
Syllabus

SOCL 2501, version 1.2

Effective: September 9, 2016

SOCL 2501—Current Social Problems

Course Description: Sociological analysis of major social problems in contemporary society; focus on both the institutional and personal causes and consequences.

Textbooks and Other Materials

ODL is *not responsible* for student purchases that result in *the receipt of the wrong materials*. It is *the responsibility of the student* to order the correct textbook materials. Courses are written to specific textbook editions; edition substitutions *are not allowed*.

Textbook

Linda A. Mooney, David Knox, and Caroline Schacht. *Understanding Social Problems*. Tenth edition. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning, 2017.

ISBN-10: 1305576519

ISBN-13: 9781305576513

Ordering Information

Please review the following tips for ordering your course materials:

1. Do not purchase your textbooks until your enrollment is approved. During the processing period, a new section may be opened that could require a different textbook or edition.
2. *Always order by the ISBN.* Publishers and vendors often offer the same textbook title under different ISBNs. You must have the correct ISBN to access your online website.
3. Our official LSU Online Distance Learning bookstore (<http://www.outreach.lsu.edu/Distance-Learning/Online-Distance-Learning/Textbooks>) carries most of the required textbooks.
4. If you are having problems locating a textbook, contact us at Answers@outreach.lsu.edu for assistance.

Other Materials and Resources

Software: MS Word, PowerPoint, Web Browser, Adobe Flash Player, Adobe Shockwave Player, Adobe Acrobat Reader

Students must use a recent version of MS Word to write their answers for each module assignment.

After the initial reading of each chapter, it is recommended that you review the provided publisher's PowerPoint presentation for that chapter.

It is recommended that you use Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome as your web browser. Internet Explorer is not compatible with your Moodle course site.

Adobe Flash and Adobe Shockwave player are required for online testing. Adobe Acrobat Reader is required to view PDF document files.

Hardware: *Web cam with a microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers, and high speed internet*

Proctored exams are completed online and require the hardware listed above. Students are encouraged to review the technical requirements provided on the ProctorU website and to perform a test on their equipment prior to enrolling in this course to make sure they have the necessary resources available. There is a separate charge for each proctored exam.

Technical Requirements: <http://www.proctoru.com/tech.php>

Equipment Test: <http://www.proctoru.com/testitout/>

Nature and Purpose of the Course

Course Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

1. Discuss social problem issues with relation to race, class, gender, and sexual orientation; along with integrated coverage of feminist theory.
2. Explain sociological factors tied to the emergence or existence of various social problems.
3. Illustrate how a sociological perspective can be relevant and beneficial with regard to understanding and alleviating those problems within society

In this course, you will learn using a theoretically balanced, student-centered approach to provide a comprehensive exploration of social problems. You will progress from a micro to macro level of analysis, focusing first on problems related to health care, drugs and alcohol, families, and crime; and then broadening to the larger issues of poverty and inequality,

population growth, aging, environmental problems, and conflict around the world. Each module presents a social problem that is framed in a United States as well as a global context. In addition, the three major theoretical perspectives are applied to the problem under discussion, and its consequences—as well as alternative solutions—are explored. Pedagogical features such as "The Human Side" and "Self and Society" enable students to grasp how social problems affect the lives of individuals and apply their understanding of social problems to their own lives.

Working with the Course Materials

Remember, this course covers an entire semester of work or the equivalent of a classroom course lasting 15 weeks. That means that each module in this course equals nearly a week of course work and will require the same time and effort on your part. *Do not expect to complete each module in a single study session. Understand, too, that if you choose to submit assignments at a very high pace, your instructor may not be able to grade your work at the same rate.*

Each module contains information, activities, and assignments organized under a consistent series of headings. Get familiar with how the module is organized. Each module in this course is organized into the following sections: the Module Learning Objectives, the Reading Assignment, a graded Quiz, and the graded Module Assignment. You should work through these parts of the module in order. Specific recommendations are provided in a link to the course module instructions, which you should review before beginning the first module.

Suggested Study Techniques

1. Carefully review the module objectives to help you focus on the information that will be covered on the exams.
2. Concentrate on the reading assignments, the module lecture material, and any additional resources provided. This review should include a detailed examination of any illustrative problems and examples. After an assignment has been completed, a rapid re-reading of the related text and other materials is strongly recommended.
3. Put yourself on a definite schedule. Set aside a certain block of hours per day or week for this course and work in a place where distractions are minimal.
4. Try to submit one assignment each week or at least every two weeks. Delays in submitting assignments usually result in lagging interest and the inability to complete the course.
5. Review your module assignments after they have been graded, paying special attention to any instructor feedback provided. (We suggest that you wait for assignment feedback before you submit subsequent assignments.)
6. Regardless of how you complete your graded assignments, keep in mind that module completion should not be your sole preparation for your exams. As with any college course, you should study for your exams.

Reading Assignments

To do well in this course, it is essential that you read and study all the course materials that precede the module assignment. Do not begin the module assignment until you have done so. For each type of document you prepare for this course, follow carefully the guidelines provided in the textbook and this course website.

You will read an average of 40 pages per module. Specific reading assignments will be given in each module.

Topic Outline

This course covers the following specific topics:

Module	Topic
01	Thinking About Social Problems
02	Physical and Mental Health and Health Care
03	Alcohol and Other Drugs
04	Crime and Social Control
05	Family Problems
06	Economic Inequality, Wealth, and Poverty
07	Work and Unemployment
08	Problems in Education
	Mid-Course Examination
09	Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration
10	Gender Inequality
11	Sexual Orientation and the Struggle for Equality
12	Population Growth and Aging
13	Environmental Problems
14	Science and Technology
15	Conflict, War, and Terrorism
	Final Examination

Module Assignments

Each module will have a graded quiz and module assignment. The quiz is multiple-choice and you have only one attempt. Module assignments will require you to answer four short-answer essays worth 25 points each for a total of 100 points. Each response should be numbered according to the question number, and should be one to two paragraphs in length. Be sure to

answer each part of the question and proofread your work for spelling and grammar before submitting the assignment.

You should submit each module assignment as soon as it is completed. Some courses have restrictions that require that a grade be received before you can submit additional assignments. Specific information on assignment submission is included in the Module Instructions. Please be sure to follow these instructions.

You must have a *grade posted in the Moodle grade book for the Module 15 Quiz and Assignment in order to unlock access to the Final Exam*. Please allow at least *seven days* for the final assignment grade to be posted in the gradebook.

Once you *submit* an assignment, you cannot revise it, so be sure to check your work. Your instructor will normally post a grade for your assignment within *seven calendar days*. Understand that occasional delays will occur, such as during holidays and semester breaks or if you submit several module assignments within the same week. You must have been enrolled in the course for *at least three weeks*, regardless of when the modules and other exams are completed.

Do not rely too heavily on your textbook or other resource material when preparing your assignments. If you do, you may not realize until exam time that the perfect response you prepared for an assignment was only possible because you referred to resource material without really learning or understanding the material and concepts. Therefore, *you should attempt each assignment without referring to the resource material*, and if you find it necessary to look up an answer, be sure you have actually learned the concept and material rather than merely reflecting it in the answer.

Academic Integrity

Students in Online Distance Learning (ODL) courses must comply with the *LSU Code of Student Conduct*. Suspected violations of the academic integrity policy may be referred to LSU Student Advocacy & Accountability (SAA), a unit of the Dean of Students. If found responsible of a violation, you will then be subject to whatever penalty SAA determines and will forfeit all course tuition and fees.

Plagiarism

Students are responsible for completing and submitting their own course work and preparing their own modules. All work submitted in the course modules must be the student's own work unless outside work is appropriate to the assignment; all outside material must be properly acknowledged. It is also unacceptable to copy directly from your textbook or to use published answer keys or the teacher's edition of a textbook.

Collaboration

Unauthorized collaboration constitutes plagiarism. Collaborative efforts that extend beyond the limits approved by the instructor are violations of the academic integrity policy. Students who study together are expected to prepare and write their own individual work for submission and grading.

For more information and links to the *LSU Code of Student Conduct* and the SAA website, go to the [ODL Academic Integrity policy](#) on our website.

Examinations and Grading Policy

There will be two examinations with multiple-choice and essay questions. Both exams will contain 35-40 multiple-choice questions and two to three essay questions. The mid-course exam follows module 08, and the final exam follows module 15. The mid-course exam covers information from modules 01–08 only, and the final exam covers modules 09–15.

You will have a maximum of *three* hours to complete the exam.

- Module assignments count 100 points each.
- Quizzes are 10 points each.
- Exams are 100 points each.
- Course grade = average of module assignments + average of quizzes + exam scores. Each component is weighted by the following percentages.

Course grade =

Component	Weight (%)
Average of Module Assignments	40%
Average of Quizzes	10%
Mid-Course Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

The following grading scale applies:

- 97%–100% = A+
- 93%–96% = A
- 90%–92% = A-
- 87%–89% = B+
- 83%–86% = B
- 80%–82% = B-
- 77%–79% = C+
- 73%–76% = C
- 70%–72% = C-
- 67%–69% = D+

63%–66% = D

60%–62% = D-

0%–59% = F

YOU MUST EARN A PASSING AVERAGE ON THE EXAMINATIONS IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.

IMPORTANT: The final exam cannot be taken until you meet the following requirements. Under no circumstances may the final exam be taken earlier.

1. You must have been enrolled in the course for *at least three weeks*, regardless of when the modules and other exams are completed.
2. You must have a *grade posted in the Moodle grade book for the Module 15 Quiz and Assignment in order to unlock access to the Final Exam*. Please allow at least 7 days for the final assignment grade to be posted in the gradebook.

To read the full exam policy and other policy statements, visit <http://www.outreach.lsu.edu/Distance-Learning/Online-Distance-Learning/Guidelines-Policies/Policies/Academic-Integrity>. Go to Continuing Education's homepage. Click on *Extended Campus*, select *Online Distance Learning*, and then click the link for *Guidelines and Policies*.

Taking Your Examinations

You are *required* to create a Louisiana State University ODL ProctorU account and to take your examinations through ProctorU, a remote proctoring service that allows you to take exams anywhere with internet access (some restrictions apply). Information on creating your ProctorU account can be found in the *Getting Started* module. You cannot use an account created through another university, so if you already have an account, you will still need to create an account associated with LSU Online Distance Learning (ODL).

The ProctorU website provides links you can use to find out how ProctorU works and to check your computer to see that it meets the technical requirements. In addition, to test using ProctorU, you need *access to a web cam with a microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers, and high speed internet* to use this service. A complete list of technical requirements is available from the ProctorU website.

You should schedule your exams about a week before you are ready to take them in order to avoid any additional charges.

Transcript Information

After you have completed this course, your grade will be filed with the Office of the University Registrar. If a transcript is needed, it is your responsibility to make a request to the registrar. If you would like to order a transcript, visit the Office of the University Registrar Transcript Requests page to view your options

(<http://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/registraroffice/student-services/transcript-request/>).

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