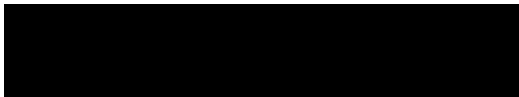**Social Problems (SS)**
SOC 1020-401
Fall 2024
Course Section Information

Campus: Redwood
Meeting Dates: Aug 20th-Dec 5th
Social Problems (SS)
SOC1020 401
Course Description
Modern society confronts many issues such as inequality, discrimination, the erosion of social institutions, and the misuse of power. Students will learn about how social problems form and how they are defined, what makes them so tenacious, who takes responsibility for them and who is threatened by them, how they are managed, solved, or ignored, and what to do to drive positive social change.

Semester(s): Fall & Spring
In this course we will examine the social world by focusing on prominent social problems. We will explore a wide range of topics including but not limited to poverty, inequality, sexuality, drugs, education, and the criminal justice system. We will use several different sociological theories to explore these important concepts. In order to paint a full picture of social problems we will use a variety of media including academic texts, film, and other media.

Textbooks, Readings, and Course Materials
Title: Social Problems: Continuity and Change
Publisher: Open Access
Link: https://courses.lumenlearning.com/atd-herkimer-socialproblems/
For more information on textbook accessibility, contact Accessibility & Disability Services

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Student Learning Outcomes
- Analyze where social problems come from, who is involved, and how society reacts by looking at the forces behind them, including the roles of individuals, groups, social institutions, and larger social structures.
- Synthesize and communicate primary and secondary sources to effectively communicate the key ideas, theories, and overarching questions about contemporary social problems.
- Evaluate public policies and social programs by using and interpreting data and placing them in their historical contexts.
- Critique and compare diverse perspectives on social problems, their potential solutions, and their representation in politics and the media.
- Apply sociological theories, methods, and tools to better grasp people's behaviors, societal structures, and the broader human experience in the context of social problems.
- Demonstrate civic engagement through volunteerism or other actions that address social problems.
- Assess the ethical frameworks and standards that guide sociologists in conducting research, when working with communities, and sharing sociological knowledge.
- Demonstrate essential skills in locating, evaluating, synthesizing, and citing relevant, credible sources, and employing them in course assignments and projects.

Communication Plan

I will respond to email within 24-48 hours
I will offer feedback on major assignments within 72-96 hours.
The best way to contact me is via the Canvas Inbox, as I will prioritize this over other modes of communication.

How to Succeed in the Course

Course Requirements:

Quizzes:
Each chapter will have a short quiz. The quizzes will be based on material from the text and will open notes/open (online) book. This will prepare you to participate in the chapter material in class.

Reflection Posts:
Each chapter you will have an opportunity to submit a brief reflection. In this reflection you will comment on the material in the chapter or class discussions/material.

Discussions/Participation/Activities:
In addition to a reflection post and a quiz, each chapter will have and in class component (a discussion, an in-class group quiz, an in class group assignment etc.) This is to reward attendance and participation.

Final Presentation:
The final presentation will involve a presentation of an examination of a social problem of your choice. Your final project will be presented in class. More details to come!

Course Schedule:

We will cover approximately 1 chapter per week. Scheduling details will be discussed in class.

Week 1:

Introductions. What is a social problem?

Week 2

Chapter 1 Understanding Social Problems

Week 3

Chapter 2 Poverty

Week 4

Chapter 3 Racial/Ethnic Inequality

Week 5

Chapter 4 Gender Inequality

Week 6

Chapter 5 Sexual Orientation Inequality

Week 7

Chapter 7 Alcohol and Drugs

Week 8

Chapter 8 Crime and Criminal Justice

Week 9

Tuesday: Catch up.
Thursday: NO CLASS - Fall Break

Week 10
Chapter 9 Sexual Behavior

Week 11

Chapter 10 Schools and Education

Week 12

Chapter 13 Healthcare

Week 13

Workshop: Final Presentations

Week 14

Workshop: Final Presentations

Week 15

Tuesday: Presentations

Thursday: NO CLASS Thanksgiving

Week 16

Presentations

Grading Criteria

Reflection Posts: 100 points
Discussions/Participation/Activities: 100 points
Quizzes: 100 points
Final Presentation 100 points

Grading Scale
Final Grade Distribution

Grade:	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+
Percent:	≥ 94%	≥ 90%	≥ 87%	≥ 84%	≥ 80%	≥ 77%
Grade:	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Percent:	≥ 74%	≥ 70%	≥ 67%	≥ 64%	≥ 60%	< 60%

Assignment Schedule

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
8/31	Reflection Chapter 1	Assignment	10
9/1	Quiz Chapter 1	Quiz	10

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
9/3	In Class Assignment "Spent" Activity	Assignment	10
9/5	In Class Assignment Hidden Rules of Social Class	Assignment	10
9/7	Reflection Chapter 2	Assignment	10
9/8	Quiz Chapter 2	Quiz	10
9/14	Reflection Chapter 3	Assignment	10
9/15	Quiz Chapter 3	Quiz	10
9/17	In Class Assignment American Denial	Assignment	10
9/19	In Class Assignment IPU Rankings	Assignment	10
9/21	Reflection Chapter 4	Assignment	10
9/22	Quiz Chapter 4	Quiz	10
9/26	In Class Assignment LGBT Rulings/Policies/Laws	Assignment	10
9/28	Reflection Chapter 5	Assignment	10
9/29	Quiz Chapter 5	Quiz	10
10/3	In Class Assignment DRUGS!	Assignment	10
10/5	Reflection Chapter 7	Assignment	10
10/6	Quiz Chapter 7	Quiz	10
10/10	In Class Assignment Innocence Project	Assignment	10
10/12	Reflection Chapter 8	Assignment	10
10/13	Quiz Chapter 8	Quiz	10

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
10/16	In Class Assignment 13th	Quiz	10
10/24	In Class Assignment Abortion & Merton	Assignment	10
10/26	Reflection Chapter 9	Assignment	10
10/27	Quiz Chapter 9	Quiz	10
10/31	In Class Assignment OECD	Assignment	10
11/2	Reflection Chapter 11	Assignment	10
11/3	Quiz Chapter 11	Quiz	10
11/7	In Class Assignment Theory and Capitalism	Assignment	10
11/9	Reflection Chapter 12	Assignment	10
11/10	Quiz Chapter 12	Quiz	10
11/14	In Class Assignment Healthcare	Assignment	10
11/16	Reflection Chapter 13	Assignment	10
11/17	Quiz Chapter 13	Quiz	10
11/23	Reflection Chapter 15	Assignment	10
11/24	Quiz Chapter 15	Quiz	10
12/5	In Class Assignment LAST DAY	Assignment	10
12/9	Signature Assignment	Assignment	100

Coursework & Assignment Descriptions
See CANVAS for a list and description of all assignments and course requirements.
General Education Information
General Education Statement
This course fulfills the **SS** requirement for the General Education Program at Salt Lake Community College. It is designed not only to teach the information and skills required by the discipline but also to develop vital workplace skills and to teach strategies and skills that can be used for life-long learning.

General Education courses teach basic skills as well as broaden a student's knowledge of a wide range of subjects. Education is much more than the acquisition of facts; it is being able to use information in meaningful ways to enrich one's life.

While the subject of each course is important and useful, we become truly educated through making connections between such varied information with the different methods of organizing human experience that are practiced by different disciplines. Therefore, this course, when combined with other General Education courses, will enable you to develop broader perspectives and deeper understandings of your community and the world, as well as challenge previously held assumptions about the world and its inhabitants.

ePortfolios

Each student in general education courses at SLCC is to create and maintain a General Education ePortfolio. Instructors in every general education course will ask you to put at least one assignment from the course (known as the "Signature Assignment") into your ePortfolio and accompany it with reflective writing.

The Many Uses of ePortfolios

Your General Education ePortfolio tells your SLCC learning story. Your ePortfolio enables you to introduce yourself to your professors and classmates, showcase your learning, and reflect on how your courses connect to each other, your life, goals, and community. The ePortfolio is intended to help you connect with other students and communicate with professors about how you learn, what you are taking away from your experience, and what supported your learning in their class. Professors can use your ePortfolio to get to know you before class and use your reflections and signature assignments to continuously improve their teaching.

Your General Education ePortfolio will also help you weave together the concepts you learn across all general education courses. To do this, each general education course you take at the college will ask you to demonstrate your engagement with the general education learning outcomes by designing a course-specific ePortfolio page that includes a course-specific "Signature Assignment" and reflection. When you finish your time at SLCC, your ePortfolio can provide a multimedia showcase of your educational experience and tell the story of your learning growth while at SLCC. You can learn more by visiting the ePortfolio help site.

Connect Your ePortfolio to MySLCC

For us to learn from your ePortfolio and provide effective support, your ePortfolio must be connected to your MySLCC account. To connect your portfolio to MySLCC:

1. Copy the URL for your ePortfolio from the web browser.
2. Click here and then click "Submit" under General Education ePortfolio.
3. Paste the link to your Welcome page and click "Save."
4. Finally, confirm that everything worked by clicking on the link and making sure it goes to your Gen Ed ePortfolio Welcome page.

Need Assistance?

If you would like virtual or in-person help with your ePortfolio please sign up here for an ePortfolio appointment . Questions regarding the ePortfolio can be directed to ePortfolio@slcc.edu

Course Content Warnings/Trigger Warnings

Please be advised that this course may include discussions, readings, and other content that some students might find distressing or triggering. Specifically, the course may cover topics such as:

- Violence or traumatic events
- Sensitive social and political issues

- Discussions of mental health, including depression and anxiety
- Graphic or explicit descriptions and imagery
- Any other specific content relevant to the course

Our aim is to explore these topics thoughtfully and respectfully, understanding their importance in our field of study. However, we recognize that such material can be challenging. If you have concerns about your ability to engage with certain course materials due to past experiences or personal reasons, please feel free to discuss this with me privately. We can explore alternative ways for you to engage with the material while ensuring your educational experience is not compromised.

Your well-being is important, and support services are available through the college's counseling support services should you need them.

Advising and Counseling Support Services

At our institution, we are committed to supporting your academic and personal growth. That's why we offer a range of advising and counseling services to help you navigate the challenges of college life. To learn more about the resources available to you and how to access them, please visit the Institutional Syllabus under the Advising and Counseling Support Services tab: https://slcc.instructure.com/courses/530981/pages/institutional-syllabus. Our advising team and the support centers across campus are here to support you in achieving your goals and overcoming any obstacles you may face.

Learning Support and Tutoring Services

We are pleased to offer a range of tutoring and learning support services to help you achieve your academic goals. Whether you need assistance with a specific subject or want to improve your study skills, you have many options for tutoring or other support.

To learn more about the services we offer and how to access them, please visit the Institutional Syllabus under the Tutoring and Learning Support tab: https://slcc.instructure.com/courses/530981/pages/institutional-syllabus. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources to help you succeed in your studies. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tutoring session, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you in any way we can.

How to Navigate to Canvas

Institutional Policies

As members of our academic community, we would like to invite you to review the Institutional Syllabus which covers important policies and procedures. This document contains important links for students on the code of student rights and responsibilities, academic integrity, and grading policies, Title IX and other important acknowledgements. By familiarizing yourself with this information, you can help us create a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

You can access the document by clicking on the following link: https://slcc.instructure.com/courses/530981/pages/institutional-syllabus

Student Academic Calendar

As students you should be aware of all important dates in the semester, such as the day that courses begin and end, as well as the drop date and the last day to withdraw. To learn more about those dates, navigate to the Student Academic Calendar below:

SLCC Student Academic Calendar

Additional Class Policies

Part of treating others with respect is giving appropriate credit for ideas and scholarly works. Do not generate new content with prompt-based AI tools like ChatGPT without permission from your instructor unless specifically allowed by the assignment. Most content generated with such tools is robotic, emotionless and often factually incorrect. Furthermore, you will find that most prompts/questions

require opinions or examples that must be student generated. (Grammarly as a language aid is acceptable.) Instructor reserves the right to request an oral explanation of answers.

Transfer, Certification, Licensure, and Employment Information

This course transfer across USHE institutions.