Course Outline

UNIVERSITY STUDIES

Sociology 102
Social Problems
Winter, 2013

3 CREDITS
3 HOURS PER WEEK

INSTRUCTOR: Laura Roberts
INSTRUCTOR: Laura Roberts

PHONE NUMBER: (780) 791-4827

E-MAIL: laura.roberts@keyano.ca

OFFICE NUMBER: S211A

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday 11:00-11:50PM
Tuesday 2:00 - 2:50 PM
Thursday 2:00 – 3:50PM
Friday  11:00 – 11:50 AM

HOURS OF INSTRUCTION:
Wednesday 2:00 PM - 2:50 PM Clearwater Building, 233
Thursday 4:00 PM - 4:50 PM Clearwater Building, 228
Friday 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM Clearwater Building, 228

PRE-REQUISITE(S):

SOCY 100
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
The objective of this course is to analyze the important social problems confronting the industrial societies in general and North American society in particular. Determinants of social problems and their sustaining factors will be analyzed from a theoretical perspective. While the emphasis is on sociological explanations, an interdisciplinary approach will be used wherever applicable. Social problems surrounding major social institutions such as family, economy, education and polity as well as social issues related to inequality, environment, technology and deviance will also be dealt with in sufficient detail. Some discussion of different global problems will be done that can only enhance the overall scope of this course.

COURSE OUTCOMES:
At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and explain the major social problems experienced in industrial societies in general and in particular to North American society.

2. Critically analyze important social problems through the main sociological theoretical perspectives.

3. Demonstrate the ability to write an academic sociological essay which includes scholarly academic research and properly adopts APA referencing.

4. Apply sociological research skills in the preparation of an in-class presentation related to topics of social inequality and contemporary social problems found in industrial societies.

5. Identify, evaluate and critically analyze solutions to selected social problems in contemporary society through in-class discussion, online discussion forums, and reflection papers.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY
This course will be largely taught by applying participatory learning tools and techniques, incorporating activities geared towards different learning styles and adhering to the main principles of Adult Education. Therefore, the class will incorporate a variety of learning activities, such as large and small discussion groups, reflection papers, review of documentary films, in-class examinations, and online quizzes. The variety of learning tools applied in this course will enrich student learning and also appeal to a wide variety of different learning styles.

You will be expected to critically engage yourself in the course materials, lectures, and discussions (both online and in-class). You might ask yourself, what does “critical engagement” mean? Well, this means that you will be actively processing what you are learning from week to week, by actively comparing the various perspectives and concepts you will be introduced to, by challenging what you think you know, and expanding on previous ideas.

In addition, to your “critical engagement” in the class, the following practices will make for a better classroom environment and go a long way towards building and deepening your understanding of the course materials:
Read the assigned chapter(s) before class. When you do your readings, focus on understanding the key concepts, try to link examples to ideas, to understand differences and debates in approaches to sociology, to think about knowledge in context, and to ask probing questions about social life. Take notes. Read each chapter twice.

Be present, listen, and think. Turn off your cell phone (or put it on ‘vibrate’ if necessary) and turn off the wireless connection on your laptop. Also be sure to take notes on main and supporting points during class.

Make sure you attend all classes and contribute positively to the class environment. Engage with lecture material, ask questions, listen to what others have to say, respectfully add to discussion.

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</table>
| January 18th, 2013  | Courses dropped after this date will be designated “W”.  
                               (A withdrawal (W) is not reflected in your GPA) |
| March 8th, 2013     | Courses dropped after this date will be designated “WF”.  
                               (A withdrawal failure (WF) counts as a 0 in your GPA) |
| April 19th, 2013    | Last day of classes                              |
| April 22-30th, 2013 | Final Exams                                      |

**MOODLE**

Go to [http://ilearn.keyano.ca](http://ilearn.keyano.ca)

This course is supported through Moodle. Assignments, readings, and powerpoint presentations will be posted on Moodle. Students will be expected to frequently check the course Moodle platform for updates, extra readings and assignments. The instructor will use Moodle as the main form of communication with the students in this course; therefore it is the student's responsibility to check Moodle on a regular basis.

**Access to Moodle**

Go to [http://ilearn.keyano.ca](http://ilearn.keyano.ca). Login information will be provided by your instructor. For further instructions please see the Moodle handout. Go to Log In. Type in your student ID number with the dashes in the user name box (000-00-0000). Repeat the same ID number in the password box. For further instructions please see the Moodle handout. A course syllabus will be posted in the Moodle. Please check your Moodle frequently. Also, check the S-Drive for detailed course outlines.

**TEXT(S)/MATERIALS REQUIRED:**

EVALUATION:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>throughout the course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>throughout the course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>March 15, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>March 6, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1) IN-CLASS PRESENTATION (10%) - to be facilitated throughout the term

Each student will be expected to complete a 5 to 10 minute presentation on a specific topic in relation to the course outline. A presentation topic list will be distributed whereby students will select their topics and presentation dates. A detailed handout regarding presentation guidelines will be distributed in class and posted to Moodle.

2) SEMINAR PARTICIPATION (15%) - throughout the term

This includes occasional in-class quizzes, response papers, and occasional online discussion forums. Missed quizzes cannot be made up; however, your two lowest scores will be dropped in these category.

3) TERM PAPER (15%) – Thursday, March 15th

A detailed handout regarding the term paper, with potential paper topics and options, will be distributed in class and posted to Moodle.

4) IN-CLASS MId-TERM EXAMINATION (25%) – Wednesday, March 6th

The mid-term examination will consist of multiple choice questions, fill in the blank questions, true/false questions and short answer questions. The exam will be administered in class for the full period, and will cover materials from the chapters covered in the first half of the semester.

5) FINAL EXAMINATION (35%) – Date TBA

The final exam will consist of multiple choice questions, fill in the blank questions, true/false questions, short answer questions, and short essay questions. The exam will be administered in class for the full period, and will cover ALL course materials which emphasis on the later topics covered in class.
GRADING SYSTEM:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students intending to transfer to other institutions must receive a minimum grade of ‘C-’ in order to have their courses transferred for credit. Transfer information on each course is available at the Alberta Council on Admission and Transfers.

Students who do not complete all the required work should not expect to pass the course.

*Students should consult:*

http://www.keyano.ca/current_students/examinations/index.htm

**COLLEGE POLICIES**

**Equality, Equity and Respect**

The Keyano College is committed to providing an environment of equality, equity and respect for all people within the College community. All members of this community are considered partners in developing teaching and learning contexts that are welcoming to all. Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to use inclusive language to create a classroom atmosphere in which students' experiences and views are treated with equal respect and valued in relation to their gender, ethnic and cultural background, and sexual orientation.

SOCY 102A
Students should consult:
http://www.keyano.ca/Committees/IRA/Individual_Rights_Policy.asp

Plagiarism and Cheating
Every student expects to be treated and evaluated fairly in a course. Plagiarism and cheating robs everyone of this right.

No student may submit words, ideas or data of another student or person as his or her own in any writing, project, assignment, quiz, electronic presentation, exam etc. Any work used that is not the student's own must be clearly cited as belonging to someone else. There are penalties for using other's work and not citing it. The Student's Rights & Responsibilities document clearly outlines these penalties and the appeal process.

- No learner can obtain information from another student during an exam.
- No learner can bring unauthorized information (paper or electronic) into an exam or quiz.
- No student can submit work done in another course for grading in this course without the written prior approval of the course instructor.
- No student can submit copyright protected or commercially produced materials as part or all of an assignment without proper citation & permission.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED:
Please Note:
This course outline may be modified to facilitate unforeseen time constraints. Date and time allotted to each topic is subject to change. Also please note that additional required readings will be posted to Moodle throughout the term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 Introduction to Social Problems</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 The Sex Trade in Canada</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 Poverty in the Canadian context</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 Gender Inequality</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5 Inequality Based on Age</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6 Racism and Ethnic Inequality</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7 Inequality based on Sexual Orientation</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOCY 102A
NOTE: Week 8 Reading Week February 25- March 1

NOTE: Week 9 Midterm Examination March 6th

Week 9 Addictions Chapter 8
Week 10 Criminal Justice System Chapter 9
Week 11 Health, Illness and Health Care as Social Problems Chapter 10
Week 12 Problems Related to the Media Chapter 14
Week 13 Problems in Globalized economy and politics Chapter 13
Week 14 Population, Urbanization and Environmental Crisis Chapter 15
Week 15 Global Social Problems Chapter 16