COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is designed to increase your sociological understanding of social problems. We will use several major sociological perspectives to examine the following key questions: What creates social problems? How social problems reflect, produce, and reproduce inequality in society? How do certain phenomena become labeled as social problems while others do not? How can citizens and communities reduce or eliminate these problems? The course will cover various substantive topics including poverty, inequality across gender, racial, sexual orientation, and age groups, crimes, drugs, population increase, sexual violence, and environmental changes.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to perform the following tasks:
1. Describe how major sociological theories explain social problems.
2. Explain various ways in which social inequality relates to social problems.
3. Identify causes and consequences of major social problems.
4. Explain the labeling process of social problems.
5. Explain recent findings regarding each of the major social problems covered in the course.

COURSE WEB SITE
When you register for this course, you automatically gain access to the course web site (Canvas). To visit the site, open your web browser and go to <https://fsu.instructure.com/>. After you log on, click the course number. In this course, we will use Canvas extensively to download course materials, submit your assignments, take exams, and interact with the instructor, mentors, and classmates. If you are not familiar with Canvas or have technical problems or questions regarding Canvas, check out online support by logging into Canvas and clicking the “Help” icon.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS
Text
Social Problems: Continuity and Change. This is an open textbook that can be downloaded for free from the Open Textbook Library web site: https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/BookDetail.aspx?bookId=141. Follow the link, click “Read Multiple Formats” and choose a format for fits your need. For many people, pdf will work the best.

Online videos and articles
To supplement the text, you will be asked to read online articles and watch online videos for each topic. See the schedule section on the last page of this syllabus.

Computer/Internet Access
You need access to a computer with Adobe Reader and Microsoft Word or equivalent programs to view course materials and complete assignments. You also need stable internet connections to keep up with the class,
receive/submit assignments, and take tests. If you are having problems with the internet connection, try different browsers (Firefox, Chrome, Internet Explorer) and use Ethernet connection as opposed to wireless connection. If you live in or near Tallahassee, using a computer in a campus lab is an option. For more information, check out the following web page: http://its.fsu.edu/service-catalog/end-point-computing/computer-lab.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Quizzes
Each week, you will complete a set of multiple questions on Canvas. The quiz needs to be taken by Friday 8:00PM EST. These questions are based on the textbook chapter, online article, and online video assigned for the week. Unlike exams, quizzes can be taken twice to correct your mistakes and improve your score. After taking the quiz for the first time, you will see which questions you missed. When you take the quiz twice, your second score will be recorded even if it is lower than the first one. This means that you should retake the quiz after studying for the questions you have missed in the first round. In each session, you have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. No late submission is allowed unless you have documented excuse (see below for the Excuses section), and hyperlinks to quizzes disappear after the deadline.

Discussion Board Activities

Enrollment confirmation, syllabus agreement, and self introduction. By Thursday January 11, 8:00PM EST, you are required to post a paragraph to introduce yourself to the class. The post can describe your background and your current interest or characteristics (academic major, work, family relations, etc). This posting will also serve two other purposes—your first-day attendance in this course and your agreement to the syllabus. In Canvas, click Discussions → Confirmation/Agreement/Self Introduction. Students who fail to post a paragraph by the deadline will be dropped from the course. If you cannot agree to any part of the syllabus, contact me immediately.

Discussion board activities on the course materials (3 activities in total). After the second week, each student will be assigned to a group to engage in discussion board activities. For each activity, I will ask a question regarding the course materials (text, articles, videos), and you will be asked to post your comment three times, including your initial response to the question and at least two responses to other members of your group.

Length: Your initial response needs to be at least 250 words, and each of your responses to group members needs to be at least 150 words. (If you are not sure how many words you are writing, write them (or paste them) in Word and check the word counter at the bottom left corner of the window.)

Deadline: The discussion question is posted on Monday, and your initial response is due Friday 8:00PM EST, and responses to group members are due on Sunday 8:00PM EST.

Grading: Only meaningful responses will receive full credits. A meaningful contribution answers the question directly, thoroughly, and correctly by explicitly drawing on the concepts learned in the course materials, just like essay questions in exams. Your responses also need to be original. Posts that have similar content will be checked for originality. No credit will be given to overly emotional responses, those that attack group members (as opposed to professionally critiquing their responses), and other inappropriate responses.

Tests
You will take three tests. The second and third exams are not cumulative. Each test consists of a few short-essay questions and covers textbook chapters, online articles, and online videos assigned for the segment of the course. You will take the tests at home (or campus labs if you prefer), and you will be allowed to use the textbook and other course materials during the exams. (However, there is not much time to check these materials during the exam, so it is wise to fully prepare for the exams.) You can take each exam only once and need to complete within 90 minutes. Therefore, it is important that you have stable internet connections when taking the exams. You need to take each test during the specified exam window (7:00AM to 8:00PM). Do not postpone taking the exam until the last minute, as the possibility of connection problems or other unexpected
delays could leave you with insufficient time to complete the exam. This is why the examination windows are open for 13 hours. Look at the exam schedule on the last page of this syllabus and contact the instructor immediately if have a schedule conflict with these dates.

EXECUSES
Late submissions of your work are permitted for the following and only the following reasons: Religious holidays, as specified in FSU policy; absences due to representing FSU at official functions, including intercollegiate debating or varsity sports events; verified emergencies and/or medical illness. Medical illness refers to conditions that are serious in nature and require treatment by medical professionals and/or surgical or other treatments.

GRADING
- Tests (3), 100 points for each exam. (300 of 560 final points.)
- Quizzes (12), 15 points for each quiz. (180 of 560 final points.)
- Self Introduction (Discussion Board). (5 of 560 final points.)
- Discussion Board Activity 1, 15 points for the initial response, 5 points for the first response to a group member, and 5 points for the second response to a group member. (25 of 560 final points.)
- Discussion Board Activity 2, 15 points for the initial response, 5 points for the first response to a group member, and 5 points for the second response to a group member. (25 of 560 final points.)
- Discussion Board Activity 3, 15 points for the initial response, 5 points for the first response to a group member, and 5 points for the second response to a group member. (25 of 560 final points.)

To convert your final score to a letter grade, I will first divide your final score by 560, multiply it by 100 to get a percentage, and then use the following rule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B+</th>
<th>C+</th>
<th>D+</th>
<th>F</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-93</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>89-87</td>
<td>79-77</td>
<td>69-67</td>
<td>59-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>92-90</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>86-83</td>
<td>76-73</td>
<td>66-63</td>
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<tr>
<td>82-80</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>72-70</td>
<td>62-60</td>
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Incomplete Grades
Missing work or uncompleted assignments are insufficient reasons for an Incomplete grade. An Incomplete grade will not be given except extenuating circumstances at my discretion. Note that College of Social Science and Public Policy guidelines require that students seeking an “I” must be passing the course.

GETTING HELP
If you have any questions about the course contents, assignments, or exams, please first contact your mentor (to be assigned in the second week). For other issues, please contact the instructor. We will generally reply back within 24 hours, and your mentor will let you know what time of the day she usually responds to email inquiries. If you email us on Friday afternoon or during the weekend, please assume you will not hear back until Monday morning. If you do not hear from us within 48 hours of sending your email (during the week), email us again to check—maybe we did not receive your email or accidentally overlooked it. This way we can make sure to answer your questions in a timely manner. When sending email, please remember to include your full name.

ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY
Students are expected to abide by the Academic Honor Policy of the Florida State University, including the statement on Values and Moral Standards published in The Florida State University General Bulletin. The Academic Honor Policy outlines the University’s expectations for students’ academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of these expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty throughout the process. Please see the following website for a complete explanation of the Academic Honor Policy: http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy/.
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT
Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:
(1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and
(2) give the instructor a letter indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be
done during the first week of the semester.
This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information
about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the Student Disability Resource Center, 874
Traditions Way, 108 Student Services Building, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167. (850)

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY
This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.

COURSE CONTENT AND SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignments/Activities</th>
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| Module 1 1/8-1/12 | Understanding Social Problems | ● Read the syllabus carefully  
● Text Chapter 1  
● Quiz (By Fri 8:00PM EST)  
● Self Introduction (Discussion Board, Thurs 8PM EST) |
| Module 2 1/16-1/19 | Poverty | ● Text Chapter 2  
● Quiz (By Fri 8:00PM EST)  
● Discussion (Initial post by Fri 8PM, replies by Sun 8PM EST) |
| Module 3 1/22-1/26 | Racial and Ethnic Inequality | ● Text Chapter 3  
● Context, Privatization and Racial Inequality, https://contexts.org/articles/privatization-and-racial-inequality/  
● Quiz (By Fri 8:00PM EST) |
| Module 4 1/29-2/2 | Gender Inequality | ● Text Chapter 4  
● Ted Talks, A Call to Men, https://www.ted.com/talks/tony_porter_a_call_to_men  
● Ted Talks, Why gender equality is good for everyone—men included, https://www.ted.com/talks/michael_kimmel_why_gender_equality_is_good_for_everyone_men_included  
● Quiz (By Fri 8:00PM EST) |
| Module 5 2/5 | Exam 1 | Mon 2/5 (Window open from 7:00AM to 8:00PM EST) |
| Module 6 2/12-2/16 | Sexual Orientation and Inequality | ● Text Chapter 5  
● Context; Sexual orientation versus behavior—different for men and women?, https://contexts.org/blog/sexual-orientation-versus-behavior-different-for-men-and-women/  
● Frontline, Growing Up Trans (watch first 1 hour), https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/growing-up-trans/  
● Quiz (By Fri 8:00PM EST) |
| Module 7 2/19-2/23 | Aging and Ageism | ● Text Chapter 6  
● Quiz (By Fri 8:00PM EST) |
| Module 8 Mon 2/26 | Alcohol and Other Drugs | ● Text Chapter 7  
● Frontline, Chasing Heroin (watch first 1 hour), https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/chaing-heroin/  
● Frontline (article), How Bad Is the Opioid Epidemic?, https://contexts.org/articles/race-clss-drugs/  
● Discussion (Initial post by Fri 8PM, replies by Sun 8PM EST)  
● Quiz (By Fri 8:00PM EST) |
| Module 9 3/5-3/9 | Crime and Criminal Justice | ● Text Chapter 8  
● Context, Desperation and Service in the Bail Industry, https://contexts.org/articles/bail/  
● Quiz (By Fri 8:00PM EST) |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/12-3/16</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>Have fun and be safe!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 10 3/19</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>Mon 3/19 (Window open from 7:00AM to 8:00PM EST)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Module 11 4/2-4/6| Sexual Behavior          | ● Text Chapter 9  
● Quiz (By Fri 8:00PM EST) |
| Module 12 4/9-4/13| Schools and Education   | ● Text Chapter 11  
● Frontline, Dropout Nation (watch first 1 hour), http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/dropout-nation/  
● Discussion (Initial post by Fri 8PM, replies by Sun 8PM EST)  
● Quiz (By Fri 8:00PM EST) |
| Module 13 4/16-4/20| Work and the Economy     | ● Text Chapter 12  
● NY Times, The Price of Nice Nails, https://nyti.ms/2k1ME4N  
● Quiz (By Fri 8:00PM EST) |
● Quiz (By Fri 8:00PM EST) |
| Module 15 Mon 4/30 | Exam 3                   | Mon 4/30 (Window open from 7:00AM to 8:00PM EST) |