

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY 2140/530

Social Problems

Summer 2014

Instructor: Professor Gale Cassidy
Email: gcassidy@uwo.ca
Office Hours: After class or by appointment

Lectures: Mondays thru Thursdays 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
Classroom: BR 204

Course Description

This course will provide an overview of issues and theories in the study of social problems with particular attention to the social problems and the challenges of everyday life experienced by members of contemporary Canadian society. Social concerns such as poverty, prejudice and discrimination, crime and violence, drug and alcohol addiction will be examined. The course will also look at the social challenges experienced by people because of their gender, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and religion, as well as the role of media and government in the social construction of these barriers to full participation in a democratic society. Lastly, global issues such as environmental threats, global inequality, war and terrorism will be considered. The format of the course will be lectures, accompanied by films, guest speakers and discussions, which will enable students to explore the diverse range of disparity in the world and its impact on their lives and the lives of others.

Required Texts

1. Social Problems in A Diverse Society: 3rd Canadian Edition. 2011. Diana Kendall, Vicki L. Nygaard and Edward G. Thompson. Pearson Canada: Toronto, ON.

2. Additional readings may be assigned during the course

Prerequisites: None

Evaluations

	Date	Worth
Chapter Quizzes	See schedule for due dates	30%
Midterm Exam	Monday, June 2 nd	30%
Final Exam	TBA – June 23 rd or 24 th	40%

Class Attendance

Good class attendance is critical to getting the most out of this course. There is a direct correlation between attendance in class and marks achieved by students. While readings and class lectures fit together, some material will only be covered in class. You are responsible for everything that occurs during class time including discussions, videos, guest speakers, etc. You are also responsible for any announcements made during class. It is a good idea to “buddy” up with a classmate, in order to exchange notes if you must miss a class, since lectures notes will not be supplied to students. Some videos shown in class may be available in the library, but others will not be available for private viewing.

Laptops in the Classroom

Laptops are to be used only to take notes. Inappropriate use of them will be considered disruptive and you will be asked to leave class.

Cell Phones in the Classroom

All cell phones, iPods, etc. are to be turned off before class and put away – no text messaging allowed during class. Doing so will be considered disruptive and liable for prosecution under the Student Code of Conduct, and you may be asked to leave the class.

Quizzes

There will be 12 quizzes based only on the material from the chapters (not from the classes). The dates are outlined in the chart below. You are responsible for completing 10 quizzes. The quizzes will be written in the first 15 minutes of class. If you are late for class you will not be given extra time, and there will be no makeups for missed quizzes. They will each consist of 15 multiple choice questions and be worth 3% for a total of 30%.

Examinations

The midterm is worth 30% and the final is worth 40%. They are not cumulative and will cover all course material, including lectures, assigned readings, class discussions, films, guest presenters, etc. They may include multiple choice, short answer questions, definitions and true/false questions. Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams WILL be submitted for similarity reviews by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. No electronic devices are permitted in exams.

Grades

Due to privacy regulations, I am unable to send marks or discuss issues regarding grades by email. Please see me in class. Midterm exam grades will be posted to the OWL site when they become available (within one week of the exam). Final exam grades will not be available until approved by the department. PLEASE NOTE, there will be NO extra work assigned for the purpose of improving grades. It is unfair to other students in the class who are not given the same opportunity. Also, I am unable to increase marks unless warranted. PLEASE DON'T ASK! I will not respond to emails with such requests.

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS**1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES**

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s).

Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>. If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician/nurse practitioner, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor. Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2012/pg117.html>

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will

receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html. The Western Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.

Date	Topics	Readings
May 12 & 13	Taking a New Look at Social Problems	Kendall, Ch. 1
May 14 & 15	Poverty in the Canadian Context	Kendall, Ch. 2
MAY 19TH HOLIDAY – NO CLASS		
May 20	Racism & Ethnic Inequality	Kendall, Ch. 3
May 21 & 22	Gender Inequality	Kendall, Ch. 4
May 26	Inequality Based on Age	Kendall, Ch. 5
May 27	Inequality Based on Sexual Orientation	Kendall, Ch. 6
May 28	The Sex Trade in Canada	Kendall, Ch. 7
May 29	Study Day	
JUNE 2ND MIDTERM EXAM – WORTH 30%		
June 3 & 4	Addictions	Kendall, Ch. 8
June 5	Crime & Criminal Justice	Kendall, Ch. 9
June 9 & 10	Health, Illness & Health Care	Kendall, Ch. 10
June 11	The Changing Family	Kendall, Ch. 11
June 12	Problems in Education	Kendall, Ch. 12
June 16	Problems Related to Media	Kendall, Ch. 14
June 17	Population, Urbanization and the Environmental Crisis	Kendall, Ch. 15
June 18	Global Social Problems	Kendall, Ch. 16
June 19	Wrap Up	
JUNE 23RD OR 24TH FINAL EXAM – WORTH 40%		

QUIZ SCHEDULE
To be written in the first 15 minutes of class

Date	Topics	Readings
May 20	Racism & Ethnic Inequality	Kendall, Ch. 3
May 21	Gender Inequality	Kendall, Ch. 4
May 26	Inequality Based on Age	Kendall, Ch. 5
May 27	Inequality Based on Sexual Orientation	Kendall, Ch. 6
May 28	The Sex Trade in Canada	Kendall, Ch. 7
June 5	Crime & Criminal Justice	Kendall, Ch. 9
June 9	Health, Illness & Health Care	Kendall, Ch. 10
June 11	The Changing Family	Kendall, Ch. 11
June 12	Problems in Education	Kendall, Ch. 12
June 16	Problems Related to Media	Kendall, Ch. 14
June 17	Population, Urbanization and the Environmental Crisis	Kendall, Ch. 15
June 18	Global Social Problems	Kendall, Ch. 16
