

Social Problems in Contemporary Society
SOC 2750G On-line
Spring 2021

Course Title: Social Problems in Contemporary Society
Course Number: 2750-600/ 2750-601
Class Times: Arranged-Internet
Class Location: Internet

Instructor Roger Cunningham
Office: Blair Hall 3122
Phone: Cell 217 273 2292
Office Hours: 11:00am until 12:30 Monday, Wednesday, and Friday as well as by appointment All office hours will be held in a virtual setting..

E-Mail: Campus email recunningham@eiu.edu
Please use the D2L email function for any communication concerning this class.

I check these email accounts throughout the day.

All assignments and communication that pertain to this course must be submitted through D2L

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Catalog course description: Sociological considerations of the historical development, definitions and nature of social problems, ranging from the global to the interpersonal, and grounded within theoretical frameworks.

This course will present social problems as a subject of study using the tools of Sociology. We will discuss relevant current events in addition to lecture and selected readings. I will encourage you to bring relevant information to class for discussion and debate.

In successfully completing this course, students will:

- (1) Describe the role of power (social, political, economic) in defining and addressing social problems (critical thinking, citizenship).
- (2) Describe the study of social problems is not value free and objective, but socially constructed and political (critical thinking, citizenship).

- (3) Analyze the essential link between “private troubles” and “public issues,” between the fate of individuals and the social forces surrounding them (critical thinking, citizenship).
- (4) List the stereotypes and myths commonly held about the social problems considered (critical thinking, citizenship)
- (5) Analyze social problems using the following characteristics: caused by multiple factors operating at multiple levels of social life; involve intergroup conflict; require resolution through social action (critical thinking, citizenship).
- (6) Analyze and apply competing perspectives of material presented to social problems, and compare these to their own perceptions of the social problems covered (writing, critical thinking)

The course’s objectives are to provide you with the tools for a critical analysis of contemporary social problems, and experience in applying those tools. We will approach these objectives through lecture, class discussion, viewing/analyzing videos using sociological theory, and information found in the text.

The secondary goal is to improve your ability to sort out important facts, retain those facts, and be able to apply them appropriately in logical arguments.

The last goal will be to further develop your analytic skills.

Text:

Macionis, John J. (2020) *Social Problems*. Pearson Prentice Hall.

Tech Support

If you need assistance with D2L, call D2L Support toll free at 1-877-325-7778. Support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Email and Chat options are also available on the "My Home" page after logging in to D2L. Other D2L resources including a D2L Orientation course for students are available on the same page. For technical questions regarding other software, hardware, network issues, EIU NetID/password, or Panthermail, contact the ITS Helpdesk at 217-581-4357 during regular business hours or submit a help ticket at <https://techsupport.eiu.edu/>. If you have a question regarding course content, contact your instructor.

Examinations and Writing assignments:

You will be given an exam for each chapter assigned.

Exams will be based on the course objectives and will be in multiple choice and/or true and false format. The examinations will cover both the readings and lectures. Please take note—it will be important to stay current on readings and assignments as you will be responsible for the material that is covered in lectures and video assignments, but that might not be found in the text.

Missed tests and/or writing assignments may be counted as a zero. I will make the assessments available for multiple days, but there will only one attempt allowed and there will also be a time limit.

Exams will be worth approximately one half of the class grade. There will be writing assignment which will cover the assigned videos and they will make up the remainder of the available class points.

The grading scale:	100 – 90	A
	89 – 80	B
	79 – 70	C
	69 – 60	D
	59 and Below	F

Writing Assignments: there will be five (5) short writing assignments in this course. Each assignment will require an application of competing perspectives of the material presented in the chapter being analyzed.

Class Discussion:

Class discussion will consist of answering questions and/or discussing a specific topic that will be presented in addition to the material offered by the text. There will be only one discussion topic. This will help facilitate a deeper understanding of the material and enhance your learning experience.

Lecture power point slides will be placed on the D2L system.

Consequences of Academic Dishonesty:

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on exam, paper or project; failure of the course; and/or expulsion from the university. For more information refer to the guidelines “Academic Integrity Standards at Eastern Illinois University” posted in the classroom

The Student Success Center

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides Individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible.

Students with documented disabilities are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) if they wish to discuss any necessary academic accommodations.

COVID-19 EIU policy

The University is asking all of us to take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including wearing face coverings when we are in class together, walking around campus, in the library, or participating in office hours. EIU's policy is intended to protect all of us on campus, as well as the community, your roommates, and loved ones at home. Additionally, students are expected to not attend class if they are ill and to consult the student health clinic if they have any COVID-19 like symptoms. EIU's COVID-19 campus practices including face coverings, avoiding campus if sick, sanitizing surfaces, social distancing, and hand washing are based on the best available public health guidance. As a faculty member, I am responsible for ensuring students engage in practices that reduce risk. If you have a health condition that prevents you from wearing a mask, please contact Student Disability Services. If you are unable to follow EIU's COVID-19 guidelines, you may be asked to leave class or office hours as compliance with public health guidance is essential. Accommodations for instruction and make-up work will be made for students with documented medical absences according to IGP #43 [<https://castle.eiu.edu/auditing/043.php>].

Sociology Department policy:

COVID-19 Safety Precautions & Behavior Expectations

To protect our campus community during the Covid-19 pandemic, all persons on campus are required to observe social distancing guidelines, wash hands frequently, and wear a clean cloth or disposable face mask in all shared spaces, including classrooms, hallways, offices, dining halls, grounds and parking lots. Students should also self-monitor for possible Covid-19 symptoms, and contact university health services if feeling sick. You should NOT come to class if you are feeling sick.

Students who refuse to comply with the Covid-19 mask policy will be asked to leave the classroom, and will be reported to the Office of Student Standards for further disciplinary action. For additional information about EIU Covid-19 policies and expectation, please refer to the EIU Covid-19 Return to Campus Guidebook at <https://www.eiu.edu/covid/returntocampus.php>.

These are merely “boiler plate” statements and should not impact an on line course.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY STATEMENT

For medical emergencies, go to the nearest phone and call 911. All faculty offices have telephones and during normal business hours (8-12 and 1-4:30), the Sociology Office (Blair 3170) is open. Be sure to state the floor and room number of the emergency to the 911 operator. If possible, someone should go to the central entrance of Blair Hall to direct EMS personnel to the medical emergency scene. If the medical emergency is on the second or third floor, someone else should hold the elevator on the first floor for EMS use.

TORNADO STATEMENT

In case of a tornado warning, proceed to the center of the hallway on the first floor, near the posted severe weather signs. Under no circumstances should you attempt to leave the building.

BUILDING FIRE STATEMENT

In case of fire, activate the fire alarm and exit the building. When a fire alarm sounds, everyone must exit the building and cannot re-enter the building until allowed by the building coordinator or fire department official. Fire alarms are located at the north and south ends of the corridors just inside the fire doors. The closes exits for all classrooms in Blair are on the north and south ends of the building. Under no circumstance should the elevator be used. Group assembly areas for all classes in Blair are either on the patio area between Blair and Old Main or on the southeast corner of the North Quad. As you exit the building, continue moving well away from the exits so that you do not impede the egress of other students of the work of fire officials. Move a safe distance away from the building.

Course Outline:

This tentative outline means that student will be responsible for keeping up with the material and assignments each week. You will be given ample time (at least one week of advance notice) to prepare for all exams.

Course Content: In the sixteen weeks of this term, we will cover the listed chapters.

Chapter 1: Studying Social Problems

Chapter 2: Poverty and Wealth

Chapter 8: Alcohol and Other Drugs

Chapter 7: Sexuality

Chapter 6: Crime, Violence, and Criminal Justice

There will also be several videos that will need to be viewed, analyzed and discussed; therefore you will need access to adequate technology to view the material.

All assignments and communication that pertain to this course must be submitted through D2L

Final Examination:

There will be NO Final Exam for this course, however ALL course work must be completed by assigned due dates posted on D2L. There will be no exceptions.