



**DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION**

**COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2020**

**SO1020 (A2): SOCIAL PROBLEMS – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Michael Holland

**PHONE:** 780-539-2973

**OFFICE:** B-404

**E-MAIL:** [mholland@gprc.ab.ca](mailto:mholland@gprc.ab.ca)

**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment

**FALL 2020 DELIVERY:** Remote Delivery. This course is delivered remotely. There are no face-to-face or onsite requirements. Students must have a computer with a webcam and reliable internet connection. Technological support is available through [helpdesk@gprc.ab.ca](mailto:helpdesk@gprc.ab.ca)

**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.

**REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

[Author removed at request of original publisher] (2016). Social Problems: Continuity and Change. University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing. ISBN 13: 9781946135230

Available free-of-charge via OpenStax College at:

<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/social-problems-continuity-and-change>

- Supplemental readings will be provided for free on our D2L website.
  - Be certain to follow our course outline carefully in order to complete readings prior to each lecture.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Students will:

- Be shown how to acquire a critical sociological understanding of how social problems become perceived, or how they cease to be understood as problematic.
- Be familiarized with social practices in society.

- Be presented with sociological theories that attempt to explain the construction of social reality.
- Be encouraged to apply the meanings of “ideology”, “social cohesion”, “conflict”, “discourse”, “social stratification”, “hegemony”, and other concepts to help people consider social problems.
- Utilize different sociological interpretations of a range of social experiences.
- Shown how to develop thinking, talking and writing skills on particular theories used by sociologists to explain social problems.

**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:** UA, UC, AU, UL, AF, CU, CUC, GMU, KUC

**\*Warning:** Although we strive to make the transferability information in this document up-to-date and accurate, **the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities.** Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at Alberta Transfer Guide at <http://transferalberta.alberta.ca/transfer-alberta-search/#!/audienceTypeStep>

**\*\* 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
Participation/Class Attendance	100 pts	5 %
Midterm	60 pts	15 %
4 Discussion/Engagement Posts ( 10 pts each)	40 pts	10 %
Research Topic Presentation (Zoom)	50 pts	15 %
Research Paper Assignment <i>Thesis/research problem (5 pts; 2.5 %)</i> <i>Outline (20 pts; 7.5 %)</i> <i>Complete paper (50 pts; 15%)</i>	75 pts	25 %
Final Exam	80 pts	30 %

Total	405 pts	100 %
-------	---------	-------

**Please note: It is simply unfair to alter the course evaluation for any individual. Therefore, under any conditions, there will be no alternative tests or assignments if you miss or do poorly on a requirement.**

- Furthermore, it is your responsibility to **track your own grades:** Please do not contact the professor for such information.

### **Submission & Late Policies:**

- Equally important to learn and apply professional communication skills, such as writing proper e-mail messages, it is very important to learn to meet deadlines. Complete your assignments on time!
- Late and/or incomplete assignments will receive a grade of 0% unless you have a valid reason supported with appropriate documentation (i.e., a medical note from an M.D.) and you discuss it with me **well in advance of any due date.**

### **Participation/Attendance**

To earn full participation credit (worth 5% of course grade), I expect regular attendance and contribution to the class. However, the contribution must include thoughtful discussion and engagement. Merely speaking often is not enough; you need to show that you have done the readings and can reflect on the material or class discussion.

### **Discussion/Engagement posts**

You are required to complete 4 discussion and reaction posts (reactions to course content, films, lectures). To earn full credit, you must: a) answer a discussion question posted by the instructor; b) demonstrate reading comprehension and knowledge of the topic, and c) ask a question about the topic for purposes of engagement. The next class will lead with these questions for further discussions and engagement. You can choose any 4 topics to react to. However, it is your responsibility to make sure that you complete all 4 responses for full credit.

### **Presentation (Zoom)**

Towards the end of the semester, you will be present your research project (see below) to the class. This will be done via Zoom. The purpose of the presentation is to not only engage the class with your topic and to demonstrate your knowledge of the topic, but also a chance for feedback from your classmates and the instructor. Such feedback will be beneficial for your final paper (see below). More details about the presentation will be made available within the first 2 weeks of the semester. Students will have a choice of topic and when to present. More details on this will be discussed in the second week of classes.

### **Research Paper Assignment (consists of 3 parts, worth a total of 75 points)**

You will complete a full research paper essay. The essay will be broken down into steps. First, you will come up with a **research topic (of your choice), write a research problem statement,**

**and a working thesis or argument.** This first project will be evaluated and must be approved by the instructor before moving onto the **outline assignment**. The outline assignment consists of locating peer-reviewed, academic resources, and then organizing research into a logical essay in which you paraphrase research and utilize proper citations (APA citation style). Finally, you will complete a **full research paper** that consists of full sentences, paragraphs, and a complete title page and reference page. All of these assignments have strict due dates. **You must complete each part of these assignments in order before moving on to the next.**

**Test and Final Exam**

The Mid-Term Test (15%) and Final Examination (30%) will consist of any combination of multiple-choice, true/false, or short answer questions. There will be a brief review before each of these evaluations. The final exam is cumulative (emphasis on ‘big picture’ themes and concepts). Tests and final exam will be based on all course material (textbook, journal articles, classroom discussions, and video clips).

**GRADING CRITERIA:**

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

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	90-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89	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	0-49

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
Sept 2	Introduction to the course	Syllabus	
Sept 9	Studying Social Problems Assign presentations	Chapter 1	
Sept 21, 23	Racism and Ethnic Inequality	Chapter 3	
Sept 28, 30	Gender Inequality	Chapter 4	Paper topic and working thesis due (Sept 30)
Oct 19, 21	Inequality based on Age	Chapter 6	

Oct 26, 28	Alcohol and Other Drugs	Chapter 7	
Nov 2, 4	Crime and Criminal Justice	Chapter 8	Outline due (Nov 4)
Nov 9, 11	Sexual Behavior	Chapter 9	
Nov 16, 18	Family	Chapter 10	<b>Mid-Term Test (Nov 18)</b>
Nov 23, 25	Schools and Education	Chapter 11  Lareau, Annette. 1987. “Social Class Differences in Family- School Relationships: The Importance of Cultural Capital.” Sociology of Education 60:73-85.	
Nov 30, Dec 2	Work and the Economy	Chapter 12	
Dec 7, 9	Health and Healthcare Brief Review	Chapter 13	<b>Final paper (due before the exam, TBA on specific time/date)</b>
			<b>Final Exam (cumulative) Scheduled by the Registrar Office</b>

### **OTHER IMPORTANT DATES**

**September 7<sup>th</sup>**, Labour day—No Classes

**September 10<sup>th</sup>**, 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

**October 12<sup>th</sup>**, Thanksgiving—No Classes

**October 13-16<sup>th</sup>**, Fall Break—No Classes

**November 27<sup>th</sup>**, Last day to withdraw from classes (most programs) with a “W”

**November 30<sup>th</sup>**, Deadline to apply for Winter courses

**December 9<sup>th</sup>**, Last day of classes

**December 11<sup>th</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup>**, Exam Period for Fall semester

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

### Attendance and Exam Policies:

Attendance at lectures is strongly encouraged, as are 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 own 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.

### **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 of Plagiarism and Cheating:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated, and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>

- Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments.

**Please note:** If at any point in the semester you feel you are struggling with the course material or with your course work, 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 towards 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.

### **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.

### Academic Misconduct:

Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person's work as one's own.
- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating).
- Collusion or the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work.
- Substitution in an examination by another person.
- Handing in the same unchanged work as submitted for another assignment.
- Breach of confidentiality.

The consequences for academic misconduct range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from the College. More specific descriptions and details are found in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct section of the GPRC credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct Policies.

### **SPECIALIZED SUPPORTS:**

#### Counselling and Disability Services:

Counselling Services provides a wide range of specialized counseling services to prospective and registered students, including personal, career, and academic counseling.

#### Students with Disabilities:

It is the College's goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on a disability, please let your instructor know immediately so options can be discussed. You are also welcome to contact Accessibility Services to establish reasonable accommodations. <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/services/accessibility/>

#### Learning Support Centre:

The Learning Support Centre is accessible through the Library at the Main campus of GPRC, where students can gather to share ideas, collaborate on projects, and get new perspectives on learning from our tutorial staff.

The Learning Support Centre, through a variety of delivery methods, assists in skill development to GPRC students. Assistance is provided by instructors, staff, and student tutors. Individuals wishing to improve their mathematics, writing, grammar, study, or other skills, can take advantage of this unique service.

#### Professional Conduct:

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

### **STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:**

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the section on Plagiarism and Cheating in the College policy titled Student Misconduct: Academic and Non-Academic at (<https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/fetch.php?ID=68>).

Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments.

\*\*Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>

**Additional Information:**

- Please only use your **GPRC 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!