



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2017

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

INSTRUCTOR: Esayas Geleta, Ph.D **PHONE:** 780.539.2973
OFFICE: C410 **E-MAIL:** EGeleta@gprc.bc.ca
OFFICE HOURS: 11:30-1pm Tuesday and Thursday; by appointment; drop-ins welcome

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(S): SO1000

REQUIRED TEXT(S)/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Kendall, D.; Thompson, E. and Nygaard, V. (2015). *Social Problems in a Diverse Society*. North York, Ontario: Pearson Education Canada.

Supplemental materials to be posted on Moodle

DELIVERY MODE(S): lectures, class discussion, group work, and class presentations

COURSE OBJECTIVES: To help students:

- Acquire a critical sociological understanding of how social problems become perceived as such, or how they cease to be understood as problematic.
- Become critically familiar with social practices in society.
- Become conceptually familiar with sociological theories that attempt to explain the construction of reality.
- Learn the meanings of ideology, social cohesion, conflict, discourse, social stratification, hegemony, and other concepts that help us consider social problems.
- Utilize different sociological interpretations of a range of social experience.
- Develop thinking, talking and writing on particular theories used by sociologists to explain social problems.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Define sociological concepts including social cohesion, social conflict, social stratification, globalization, hegemony, and other concepts.
- Explain the causes and consequences of social problems.
- Illustrate the applicability of sociological knowledge to understand and solve social problems.
- Explain the wider introductory social problems literature.
- Identify and explain the research tools used by sociologists in the study of social problems.

TRANSFERABILITY: UA, UC, AU, UL, AF, CU, CUC, GMU, KU

***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 main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca> or, if you do not want to navigate through few links, at <http://alis.alberta.ca/ps/tsp/ta/tbi/onlineSearch.html?SearchMode=S&step=2>

**** 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:

10% Lead class discussion and engage in conversations

15% Critical writing assignment 1 (week four)

25% Midterm exam (week seven)

15% Critical writing assignment 2 (week nine)

35% Final Exam (Final Exams are Scheduled by the Registrar Office)

Early in the semester you will sign up to be a discussion leader for a topic of your interest. You will prepare at least three thought-provoking questions that we can use for class discussion. The quality of our class discussions will depend on your discussion points that nicely summarize and reflect the assigned readings (as well as previous readings, class lectures and class discussions).

Submission & Late Policies: It is very important to 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., medical note from an M.D.) and you discuss it with me.

Grade Description & Notification: All efforts will be made to return graded assignments promptly. Final papers and exams will not be returned and will be kept by the University Studies. If you complete an assignment (i.e., present, hand in a paper), you cannot—after the fact—claim that extenuating

circumstances affected your work and request a grade adjustment. If you are having difficulty with an assignment or there are serious extenuating circumstances affecting your work, please speak with me as soon as possible.

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	95-100		C+	2.3	66-69
A	4.0	90-94		C	2.0	63-65
A-	3.7	85-89		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	80-84		D+	1.3	54-59
B	3.0	75-79		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-74		F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Week 1	Chapter one Introduction to the course Studying Social Problems in the Twenty-First Century	
Week 2	Chapter two Wealth and Poverty: Canadian and Global Inequities	
Week 3	Chapter three Racism, Ethnic Inequality and Multiculturalism Video: Things we won't say about race that are true	
Week 4	Chapter four Gender inequality in Canada and around the world Gender stratification Theories of gender Video: South Korea's Gender Wars: Trolls, Threats and Anger	Critical writing assignment one 15%
Week 5	Chapter seven Pornography and the Sex Trade in Canada and around the World Video: Trapped: Underage Sex Trade in Malaysia	
Week 6	Chapter eight	

	The sociology of Addictions: Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco, Marijuana, Gambling Video: Heroin: The Hardest Hit	
Week 7	Mid-term Exam	Midterm 25%: Ch 1, 2, 3 and 4
Week 8	Chapter nine Crime and Criminal Justice	
Week 9	Chapter twelve Problems in Education The residential school	Critical writing assignment 2 15 %
Week 10	Chapter thirteen Problems in the Globalised Economy and Politics Pro-globalization, Localization and Globalization	
Week 11	Chapter thirteen (continued) Transnational Corporations and Multinational Institutions Video: No Logo	
Week 12	Chapter fifteen Population, Urbanization and the Environmental Crisis	
Week 13	Chapter fifteen (continued) Environmental Crisis: Land grabbing Video: The Tragic Cost of Progress in Ethiopia	
Week 14 Final Exam	Revision You will be required to write and submit a critical report that summarizes what you have learned. That will be your final exam.	Final 35% Ch 7, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 15 Final Exams are Scheduled by the Registrar Office

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

ATTENDANCE AND EXAM POLICIES:

Attendance at lectures is strongly encouraged, as is your participation in class 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:

A missed exam or course component won't be accommodated *unless* the situation is an unexpected personal or family emergency, and unless you can provide documentation.

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 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.

Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.

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

Additional Information

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
- The deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications
- The willful distortion of results or data
- 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 counselling services to prospective and registered students, including personal, career and academic counselling.

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, provides assistance 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.

Email

Please be considerate when using email to communicate with your instructor.

- Questions are best addressed in person – following class, or during office hours.
- Email is a poor substitute for actual instructor/student conversations.
- If you are implored to send an email you need to include the course number and your full name (as you are known by the college) in the subject heading. ***If you do not include the course number and your name in the subject line I will not respond.***

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 the question – “how do I get an ‘A’?” Instead, ask yourself how can I work to expand my knowledge, perspective and outlook on the world?