The University of Texas at El Paso - Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
Spring 2022

Advanced Social Problems ~ SOCI 3323 CRN 23766

Instructor  
Todd Reiser  
Contact Information:  Blackboard Email (preferred) or tlreiser@utep.edu  
Office Hours: By Request

About this Class  
Advanced Social Problems is designed to give students a fundamental understanding of Social Problems within Society; a Social Problem can be defined as a societal induced or created condition that causes suffering (Eitzen et. al, 2014). A wide range of sociological concepts and theories will be discussed in order to better understand how we create and are affected by the social world in which we live.

Learning Objectives  
Upon completion of Sociology 3323, students should be able to:
- Understand social stratification in modern society  
- Discuss major Social Problems that effect Americans  
- Produce Sociological explanations for Social phenomena  
- Asses how roles, positions, and privileges contribute to Social Problems.

Required Texts

Important note: Additional readings for this course (if any) will be made available on Blackboard

Class Policies and Expectations
This class is entirely online with limited instructor interaction. Each student is expected to read and complete the assignments as per the class schedule. I am always available for questions and concerns. **Always use Blackboard to message me with questions or concerns.**

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty. Any work you do must be your own and if it is not your own it must be properly cited. Any Plagiarism found will be immediately referred to the UTEP Dean of Students and you will receive an ‘F’ on the material submitted and possibly the course. Please review the following material:
Online Etiquette - This class is conducted online, therefore it is vital that you maintain high standards of etiquette towards all students and participants. All online interaction must be courteous. Personal attacks and Rude Vocabulary will result in a ‘0’ for the assignment.

ADA policy
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability and need accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. CASS’ Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

Course and Academic Deadlines:
It is the students’ responsibility to be aware of UTEP’s Academic Calendar. The Instructor will not Drop or Add Students from this course. It is up to students enrolled to determine their continued presence in this course. Students are encouraged to meet with the Instructor to discuss options, grades, or assignments.

Assignment Structure
No Late Work will be accepted without a University Approved Excuse. All written work must use APA standards for all citations and references.

Each Week students will read 2 articles from Focus on Social Problems(2020). These articles will be selected by the Instructor and listed on the Class Schedule. These Textbook readings are always the subject of your Reading Reflection Forms.

- Reading Reflection Form: After reading the assigned articles the student will complete a Reading Form for each. There is not a word limit for these, but your answers must be clear and contain facts, themes, and theories from the readings. Convince me you read and thought about the material and you will do well.
- Each Reflection Form is worth 10 points (20 pts total). Reflection Forms should be written in your own words and information taken from the textbook (or texts) must be cited.
Each Week, starting on Week 3, each student will create a Discussion Question based on the Chapter assigned for *Homeward: Life in the year after prison* (Western, 2018) or on the Video assigned to watch. These are always listed as Reading #2 on the schedule and will always correspond with the DQ assignment.

- **Discussion Question**: This Discussion Question (DQ) should be posted to the Weekly Discussion Board by Thursday of every week. The question must originate from the reading/video and utilize themes, facts, and persons found within. DQ’s are worth 10 points.
- **Student Responses to Discussion Questions**: Students will select 2 Discussion Questions to respond to each week. Each Response must be at least 50 words in length. Responses are worth a total of 10 points (5 pts each).

**Midterm and Final Papers**
There are no tests in this class. Instead students will write two 5 page (at least) papers. These papers will utilize 2-3 themes and/or theories discussed in assigned readings, these will then be applied to a Social Artifact of the students choosing. A Social Artifact is anything produced within a society to include Books, Movies, Art, Games, Institutions, etc...An example will be posted to the main page of the class Blackboard page.

**Weekly Assignment Structure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Questions (1)</td>
<td>Thursday @11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Reflection Forms (2)</td>
<td>Friday @11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DQ Responses (2)</td>
<td>Saturday @11:59pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading**

Students grades are based on a total of 710 points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus Questionnaire</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Reflections</td>
<td>260 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Questions</td>
<td>120 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DQ Responses</td>
<td>120 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Paper</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>710 points</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Spring 2022 Semester Schedule
Instructor reserves the right to modify the schedule at any time over the course of the semester. Any modifications to this schedule will be announced via Blackboard.

All assignments will be available at the start of the course. However, multiple attempts will not be accepted - be aware that the Instructor may post notes and information throughout the semester corresponding to Weekly material within Weekly folders.

Week 1: Jan 18 - 22
Complete Syllabus Questionnaire - Due Saturday 1/23 (10 points)
No Readings assigned. Purchase books or secure a copy.

Week 2: Jan 24 - 29
Readings:
1. Stombler, M., & Jungels, Chapter 1: Introduction

Assignments:
2. Reading Reflection #2 - Complete form and Submit via Blackboard Due Friday @11:59pm

Week 3: Jan 31 - Feb 5
Readings:
   a. Read Section: #2 Income Inequality Threatens the American Dream (Shelby)
   b. Read Section: #5 The Cost of Admission (Vidmar)
2. Watch: Surviving an Unlivable Wage (posted on BB Weekly Folder) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbvNhQ4IYLE

Assignments:
1. Reading Reflection #3- Complete forms and Submit via Blackboard as one file Due Friday @11:59pm
2. Discussion Question #3 -Submit Question on Week 3 Discussion Board Due Thursday @11:59pm
3. DQ Response #3 – Select and Respond to any 2 Discussion Questions Due Saturday @11:59pm

Week 4: Feb 7 - 12
Readings:
   a. Read Section: #6 Rethinking American Poverty (Rank)
   b. Read Section: #8 Making Bake on Tribal Gaming? (Rockwell)
2. Western, B. (2018), Read: Chapter 1

Assignments:
1. Reading Reflection (RR) #4- Complete forms and Submit via Blackboard as one file Due Friday @11:59pm
2. Discussion Question (DQ) #4 –Submit Question on Week 4 Discussion Board Due Thursday @11:59pm
3. DQ Response #4 – Select and Respond to any 2 Discussion Questions Due Saturday @11:59pm

Week 5: Feb 14 - 19
Readings:
1. Stombler, M., & Jungels (2020), Chapter 4: Racial/Ethnic Inequality
   a. Read Section: #14 The New Jim Crow (Alexander)
   b. Read Section: #18 White Fragility? (DiAngelo)
2. Western, B. (2018), Read: Chapter 2, pages 17 - 25

Assignments:
1. Reading Reflection (RR) #5- Complete forms and Submit via Blackboard as one file Due Friday @11:59pm
2. Discussion Question (DQ) #5 –Submit Question on Week 5 Discussion Board Due Thursday @11:59pm
3. DQ Response #5 - Select and Respond to any 2 Discussion Questions Due Saturday @11:59pm

Week 6: Feb 21 - 26
Readings:
1. Stombler, M., & Jungels (2020): Chapter 5: Gender Inequality
   a. Read Section: #19 The Problem When Sexism Sounds Friendly (Tannenbaum)
   b. Read Section: #21 Imagining a Better Boyhood (DiAngelo)
2. Western, B. (2018), Read: Chapter 3, pages 26 - 36

Assignments:
1. Reading Reflection (RR) #6- Complete forms and Submit via Blackboard as one file Due Friday @11:59pm
2. Discussion Question (DQ) #6 –Submit Question on Week 6 Discussion Board Due Thursday @11:59pm
3. DQ Response #6 - Select and Respond to any 2 Discussion Questions Due Saturday @11:59pm

Week 7: Feb 28 - Mar 5
Readings:
   a. Read Section: #23 Sexuality Education in the US (Fields)
   b. Read Section: #26 Normalizing Sexual Violence (Hlavka)
2. Western, B. (2018), Read: Chapter 3, pages 37 - 45

Assignments:
1. Reading Reflection (RR) #7- Complete forms and Submit via Blackboard as one file Due Friday @11:59pm
2. Discussion Question (DQ) #7 –Submit Question on Week 7 Discussion Board Due Thursday @11:59pm
3. DQ Response #7 – Select and Respond to any 2 Discussion Questions Due Saturday @11:59pm

**Week 8: Mar 7 - 12**

Readings:
   a. Read Section: #30 Grim Conclusions of the Largest Study on Fake News (Meyer)  
   b. Read Section: #32 Reel Inequality (Yuen)  
2. Western, B. (2018), Read: Chapter 4; Pages 46 – 49 (Aman), and Pages 57 – 62 (Carla) only

Assignments:
1. Reading Reflection (RR) #8- Complete forms and Submit via Blackboard as one file Due Friday @11:59pm  
2. Discussion Question (DQ) #8 –Submit Question on Week 8 Discussion Board Due Thursday @11:59pm  
3. DQ Response #8 – Select and Respond to any 2 Discussion Questions Due Saturday @11:59pm  

**Spring Break March 14 - 18**

**Week 9: Mar 21 - 26**

Readings: None Assigned  

Assignments:  
1. Midterm Paper - Due @11:59pm Friday 3/25

**Week 10: Mar 28 - Apr 2**

Readings:
   a. Read Section: #33 Inequality and School Resources (Darling-Hammond)  
   b. Read Section: #37 The Dark Side of College Unaffordability (Broton et al))  
2. Western, B. (2018), Read: Chapter 5; Pages 63 - 74

Assignments:
1. Reading Reflection (RR) #10- Complete forms and Submit via Blackboard as one file Due Friday @11:59pm  
2. Discussion Question (DQ) #10 –Submit Question on Week 10 Discussion Board Due Thursday @11:59pm  
3. DQ Response #10 – Select and Respond to any 2 Discussion Questions Due Saturday @11:59pm
**Week 11: Apr 4 - 9**

Readings:
   - Read Section: #47 *Paying till it Hurts* (Rosenthall)
   - Read Section: #53 *How we do Harm* (Brawley and Goldberg)

Assignments:
1. Reading Reflection (RR) #11 - Complete forms and Submit via Blackboard as one file **Due Friday @11:59pm**
2. Discussion Question (DQ) #11 - Submit Question on Week 11 Discussion Board **Due Thursday @11:59pm**
3. DQ Response #11 - Select and Respond to any 2 Discussion Questions **Due Saturday @11:59pm**

**Week 12: Apr 11 - 16**

Readings:
   - Read Section: #55 *Crimes of the Powerful* (Conrad and Luvara)
   - Read Section: #56 *For-Profit Justice* (Atwell and Jungel)
2. Watch: Vice: Debtors’ Prisons Parts 1 and 2 (posted on BB Weekly Folder) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIghbrn5yfI

Assignments:
1. Reading Reflection (RR) #12 - Complete forms and Submit via Blackboard as one file **Due Friday @11:59pm**
2. Discussion Question (DQ) #12 - Submit Question on Week 12 Discussion Board **Due Thursday @11:59pm**
3. DQ Response #12 - Select and Respond to any 2 Discussion Questions **Due Saturday @11:59pm**

**Week 13: Apr 18 - 23**

Readings:
   - Read Section: #58 *Americans Want to Believe Jobs…* (Desmond)
   - Read Section: #59 *I Delivered Packages for Amazon…* (Semuels)
2. Western, B. (2018), Read: Chapter 6; Pages 90 - 101

Assignments:
1. Reading Reflection (RR) #13 - Complete forms and Submit via Blackboard as one file **Due Friday @11:59pm**
2. Discussion Question (DQ) #13 - Submit Question on Week 13 Discussion Board **Due Thursday @11:59pm**
3. DQ Response #13 - Select and Respond to any 2 Discussion Questions **Due Saturday @11:59pm**
Week 14: Apr 25 - 30
Readings:
   a. Read Section: #64 Environmental Inequalities (Brehm and Pellow)
   b. Read Section: #67 Why Beef is What’s for Dinner (Stutzman)
2. Western, B. (2018), Read: Chapter 9; Pages 139 – 142, 152 - 169

Assignments:
1. Reading Reflection (RR) #14- Complete forms and Submit via Blackboard as one file Due Friday @11:59pm
2. Discussion Question (DQ) #14 -Submit Question on Week 14 Discussion Board Due Thursday @11:59pm
3. DQ Response #14 – Select and Respond to any 2 Discussion Questions Due Saturday @11:59pm

Week 15: May 2 - 7
Readings:
   a. Read Section: #70 Small Change (Gladwell)
   b. Read Section: #72 Political Polarization (Tesene)
2. Western, B. (2018), Read: Chapter 11

Assignments:
4. Reading Reflection (RR) #15- Complete forms and Submit via Blackboard as one file Due Friday @11:59pm
5. Discussion Question (DQ) #15 -Submit Question on Week 14 Discussion Board Due Thursday @11:59pm
6. DQ Response #15 – Select and Respond to any 2 Discussion Questions Due Saturday @11:59pm

Week 16: May 9 - 14
Final Paper Due @11:59pm Wednesday 5/12