repeated violations will result in expulsion from the class. Follow this link to view the DSC Disruptive Behavior Policy: <http://new.dixie.edu/reg/?page=spring2011> (Links to an external site.)

### **Tips:**

Students will benefit from attending ALL classes. Pop quizzes and class activities will be given randomly throughout the semester, and points are often awarded for being in class on time and/or

throughout the entire class. Questions on all quizzes and exams will come from the instructors lecture, material presented during class, and assigned readings. If you are not in attendance you will miss that information and you will not get credit for the class activities. Coming to class having read the assigned material will help students understand, process and remember course material. DO THE READING!

NOTE: Important college information will be sent to your Rebelmail email account. This information includes your DSC bill, financial aid/scholarship notices, notification of dropped classes, reminders of important dates and events, and other information critical to your success at DSC. All DSC students are automatically assigned a Rebelmail email account. If you do not know your user name and password, go to [www.dixie.edu](http://www.dixie.edu) and select "Rebelmail" for complete instructions. You will be held responsible for information sent to your Rebelmail email, so please check it often. (You can set it to forward to another email). All important class information will be sent through Canvas.

### **Students with Disabilities (Americans with Disabilities Act)**

Qualified students with disabilities may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. Proper documentation of a disability is required in order to receive services or accommodations. Any student eligible for and requesting reasonable academic accommodations due to a disability must provide a letter of accommodation to their professor from the Disability Resource Center within the first two weeks of the beginning of classes. Please contact the Center on the main campus to follow through with the documentation process. We are located in the Student Services Center Room #201, or you may call for an appointment and further information regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at 652-7516.

### **Extra Credit:**

There are multiple opportunities for extra credit (up to 20 points). Extra credit points can really help an overall grade, and are highly recommended. They can be submitted anytime during the semester until the last day of class. For more information, view the "Extra Credit" Page under the "Assignments" tab on Canvas.

### **Academic Dishonesty:**

Students of my class are asked to abide by the "Honor System." Under this system, students agree to follow the "Honor Pledge" which states:

"I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity."

Dixie's student code of conduct stipulates that "infractions" of academic dishonesty include "cheating", "falsification", and "plagiarism" (please refer to the student handbook for full definitions of each) or follow this link to view ALL DSC POLICIES & STATEMENTS: <http://new.dixie.edu/reg/?page=spring2011> ([Links to an external site.](#)). I take academic dishonesty very seriously, and acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. I will follow Dixie State guidelines outlined in The Code of Policies and Procedures for Students at Dixie State College. Students who participate in academically dishonest activities will receive an F for the course at the minimum. If you are caught cheating, even on a 5 point quiz/activity, you will flunk this course and may face stiffer penalties depending upon the nature of the offense. I reserve the right to impose sanctions and handle matters as I see fit.

### **Disclaimer:**

Please note: THIS IS A COURSE ABOUT SOCIETY AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS. We will discuss, study, observe, listen to and view materials related to issues like: politics, child abuse, homosexuality, pornography, drug abuse, race, ethnicity, war, obesity, religion and all of the other subjects listed under "Course Description". All of the material I will show in class will be within the PG-13 rating system, or

approved for public television. However, please understand that these are sensitive, graphic, provocative, and sometimes offensive issues.