

**ADVANCED SOCIAL PROBLEMS  
MAYMESTER 2024  
COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Number:** SOCI 3323 (33649)

**Instructor:** Angela Frederick

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**COURSE OVERVIEW AND REQUIREMENTS**

**Course Overview.** The year 2020 marked one of the most socially turbulent periods the U.S. underwent in decades. Yet out of deep turbulence, important positive social change can be generated. Sociologists bring critical insights to bear on social problems, from analyses of the everyday inequities that structure social life, to the impact of disasters like the COVID-19 pandemic, to the social processes that mark certain dynamics as pressing social issues. In this course, we will develop our sociological imagination, examining the year 2020 as a case study in advanced social problems. It is my hope this course will offer you sociological perspectives that will help you to understand our collective experiences during 2020, along with a deepened appreciation for the power we as community members hold in generating positive social change.

**Course Structure.** This Maymester course is “online asynchronous.” This means we will not meet either online or via Zoom; rather, you will view recorded video lectures and complete reading and writing assignments on your own time. The class is self-paced. It will also be fast-paced! By virtue of being an intensive Maymester course, you should plan to spend four to five hours per day on the class throughout the Maymester duration. If you encounter any issues, it is critical that you contact me immediately. In a Maymester course, falling behind even one day can be enormously consequential. Most importantly, please know that, though this is an online, asynchronous course, I am here, available via email, and always happy to assist.

**Learning Objectives.** Students who complete this course should achieve the following objectives:

- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the major sociological theories and concepts that explain social dynamics in disaster contexts.
- Articulate how disasters like the COVID-19 pandemic reveal everyday inequities in social life.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the ways disasters can amplify disparities in communities.
- Articulate how positive social change can emerge from collective crises like the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Required Readings.** The following book is the only required text for the course:

- Klinenberg, Eric. 2024. *2020: One City, Seven People, and the Year Everything Changed*. New York: Knopf Doubleday.

**Assignments. Grades for this course are distributed as follows:**

- Exam 1 – 30 percent. Exam 1 will consist of two essay questions. This is a take-home exam.
- Exam 2 – 30 percent. Exam 2 will consist of two essay questions. This is a take-home exam.
- Exam 3 – 40 percent. Exam 3 will consist of three essay questions. This will be a take-home exam.

**Grading Scale.** The grading scale in this course is as follows:

- A = 90%-100%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 0%-59%

**Grading Policy.** All assignments should be submitted before their deadlines. Ten points will be deducted from your grade for each additional day your exam is late.

**Professional Communication.** Emails should be constructed in a professional manner with appropriate salutation, sentence structure, and closing. “Hey” is not a professional salutation, and my title is “Professor” or “Dr.,” not “Mrs.” Please be advised that I will ask students to revise and resend emails that do not meet professional standards.

**Late Assignment Policies.** Exams must be submitted before the deadlines listed in the Course Schedule below. Instructions for submission must be followed. Exceptions will only be made for circumstances that rise to the level of a documented excused absence and in which I was informed in a timely manner. The late penalty for exams is as follows: Five points will be deducted from your exam grade if you submit the exam later than the deadline on the day the assignment is due, and ten points will be deducted from your exam grade for each additional day your assignment is late.

**Academic Integrity.** Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

**AI Prohibited.** Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as [ChatGPT](#) or [DALL-E](#), is **not allowed** for assignments in this class. Each student is expected to use critical and creative thinking skills to complete tasks and not rely on computer-generated ideas. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

**Accommodations.** The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students who become pregnant may also request reasonable accommodations, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations and University policy. Accommodations that constitute undue hardship are not reasonable. To make a request, please register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact CASS at 915-747-5148, email them at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

- To keep up with the pace of the semester, you should plan to have the assigned tasks completed by 11:59 p.m. on the date they are assigned.
- All “video lectures” listed in the schedule can be viewed on the course Blackboard page. “Chapters” refer to the chapters in your required book.

#### **Week 1**

Monday, May 13:

- View Video Lecture 1.
- Review syllabus.
- Make sure book is in hand.
- Read/listen to interview with author Eric Klinenberg.

Tuesday, May 14:

- View Video Lecture 2.
- Read Prologue & Chap 2.

Wednesday, May 15:

- Read Chaps 4, 5, & 6.

Thursday, May 16:

- **Exam 1 Due by 9:00 p.m.**
- Read Chap 1 after you submit your exam.

Friday, May 17:

- View Video Lecture 3.
- Read Chaps 7 & 8.

**Week 2:**

Monday, May 20:

- View Video Lecture 4.
- Read Chaps 11 & 12.

Tuesday, May 21:

- **Exam 2 due by 9:00 p.m.**

Wednesday, May 22:

- View Video Lecture 5.
- Read Chaps 14 & 15.

Thursday, May 23:

- Read Chap 16.

Friday, May 24:

- View Video Lecture 6.
- Read Chaps 10 & 13.

Saturday, May 25

- **Exam 3 due by 9:00 p.m.**