SOCIAL PROBLEMS
SOC 203 A1, Spring 2018
Mon. and Wed., 9am to 11:50am, Business 2-5
Department of Sociology, University of Alberta

Instructor: jason chalmers
Email: chalmers@ualberta.ca
Office: Tory 4-28
Office Hours: Mondays, 12:30pm to 2:30pm

Summary and Objectives: From the university calendar: “Selected structural issues in various societies, including inequality, population growth, environment, and human rights.”

This course explores social issues from structural and cultural perspectives. Students will become familiar with key problems, definitions, and general trends pertaining to issues such as gender, race, economic inequality, and others. They will also encounter core sociological frameworks, and learn how these theories can help to understand the origins and potential solutions to social problems. The course will address issues from both global as well as Canadian perspectives, with a particular focus on Indigenous-settler relations. Students will gain an understanding of how the history and legacy of Indian Residential Schools have shaped social issues in Canada, including health, crime, and family.

Pre-requisites: There are no pre-requisites for this course. It may not be taken by students with credit in SOC 102.

Required Textbooks:


Available online at: [http://nctr.ca/assets/reports/Final%20Reports/Executive_Summary_English_Web.pdf](http://nctr.ca/assets/reports/Final%20Reports/Executive_Summary_English_Web.pdf)
Course Evaluation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Course Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Wed. May 23, in class</td>
<td>Introduction; Gender; Sexuality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Mon. June 4, in class</td>
<td>Poverty; Race; Indian Residential Schools; Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>check Bear Tracks for date and location (tentative date: Thurs. June 14, 11:30am)</td>
<td>Family; Crime and Violence; Health; Environment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All exams are multiple-choice. Sample questions will be discussed in class prior to each exam.

Missed Exams:

Students are required to contact the instructor within two working days following the missed term exam (exams #1 and #2), or as soon as the student is able with regard to circumstance. Excused absences are not automatic and are at the discretion of the instructor. Supporting documentation will be requested (appropriate documentation can include: a medical statement or medical declaration; a copy of an accident report; a letter from a religious official; etc.).

For a missed final exam, students must apply directly to their home faculty for a deferred final exam. Applications must be made within two working days of the missed final exam, or as soon as the student is able to do so. Instructors cannot grant final exam deferrals. The scheduled date for deferred final exams is: Friday June 29, 2018, 2pm to 5pm.

Missed Lectures or Other Course Content:

Students are responsible for missed lectures and any other missed course content. The instructor will not share his lecture notes. However, students enrolled in SOC 203 may exchange notes with one another in the event of an absence. The instructor will only discuss content from lectures and readings during office hours.

University Policies:

Course Outlines:
“Policy about course outlines can be found in the Evaluation Procedures and Grading System section of the University Calendar.”


**Academic Misconduct:**
“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

**Recording of Lectures and Class Resources:**
“Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).”

**Grade Conversation Guidelines:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>86-89.9</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>82-85.9</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>78-81.9</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>74-77.9</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>70-73.9</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>66-69.9</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>62-65.9</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>58-61.9</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>54-57.9</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal Pass</td>
<td>50-53.9</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>0-49.9</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Class Outline

Note: This timeline may change to ensure that we have enough time to cover all course content (i.e. we might discuss poverty in Class 3 and Class 4). Exams are based on the readings and corresponding lectures for each topic, not the specific class listed.

Class 1 (Mon. May 7) – Introduction to Social Problems
Readings: Chapter 1 (Thinking about Social Problems)

Class 2 (Wed. May 9) – Gender and Sexuality
Readings: Chapter 7 (Gender Inequality)

Class 3 (Mon. May 14) – Gender and Sexuality cont’d
Readings: Chapter 9 (Sexualities)

Class 4 (Wed. May 16) – Poverty
Readings: Chapter 10 (Poverty: National and International Issues)
Sexual Assault Centre workshop
Review for Exam #1

Class 5 (Mon. May 21) – CLASS CANCELLED

Class 6 (Wed. May 23) – Exam #1; Race
EXAM #1 – Introduction, Gender, Sexuality
Readings: Chapter 8 (Critical Studies in Race and Ethnicity)
Class 7 (Mon. May 28) – Race cont’d; Indian Residential Schools
Readings: TRC Report, pp. 1-6, 41-73

Class 8 (Wed. May 30) – Education
Readings: Chapter 12 (Problems in Education)
TRC Report, pp. 192-200
Review for Exam #2

Class 9 (Mon. June 4) – Exam #2; Family
EXAM #2 – Poverty, Race, Indian Residential Schools, Education
Readings: Chapter 5 (Family Problems)
TRC Report, pp. 185-191

Class 10 (Wed. June 6) – Crime and Violence
Readings: Chapter 4 (Crime and Violence)
TRC Report, pp. 217-219, 224-228, 255-260

Class 11 (Mon. June 11) – Health
Readings: Chapter 2 (Illness and Health Care)
TRC Report, pp. 205-211
APIRG workshop

Class 12 (Wed. June 13) – The Environment
Readings: Chapter 13 (Environmental Problems)
TRC Report, pp. 276-277, 348-354
Review for final exam (Family, Crime and Violence, Health, the Environment)