Sociology 101: Social Problems  
Section: 94152  
Fall 2018: September 19th-November 30th, 2018  
Samuelson 107, Central Washington University  
MTWThF 1:00-1:50 pm

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Email: galtas@cwu.edu  
Office hours: Mon-Thurs 10-11am

Required Material:  
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 which people have acted for social change and how we can use our agency to address these social problems.  
We all learn in different ways, and this course design accommodates various learning strategies. Class members are expected to read assigned material prior to its listing on the course outline, to be prepared for daily participation in class with small group discussion and classroom discussion. Attendance is expected and monitored. In this class, you will learn sociology by doing sociology; therefore your active participation is crucial.

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

Three fundamental requirements are important for this class:  
1. Respect each other. Your classmates can and will have different ideas, viewpoints, personal lives, etc. You don’t have to agree with everyone around you, but you are required to disagree in an adult and academic manner. Students who are rude, snide, or abusive to their classmates will be asked to leave.  
2. Sociology is a scientific discipline, therefore arguments and counterarguments should be well thought out and based on scientific observation. In this class, we are learning about what Sociologists have to say about issues.  
3. For any scientific “law,” we can almost always find an exception to the rule. The exception, however, does not disprove the rule – it is simply an exception. For that reason, although
personal experience can often lend insight to class discussion, at times it is simply one’s personal experience. For example, because you were not raised within a racist environment does not mean that racism no longer exists, etc.

Course Evaluation
Class sessions have two purposes: (1) to provide an overview of important parts of the readings and course material; (2) to “bring to life” the course material; to make it more “real” for you. To accomplish these two tasks, class sessions will take the form of lectures at the beginning of each class, which are based on key concepts and ideas from the readings. You must read all of the material assigned for each class session regularly and carefully beforehand. Be familiar with all of the material, including material we do not cover in class, for your assignments. Lectures provide an overview of the material, with some time devoted periodically to discussing a few key concepts or ideas in more detail. Lectures do not cover each and every detail of the readings, but instead are devoted to ensuring that you have at least a minimum awareness of key concepts and ideas. Group discussion will further deepen your understanding of these key concepts and ideas, and help you apply them within your own experiences.

Point System
Exams .................................................................100 points
Quizzes ...............................................................200 points
Class Participation .................................................300 points
Papers ..................................................................400 points
Total Points ..........................................................1000 points
(A=100-90%) (B=89-80%) (C=79-70%) (D=69-60%) (F=59-0%)

Assignments and Grading
Exams (100 points X 2= 200 points)
I offer timed online exams. You will have 60 minutes to complete them. It is your responsibility to be sure you have sufficient computer access.

Quizzes (20 points X 11=220-20= 200 points)
I offer 11 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.

Class Participation (10 points X 30= 300 points)
Class participation is mandatory. There will be group discussion for a major part of each class. Participation during these discussions are required for you to earn full participation points. Each participation activity is worth 10 points, with 300 possible points, total. Points are obtained in two ways. One, Speaking up in class (verbally), asking meaningful questions, answering meaningful questions, adding to class discussion, etc. A participation sheet will be available after every class period. If you participated verbally, you must sign the participation sheet at the end
of class in order to get points. Two, asking or commenting a meaningful and thought-provoking paragraph (at least 5 sentences) in writing via email immediately after. Taken together, you have two methods of gaining participation points both verbally and non-verbally. There are 36 class meetings and thus 36 opportunities to gain these points. Therefore, you have 6 class opportunities for freebies. **You will need 30 total participation activities to get the full 200 points, so plan accordingly.**

**Papers (150 points + 250 points= 400 points)**

**Popular Culture Paper (50 points (Idea) + 100 points Final Paper =150 points)**

For this paper, choose a contemporary film (2005 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, and sexual orientation.

**Systems (Choose 2):**

- **Institutions:** families, education, work and the economy, health, and media
- **Social and Physical Worlds:** alcohol and drug abuse, criminal justice, cities & suburbs, and war and terrorism
- **Agency:** Social Action

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. **Requirements:** Doubled-spaced with your name, date, and course name. Correct spelling, organization, and grammar. ASA citations.

**Research Paper (50 points (Idea) + 50 points (Scholarly Citations) + 50 points (Outline)+100 points Final Paper =250 points)**

Students are expected to write 5-10 paged final paper on a contemporary social problem. There are four parts to this assignment. First, students will submit an idea proposal, where you must submit two (2) ideas for the topic on your research paper with at least one paragraph each. Second, you must turn in five (5) scholarly articles for each topic, which makes a total of ten (10) articles. Three, students must submit a detailed outline of the final paper. Lastly, in this paper, students will highlight a social problem with scholarly articles. Make sure to cite your textbook and articles from the syllabus. This paper must have the following sections: introduction, literature review, solutions, social movements, and conclusion. A handout will be distributed with further details. **Requirements:** Doubled-spaced with your name, date, and course name. Correct spelling, organization, and grammar. ASA citations.

**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.
Class Policies

Office hours: I will be available for communication after class each day. 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!

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.

Etiquette: 1) Class begins promptly, do not be late. Students who habitually arrive to class after the start of instruction or prepare to leave prior to the end of class are distracting to me and other students. Please see me if there are special circumstances that I need to be aware of.
2) Be sure that your cell phones are on silence. Texting, facebooking, tweeting, snapchatting, kiking, surfing the internet, arriving late, and packing up early are distracting to your classmates AND the instructor. Please be respectful. If laptops become a nuisance, you will be asked to close them. Out of respect, I ask that all laptops remain closed each time we have a guest speaker. I also ask that all laptops remain closed during videos.

Late assignments: NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Missing Class: If you miss a class at the last minute due to illness or emergency, do not e-mail me. Talk to your classmates about your missed work. If you miss class for an extended period for illness or some other reason, I strongly encourage you to contact the Office of Student Life. They can help you work with your instructors to make up work.

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.

Incompletes: A grade of “incomplete” will be considered only under extraordinary circumstances. An expected incomplete must be arranged prior to the end of the semester. In no case will an incomplete grade be given to a student who simply fails to attend class and complete assignments.

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, you may go to a Multicultural Student Organization meeting/event or any event relating to sociology and social justice work. Write a 1-2 page summary of the event, including subject, organization, meeting, date, and attach a flyer, and what did you take away from the event (5 points each).
University Policies
“CWU expects every member of the university community to contribute to an inclusive and respectful culture for all in its classrooms, work environments, and at campus events.”


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.

Disabilities: 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.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/19-9/20</td>
<td>Wednesday: Introductions Thursday: Lecture</td>
<td>Ch. 1: Studying Social Problems</td>
<td>Get textbook</td>
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<td>9/24-9/27</td>
<td>Monday-Tuesday: Lecture Wednesday-Thursday: Discussions Friday: Turn in online assignments</td>
<td>Ch. 2: Wealth and Poverty &quot;Saints and Roughnecks&quot;</td>
<td>Quiz 1 due 9/28 by 11:59 p.m. Quiz 2 due 9/28 by 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>10/1-10/4</td>
<td>Monday-Tuesday: Lecture Wednesday-Thursday: Discussions Friday: Turn in online assignments</td>
<td>Ch. 3: Race and Ethnic Inequality &quot;Racial Formations&quot;, and &quot;White Male Privilege&quot;</td>
<td>Quiz 3 due 10/5 by 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>10/8-10/11</td>
<td>Monday-Tuesday: Lecture Wednesday-Thursday: Discussions Friday: Turn in online assignments</td>
<td>Ch. 4: Gender Inequality &quot;If Men Could Menstruate&quot;</td>
<td>Quiz 4 due 10/12 by 11:59 p.m. Research Paper Idea due by 10/12 by 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>10/15-10/18</td>
<td>Monday-Tuesday: Lecture Wednesday-Thursday: Discussions Friday: Turn in online assignments</td>
<td>Ch. 5: Inequality Based on Age</td>
<td>Quiz 5 due 10/19 by 11:59 p.m. Popular Culture Paper Idea due 10/19 by 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>10/22-10/25</td>
<td>Monday-Tuesday: Lecture Wednesday-Thursday: Discussions Friday: Turn in online assignments</td>
<td>Ch. 6: Inequality Based on Sexual Orientation</td>
<td>Quiz 6 due 10/26 by 11:59 p.m. Research Paper Citations by 10/26 by 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>10/29-11/1</td>
<td>Monday: Lecture Tuesday: Discussion Wednesday: Study Day Thursday: Jeopardy Friday: <strong>Online Midterm (Ch. 1-7)</strong></td>
<td>Ch. 7: Prostitution, Pornography, and the Sex Industry &quot;Sex Workers Rights&quot; &quot;Prostitution control in America: Rethinking Public Policy&quot;</td>
<td>Quiz 7 due 11/2 by 11:59 p.m. <strong>Online Midterm due 11/2 by 11:59 p.m.</strong></td>
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<td>11/5-11/8</td>
<td>Monday-Tuesday: Lecture Wednesday-Thursday: Discussions Friday: Turn in online assignments</td>
<td>Ch. 9: Crime and Criminal Justice &quot;Marks of A Criminal&quot; &quot;Crack VS Cocaine&quot;</td>
<td>Quiz 8 due 11/9 by 11:59 p.m. Research Outline due 11/2 by 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>11/19-11/20</td>
<td>Monday: Lecture Tuesday: Discussion</td>
<td>Ch. 15: Population, Global Inequality, and the Environmental Crisis</td>
<td>Quiz 10 due 11/23 by 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td><strong>Fall Break: November 21-23</strong></td>
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**Online Final (Ch. 9,12,15,18) due December 5th 11:59 p.m.**