

**DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences**

**COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2023**

**SO1020(A2 & VC): Social Problems – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks**

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	Dr. Michael Holland	<b>PHONE:</b>	780-539-2973
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<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	By appointment		

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** Analysis of the social construction of social problems, focusing on selected structural and behavioural problems such as inequality, substance abuse, family violence, pornography, mental and physical handicaps. Personal and societal responses and intervention attempts will be explored.

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:**

SO1000 - Introductory Sociology

**REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

Tepperman, L., Curtis, J., & La Touche, R. L. (2020). *Social Problems*. Oxford University Press.

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** On-Campus and Videoconference (VC).

Note: *Videoconference Student Requirements:* Technology (e.g., webcam, microphone, speakers), Class Participation (e.g., camera on during class, appropriate screen name)

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Upon completion of the course, students will:

- Explain the wider introductory social problems literature.

- Explain the causes and consequences of social problems.
- Illustrate the applicability of sociological knowledge to understand and solve social problems.
- Identify and explain the research tools used by sociologists in the study of social problems.

**TRANSFERABILITY:**

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca>.

**\*\* Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

**EVALUATIONS:**

Assessment	Total Point Value	Weight
Attendance (5 percent), Class Participation (7.5 percent), Online Discussions (7.5 percent)	150 pts	20 %
Chapter quizzes * 10	100 pts	10 %
Media Project (proposal, outline, presentation, and peer feedback)	100 pts	20 %
Midterm	60 pts	20 %
Final Exam	80 pts	30 %
Total	490 pts	100 %

Note: assignment instructions and rubrics will be made available on our myClass page.

**Attendance/Class Participation/Online Discussions**

Throughout the semester, you are expected to engage in thoughtful discussions, critical analyses, and collaborative learning experiences. These will take place in class and online via myClass discussion forums. The purpose of these discussions is to enhance your understanding of sociological concepts, develop communication skills, and contribute to a vibrant classroom community. Prompts to guide these discussions will be given in class. To receive full credit for attendance, you must be present for class regularly.

**Chapter Weekly Quizzes**

Beginning week 3, you will complete chapter quizzes on our course webpage (myClass). There will be 10 questions (multiple choice), and one bonus quiz. These quizzes encourage you to consistently read the chapters and test your knowledge as we move forward in the course. Beginning the third week of the class (See below), **quizzes will open on Monday at midnight and close Sunday at 11:59 PM**. It is your responsibility to ensure that you complete these quizzes on time. No exceptions will be made for lateness.

## Media Project

This assignment aims to analyze and interpret various forms of art, such as movies, songs, music videos, paintings, and poems, to gain insights into a chosen social problem. You will critically examine the artistic representations and messages conveyed by these works to better understand the nuances and impact of the chosen social issue from the perspective of at least one sociological perspective. You should also consider what social solutions are available. Next, you will submit a **written proposal (10 points)**, **outline (20 points)**, and **prepare a presentation (60 points)** that will be done either individually or with a group. Note: if students work in groups the mark will be shared. The presentation may also be recorded upon request. You must also provide feedback for your peers (**10 marks**). Rubrics for these assignments will be made available on myClass. When possible, there will be time to work on these assignments during class time.

## Midterm and Final Exam

The midterm will consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks, matching, and short essay questions. The final exam will be a take-home exam that will open the day after the last scheduled classes and will close by 11:59 pm on the date scheduled by the registrar. Further details will be provided when available. Reviews before the exams will take place in class.

**GRADING CRITERIA (select the appropriate chart below based on the grading type for this specific course):**

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

### Grading Chart for courses with Alpha Grading:

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94	C	2.0	63-66

A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

**COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:**

Week	Class Date	Topic (s)	Readings	Assignments
1	Sept 5, 7	Introduction to the course Meet and Greet, Studying Social Problems	Chapter 1 (Read for Sept 7)	
2	Sept 12, 14	Class and Poverty Discuss media project	Chapter 2	
3	Sept 19, 21	Racism and Ethnic Inequality	Chapter 3	Quizzes start
4	Sept 26, 28	Gender Inequality	Chapter 4	Sept 27 proposal due 11:59 pm on myClass
5	Oct 3, 5	Sexualities	Chapter 5	
6	Oct 10, 12	Crime and Violence	Chapter 6	
7	Oct 17, 19	<b>Midterm review (Oct 17) and Midterm</b>		
8	Oct 24, 26	Health and Addictions	Chapter 7	
9	Oct 31, 2	Global Inequality	Chapter 8	
10	Nov 7, 9	Families	Chapter 9	Nov 8 outlines due at 11:59 pm
11	Fall Break – No Classes			
12	Nov 21, 23	Aging	Chapter 10	
13	Nov 28, Nov 30	Schools	Chapter 11	Presentations Start
14	Dec 5, 6	Work and the Economy	Chapter 12	Presentations Continue; Last week for quizzes

15	Dec 12	Population and Environment Brief Final Exam Review	Chapter 13	Finalize Presentations
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**OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:**

- Sept 14 Last day to add courses or drop courses for a full refund (in most programs) & last day to pay Fall semester fees (except for students on an approved payment plan). Last day to opt out of Student Health/Dental Plan
- Sept 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Oct 9 Thanksgiving Day—No Classes
- Nov 13-17 Fall Break—No Classes
- Nov 28 Last day to withdraw from classes (most programs) with a “W”
- Dec 8 Deadline to apply for Winter courses
- Dec 12 Last day of classes for the Fall semester
- Dec 14 - 21 Final exam period

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Attendance and Exam Policies:

Attendance at lectures is strongly encouraged, as is your participation in class discussions and group discussions.

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a student’s learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating to the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). *Ultimately, you are responsible for your learning and performance in this course.*

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes by asking fellow students for the material covered, and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and/or notes that may be due.

For Video Conferencing Students:

During classes, VC students must turn on their cameras, use an appropriate screen name, and participate during class for credit.

### **Important VC information for the midterm test:**

For the midterm, VC students are required to use a dual camera setup, which means having a webcam that shows your camera behind you showing your work area with your computer.

If you are unable to meet the dual camera setup requirement VC students can pay to write the exams at an independent proctor location approved by the instructor. Note: the proctor cannot be a friend/family member, etc. If the above options do not work for you, you may simply join us on campus in writing the midterm exam during the scheduled time.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

To be fair to everyone in this course, **I will not alter the evaluation**, so any missed testing or assignments will not be accommodated.

### **STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:**

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

\*\*Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

### **Additional Information:**

#### **D2L:**

This course will make extensive use of our website on D2L to support your learning. You are expected to keep current with the content of the site, and I advise you to log on often.

#### **Professional Conduct:**

- Please be aware that I respect that everyone's time is valuable, please afford me the same courtesy.

**Please note:** If at any point in the semester, you feel you are struggling with the course material or with your coursework, please do not hesitate to ask me for assistance. Come and see me during my office hours, and I will assist you or point you toward other suitable sources of support. If you are scheduled to attend lectures or have other commitments during my office hours, please contact me by e-mail for an appointment.

- Instead of preoccupying your mind with questions such as, "How do I get an 'A'?" Instead, ask yourself, "How can I work to expand my knowledge, perspective, and outlook on the real world?"

- Please only use your **NWP e-mail account** to avoid having your message blocked by SPAM filters.
- Always include “SO 1020” in the subject line (or I may never even receive your message).
- Finally, in our academic environment, please practice writing e-mails *formally*, as you will need to do regularly upon graduation. For example, use a simple greeting, do not use slang or abbreviations, and always sign off with your name!