

Sociology 101: Social Problems

Section: 32986

Spring 2019: March 26th, 2019 – May 31st, 2019

Online Course, Central Washington University

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Required Material:

Kendall, Diana. 2012. *Social Problems in a Diverse Society*. 6th edition. Pearson.

ISBN: 9780205152902

Additional readings are assigned. These are available electronically via canvas.

Course Description

This course is an examination of contemporary social problems through the sociological lens, where we study issues and systems of power, class, race, gender, homophobia, among others are interrelated that result in these social problems. Throughout the semester, we will explore ways in people have acted for social change and how we can use our agency to address these social problems. This exploration will take place by reading sociological articles about global social problems, viewing relevant documentary films, and in-depth on-line discussions.

Some of the things we discuss will be controversial. People will oftentimes feel passionately about the subjects we discuss in this class. I encourage you to share your passion and your opinions, but do so in a respectful and thoughtful manner and respect those whose viewpoints differ from your own. **You are not required to agree with the views or analysis of society that we will be discussing, but you will be required to understand and articulate them.**

Guiding Principles

This is an online course, where students take initiative in their education. Please study the syllabus and understand the course instructions and requirements. Make sure to budget your time and schedule your study. Procrastination will not work in this course.

All assignments will be given and completed in a 7-day week period beginning each Monday morning and ending each Sunday evening. Each week you will find the week's assignments in a module on Canvas. This includes reading assignments, writing projects, and discussion topics. To receive full credit it is very important that you complete the assignments by the end of the week. Each week there will be chapters assigned in the text, and a corresponding weekly lecture.

Course Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- identify the influence of the various institutions, cultures, and traditions of the United States on social problems
- critically analyze the ways in which the social problems of the past affects the social problems of the present and future
- analyze the social and economic processes, issues, and events thereby identifying the requirements of an informed citizenship and the impact the individual can have on social problems

Class Requirements and Policies

Canvas: It is the student's responsibility to check canvas (i.e., multiple times per week) throughout the course for supplemental readings, course updates, assignments, and course scores. You should check the Canvas site *regularly* so that you are aware of any course changes. You are expected to know how to use Canvas, including uploading assignments, using discussion boards, and taking tests. If you have technical difficulties, try using an alternate browser (Firefox or Explorer). If problems persist, contact IT to get additional training or to find out how to change your settings. Although I manage the materials on the site I am not in a position to resolve technical problems, and you will be expected to submit items on time. You should also make sure you have access to a reliable internet connection since late submissions incur penalties (see below).

How to Survive in the Virtual Classroom and Enhance your Learning Experience: While Internet courses allow a lot of flexibility, they also require a lot of self-discipline. Each week there are required reading and writing assignments with weekly deadlines. **I strongly suggest that you plan on putting aside a set time of 2 to 3 hours each day to work on the course. This is the best way to keep up and do well in the course.** Please manage your time well and commit sufficient hours to the reading and completion of assignments, otherwise, you will find this a very frustrating experience and it will be difficult for you to do well.

Textbook/readings: you **MUST** have the required textbook. I do not review the material exhaustively in my lecture slides, and there will be questions on the tests that come from the book. Only the answer from the course materials will be accepted, regardless of information gained from sources outside of class. All assignments require references to the textbook, including page numbers.

Communication: you may contact me via email, on my office phone during office hours, or in person during my office hours or by appointment.

Email: my email address is: Sandra.galta@cwu.edu. When using email to communicate (with me or any other instructor) please use the following guidelines:

- Use the proper form of address: Professor. This title applies to anyone who instructs college, regardless of level of degree. Do not refer to an instructor by his/her first name, Mr., Mrs., Miss, or Ms. unless he/she asks you to do so.
- Use your college email account. This insures that the instructor can be sure of whom you are, and that you are a student at Central.
- Include your full name and the class you are in somewhere in your email, preferably the subject line. Every quarter instructors have as many as 150 students to keep track of. Regardless of how often you have communicated, do not assume your professor remembers who you are or what class you are in.
- Allow at least 24 hours for a response during the week, 48 hours on weekends. Do not expect responses on Sundays or over holidays.
- Check Canvas and/or the syllabus for the information first. Do not be surprised if you get a response that simply says: see syllabus for information.

Phone: my office number is: 509-963-3424. That line goes directly into my office. I will answer during my office hours, or if I am in the office doing other work, and not occupied with another student. If I do not answer, please leave a complete message (full name, class enrolled, phone number, reason for call) and I will return your call when I am back in the office. You may wish to do a follow up email, or arrange in advance via email to speak with me.

Office hours: I enjoy meeting with and talking to students, particularly one-on-one. Office hours provide time for you to discuss questions and comments you have about the material, your status in the course, strategies to improve your performance in the course, or other issues relevant to the course. Please do not hesitate to use these times. I will always have time to discuss your thoughts and questions about the course. I will also be glad to discuss strategies to improve your performance in the course. I am also available by appointment. I encourage e-mail communication and will reply with timeliness. Be proactive!

Late assignments: It is important to complete assignments on time. Due dates can be found on the syllabus, in the announcements, and in the weekly learning modules on Canvas. It is up to you to keep on top of when things are due, and to submit them properly. Having said that, I know things occasionally happen that prevent on-time submissions. An unfortunate event can happen to anyone; however, being consistently late indicates a larger issue. I accept late work under the following provisions. Typically, late assignments will be penalized 10% for each day past due, but no later than a week late.

Borderline grades, curves, and other grade inflators: Grades for this course will not be curved. I do not grade on the basis of need. If you need a particular grade in this course, please pay close attention to the total number of points necessary to earn your desired grade and make every effort, through attendance and participation, quizzes, papers, assignments, and exams to earn that grade.

Extra credit: There may be extra credit opportunities throughout the semester, and I will notify you about these opportunities as they come to my attention. For example, I will post any events or speakers occurring on campus or the community via canvas that relates to sociology and social justice work. *Write 2 pages (double-spaced) summary of the event (including topic, organization, date, and time), how does it relate to sociology (by relating to sociological concepts), and what did you take away from the event (5 points each).*

Course Evaluation

Point System

Student Feedback	50 points
Participation	75 points
Blogs	75 points
Discussion Board	150 points
Papers.....	150 points
Exams	200 points
Quizzes	300 points
Total Points	1000 points

A=93%-100%, A-=90%-92%, B+=87%-89%, B=83%-86%, B-=80%-82%, C+= 77%-79%, C=73%-76%, C-=70%-73%, D+=67%-69%, D=63%-66%, D-=60%-62%, F=0%-59%

Assignments and Grading

Student Feedback (50 points)

Student-instructor interaction will be required every week to make up for the fact that you won't see me weekly as you would in a face-to-face classroom. For this assignment, you need to reflect on the week's topic. This is your opportunity to discuss the material with the instructor, which would involve any comments or questions you may have. You can also use this forum to let me know how the class is going for you. You must attain 50 points in total.

Blogs (15 points X 5=75 points)

There are 5 blogs, one due every other week, which are alternating with the discussion boards stated below. There are two chapters we read each week. Your blog can focus on either topics of the week. Use your blog to post one relevant item, such as films, YouTube videos, scholarly articles, and newspaper articles, to any topic we read about each week. My suggestion is to use wordpress.com, but there are other options. Blogs are free; you should not pay anything to create a blog. This will be the space to keep up with current events related to contemporary social problems. Comment on how each of those outside resources relates to the reading and what you learned from it. My suggestion is one, strong paragraph on the summary and reflection on the source (at least 200 words), and a second paragraph on the week's reading and how it connects to your source (at least 200 words). Please make sure to insert your word count at the end of the blog entry. Each week you'll submit your blog website onto canvas. I provide examples on canvas of blog sites and blog entries.

Participation Questions (75 points)

There are participation questions after each lecture video. This is a way to ensure that you are engaging and paying attention to the lectures. There will be multiple opportunities throughout the video lectures to gain these points. You must attain 75 points in total.

Discussion Boards (30 points X 5= 150 points)

There are 5 discussion boards, one due every other week. In the week that there are not blogs due, there are discussion boards due. The message board posts will focus on the readings. I pose several questions each week in the discussion board on canvas that you must answer. This is your space to reflect on the week's readings, where you should summarize the point of the reading. You should also bring in any outside academic articles or my lectures and video clips. The discussion board should be 300 words per question, which equals 600 words per discussion board. You must also respond to the posts of others to your classmates for full points (at least 2). Your post must add to the discussion – just posting something like “I agree,” “cool idea,” or “way to go” is not going to earn you credit. Each response should be at least 5 sentences long to show your engagement. Please make sure to insert your word count at the end of the discussion board. The discussion board will open during the week and due Fridays at 11:59 pm, and you'll have until Sundays at 11:59 pm to respond to your classmates.

Papers (75 points X 2= 150 points)

1) Popular Culture Paper (25 points (Ideas) + 50 points (final paper) = 75 points)

For this paper, choose a contemporary film (2006 or later) or an episode of a current series that highlights a particular social problem. You may not select a documentary. Write a reflective analysis of the film, relating to various topics we have covered in class. It is best to choose a film that shows a social problem from many perspectives because you will need to discuss how the social problems relates to:

Inequality (Choose 1): race and ethnicity, class and poverty, gender, sexual orientation, and age
Systems (Choose 2): families, education, work and the economy, health, alcohol and drug abuse, criminal justice, cities & suburbs, social movements/social change, media, and war and terrorism.

The purpose of this is to discuss how each of the topics are interrelated. Topics, such as power, privilege, and oppression, are central here. How do they connect to each other? Furthermore, if the film does not overtly show how the social problem relates to some topics, you can still discuss about how they do in reality. Make sure to cite your textbook and articles from the syllabus. A handout will be distributed with further details.

2) Interview An Activist Paper (25 points (Ideas) + 50 points (final paper) = 75 points)

This assignment encourages you to go out in the community and interview a local community activist. This paper should describe the social problem that they are tackling, how they are advocating within the public sphere, and their beliefs about different solutions. It is crucial to draw on ideas from class discussion and readings. Direct quotations from the activist are important to convey the specificity of her views and life. Since this is a short paper, you cannot include the answers to every question. Instead you will have to focus on a few important issues, synthesize and integrate your comments and hers, quoting your source as necessary to support your interpretations and to give the flavor of their personality. A handout will be distributed with further details.

Exams (100 points X 2 = 200 points)

I offer timed online exams. You will have 90 minutes to complete them. It is your responsibility to be sure you have sufficient computer access.

Quizzes (20 points X 16 = 320 - 20 = 300 points)

I offer 16 online quizzes and drop one of the lowest scores. Weekly quizzes cover reading material and are administered via canvas. Quizzes are designed to ensure your familiarity with core concepts and enable you to engage more deeply with core material, including raising new questions. The quizzes are not timed. You may use course material to answer the quiz questions. All questions are multiple-choice, and each quiz consists of twenty (20) questions. Canvas will randomly assign questions from a test bank. *After you take each quiz, print them for your notes and to use for the study guide.*

Total = 1000 points

NOTE: Writing for all of the assignments should have correct spelling, grammar, composition, organization, and general writing skills. I will provide feedback to you for the first written assignment. I suggest everyone to seek additional help through me or campus resources, such as the writing center or tutoring. These resources are free and accessible to all students.

University Policies

Academic Integrity: Academic Integrity is a standard set for this course. Students are expected to complete all of their coursework and assignments using their original words and ideas and will properly cite the words and ideas of others. Students are also expected to be honest in their interactions with the instructor. A student found to have not upheld these expectations is subject to failing this course and shall be subject to disciplinary action or sanction.

Sexual Harassment: As much as I hope that you will never have to deal with sexual harassment, it's important to recognize that it does happen, and as a university community we need to address it.

University policy, state law, and federal law prohibit sexual harassment between faculty members and students, between students, and between students and staff. The university defines sexual harassment as follows: unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when a) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or career advancement; b) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as a basis for employment decisions or academic decisions affecting such individual; or c) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work or academic environment. For further information or help, contact the Equal Opportunity Office at (509) 963-2205 or oeo@cwu.edu.

Accessibility and Accommodations: Central Washington University is committed to creating a learning environment that meets the needs of its diverse student body. If you have a disability that may prevent you from meeting course requirements, contact the instructor immediately to file a Student Disability Statement and to develop an Accommodation Plan. Course requirements will not be waived but reasonable accommodations will be developed to help you meet the requirements. You are expected to work with the instructor and the CWU Disability Support Specialist to develop and implement a reasonable Accommodation Plan. For contact information at Center for Disability Services (CDS) please visit ds@cwu.edu

Copyright Notification

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What Can You Expect From Me?

As your teacher, it is my job to maintain a respectful and safe learning environment within our classroom. Throughout the semester, I will help you approach our coursework with intellectual rigor, and attempt to empower you by challenging your beliefs, values, and worldviews. And as an equally responsible member of our class together, I will also grade assignments in a timely manner (i.e., usually within two weeks).

Tentative Schedule

Note: Coverage of topics, examinations, and assignments due dates are subject to change. It is your responsibility to stay apprised of changes to the course schedule by keeping in contact with your classmates. If you miss a class, please contact your classmates about what happened in class.

Dates	Topic	Textbook Chapters and *suggested readings*	Assignments
March 26	Introductions Review syllabus		Discussion Board 1 due March 29 th at 11:59 pm ➔ Responses due March 31 st at 11:59 pm Student Feedback due March 31 st at 11:59 pm
April 1-7	Studying Social Problems in the 21 st Century Wealth and Poverty	Ch. 1 Ch. 2 “Saints and Roughnecks”	Quiz 1 due April 5 th at 11:59 pm Quiz 2 due April 5 th at 11:59 pm Blog 1 due April 5 th at 11:59 pm Student Feedback due April 7 th at 11:59 pm
April 8-14	Racial and Ethnic Inequality Gender Inequality	Ch. 3 Ch. 4 “Racial Formations” “Levels of Racism” “If Men Could Menstruate” “Feminization of Poverty”	Quiz 3 due April 12 th at 11:59 pm Quiz 4 due April 12 th at 11:59 pm Discussion Board 2 due April 12 th at 11:59 pm ➔ Responses due April 14 th at 11:59 pm Student Feedback due April 14 th at 11:59 pm
April 15-21	Age Inequality Sexual Orientation Inequality	Ch. 5 Ch. 6 “Ageism” “LGBT Rights”	Quiz 5 due April 19 th at 11:59 pm Quiz 6 due April 19 th at 11:59 pm Blog 2 due April 19 th at 11:59 pm Popular Culture Paper Idea due April 19 th at 11:59 pm

			Student Feedback due April 21 st at 11:59 pm
April 22-28	Prostitution, Porn, and the Sex Industry Alcohol and Drugs	Ch. 7 Ch. 8 “Prostitution Control in America”	Quiz 7 due April 26 th at 11:59 pm Quiz 8 due April 26 th at 11:59 pm Discussion Board 3 due April 26 th at 11:59 pm ➔ Responses due April 28 th at 11:59 pm Student Feedback due April 28 th at 11:59 pm
April 29-May 5	Online Midterm (Ch. 1-8) Crime and Criminal Justice	Ch. 9 “Mark of a Criminal”	Online Midterm open April 28th and closes April 30th at 11:59 pm Quiz 9 due May 3 rd at 11:59 pm Blog 3 due May 3 rd at 11:59 pm Popular Culture Paper due May 3 rd at 11:59 pm Student Feedback due May 5 th at 11:59 pm
May 6-May 12	Health Care Problems in Education	Ch. 10 Ch. 12 “Educational Access”	Quiz 10 due May 10 th at 11:59 pm Quiz 11 due May 10 th at 11:59 pm Discussion Board 4 due May 10 th at 11:59 pm ➔ Responses due May 12 th at 11:59 pm Student Feedback due May 12 th at 11:59 pm
May 13-May 19	Politics and Government Problems in the Media	Ch. 13 Ch. 14	Quiz 12 due May 17 th at 11:59 pm Quiz 13 due May 17 th at 11:59 pm Blog 4 due May 17 th at 11:59 pm Interview An Activist Paper Idea due May 17 th at 11:59 pm Student Feedback due May 19 th at 11:59 pm
May 20-26	Population, Global Inequality, and the Environmental Crisis Urban Problems	Ch. 15 Ch. 16	Quiz 14 due May 24 th at 11:59 pm Quiz 15 due May 24 th at 11:59 pm Discussion board 5 due May 24 th at 11:59 pm ➔ Responses due May 26 th at 11:59 pm Student Feedback due May 26 th at 11:59 pm
May 27-May 31	Can Social Problems be Solved?	Ch. 18 “Systems of Privilege”	Quiz 16 due May 31 st at 11:59 pm Blog 5 due May 31 st at 11:59 pm Interview An Activist Paper due May 31 st at 11:59 pm Student Feedback due May 31 st at 11:59 pm
Online Final TBA			