The University of Texas at El Paso Fall 2023

Advanced Social Problems ~ SOCI 3323 CRN 12268

Instructor
Todd Reiser
Contact Information: Blackboard Email - Always
Office Hours: Microsoft Teams and Zoom conference 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 affect Americans
● Produce Sociological explanations for Social phenomena
● Assess how roles, positions, and privileges contribute to Social Problems.

Required Texts


Needed by week 4

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.

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:

UTEP's Academic Honesty Policy –
https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html

How to avoid Plagiarism –
https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/_Files/docs/Avoiding-Plagiarism.pdf
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. 

https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/registrar/Academic%20Calendars/academic-calendar.html

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 Form assignments.

- Reading Reflection Forms: 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 Reading Reflection Form is worth 10 points (20 pts total). Reading Reflection Forms should be completed 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 for 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.

- 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. Failing to post 2 responses will result in a zero, failing to write at least 50 words on one post will result in a zero; 2 complete responses will warrant 10 points.
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...

Weekly Assignment Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Questions (1)</td>
<td>Thursdays @11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Forms (2)</td>
<td>Fridays @11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DQ Responses (2)</td>
<td>Saturdays @11:59pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Points subject to change based on assignment updates, Extra Credit, and Blackboard availability.

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 Forms</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></td>
<td>710 points total</td>
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Fall 2023 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.
**Week 1: Aug 28 - Sep 21**

Complete Syllabus Questionnaire - Due Saturday 1/21 (10 points)
No Readings assigned. Purchase books or secure a copy.

**Week 2: Sep 5-9**

* Folder contains a pdf of Chapter 1 * Please have the book by week 3
Readings:
1. Stombler, M., & Jungels, Chapter 1: Introduction

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

**Week 3: Sep 11-16**

Readings:
   1. Read Section: #2 Income Inequality Threatens the American Dream (Shelby)
   2. 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=GhyNhQ47yLE

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: Sep 18-23**

Readings:
   1. Read Section: #6 Rethinking American Poverty (Rank)
   2. Read Section: #8 Making Bank 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: Sep 25-30**

Readings:
1. Stomber, M., & Jungels (2020), *Chapter 4: Racial/Ethnic Inequality*
   1. Read Section: #14 The New Jim Crow (Alexander)
   2. 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: Oct 2-7**

Readings:
1. Stomber, M., & Jungels (2020): *Chapter 5: Gender Inequality*
   1. Read Section: #19 The Problem When Sexism Sounds Friendly (Tannenbaum)
   2. 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: Oct 9-14**

Readings:
   1. Read Section: #23 Sexuality Education in the US (Fields)
   2. 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: Oct 16-21
Readings:
   1. Read Section: #30 Grim Conclusions of the Largest Study on Fake News (Meyer)
   2. Read Section: #32 Reel Inequality (Yuen)
2. Western, B. (2013), 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

Week 9: Oct 23-28
Readings: None Assigned
Assignments:
1. Midterm Paper - Due @11:59pm Friday 10/27

Week 10: Oct 30 – Nov 4
Readings:
   1. Read Section: #33 Inequality and School Resources (Darling-Hammond)
   2. Read Section: #37 The Dark Side of College Uraffordability (Broton et al)
2. Western, B. (2013), 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: Nov 6-11
Readings:
   1. Read Section: #47 Paying till it Hurts (Rosenthal)
   2. Read Section: #53 How we do Harn (Brawley and Goldthberg)
2. Watch: Flints Deadly Water (2020) (posted in BB Weekly Folder) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8aVE8Ct1jgA
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: Nov 13-18**

Readings:
   1. Read Section: #55 *Crimes of the Powerful (Conrad and Luvara)*
   2. Read Section: #56 *For-Profit Justice (Atwell and Jungels)*
2. Watch Video: Debtors' Prisons Parts 1 and 2 [posted on BB Weekly Folder]
   
   [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1ghbrn5yl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1ghbrn5yl)

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*

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**Week 13: Nov 20-25**

Readings:
   1. Read Section: #58 *Americans Want to Believe Jobs... (Desmond)*
   2. Read Section: #59 *I Delivered Packages for Amazon... (Samuels)*
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*

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**Week 14: Nov 27-Dec 2**

Readings:
   1. Read Section: #64 *Environmental Inequalities (Brehm and Pellow)*
   2. 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: Dec 4-9

Readings:
   1. Read Section: #70 Small Change (Gladwell)
   2. Read Section: #72 Political Polarization (Tesene)
2. Western, B. (2018). Read: Chapter 11

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

Week 16: Dec 11-15

Final Paper Due @11:59pm Friday 5/12