



SYG 2010

Social Problems

Section: RVD

Internet/Fully Online

Fall Term 2025

Course Time Zone | Eastern Time (ET). Course due dates are according to this time zone.

Professor Information

Lisa Mueller

Roles: Primary Instructor

Email: lisbrown@fiu.edu

Phone: (305) 348-2247

Office Hours: Via Zoom, by appointment. In general, I am available on weekdays between 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM, and then from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM. If those times do not work for you and you still need an appointment, please don't hesitate to ask anyway! We'll work something out.

Office Location: GSS, Green School

Department or Academic Unit: Global and Sociocultural Studies

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

Course Description and Purpose

Examines social problems in critical and global perspectives. Considers social problems in terms of global issues such as inequality, poverty, politics, crime/justice, violence, genocide, and war.

The purpose of the course is to develop, broaden, and deepen students' critical thinking skills and knowledge regarding a variety of social problems in our time.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

Student learning outcomes allow faculty to assess the level of proficiency in content knowledge and skills that their students acquire in a course.

If the objective meets a special designation, you will see the code after the objective:

University Core Curriculum: UCC

Gordon Rule Writing: GRW

Global Learning: GL

Civic Literacy: CL

- Identify social problems globally and locally and the variables related to each.
- Define concepts and theories to social problems.
- Discuss social problems in investigative and creative assignments.

Expectations of this Course

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the coursework will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same as for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- review the getting started page located in the course modules;
- introduce themselves to the class during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion;
- take the practice quiz to ensure that their computer is compatible with the learning management system, Canvas;
- interact online with instructor and peers; review and follow the course calendar and weekly outlines;
- log in to the course at least 3 times per week; respond to discussions by the due date specified.
- respond to emails within 2 business days; submit assignments by the corresponding deadline

The instructor will:

- log in to the course daily on business days;
- respond to emails/messages within 2 business days;
- grade assignments and provide feedback within 7 days of the assignment deadline.

In general, I will grant each student one deadline extension per term regardless of the reason upon request. After that, no deadlines can be extended without documentation from the Disability Resource Center.

Grading

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available
Course Reflections	8	20	160
Exams	8	25	200
Contributing to Solving a Social Problem	3	40	120
Total	19	N/A	480

Textbook and Course Materials

Social Problems: Continuity and Change

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: Anonymous

Publisher: Saylor

Publication Date: 2024

Copyright Date: February 2024

ISBN 10: 9781946135230

ISBN 13: 9781946135230

Notes: This is an open source text that can be found for free on LibreTexts.

SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: BARKAN

Publisher: FLAT WORLD

ISBN 13: 9781453392157

BRONZE ACCESS CODE

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: FLATWORLD

Publisher: FLAT WORLD

ISBN 13: 9781453399309

Panther Book Pack

The Panther Book Pack rental program provides your required print and digital course materials at a flat rate of \$20 per undergraduate credit hour. When you registered for your classes this session, you were notified via email of the required course materials that are included in the Panther Book Pack.

Make sure to review the pricing for all materials across your classes this semester and compare the cost to the Panther Book Pack flat rate. If the Panther Book Pack is not your best option, you may opt out up to three days after the add/drop deadline. The deadline to opt back into the Panther Book Pack is also three days after the add/drop deadline.

If you do not opt out of the Panther Book Pack rental program, you will be charged \$20 per undergraduate credit hour for which you are registered and the course materials will be reserved in your name. For more details and to learn how to access your course materials, visit onestop.fiu.edu/bookpack.

Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via the Canvas Inbox. Check out the [Canvas Conversations Tutorial](#) or [Canvas Guide](#) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox.

There are several activities within each lesson to assist you in building knowledge of Social Problems. Eight lessons are organized on a bi-weekly basis. Most students can expect to spend 8-10 hours per week on the course.

Canvas Schedule

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	Academic Honesty Policy	Quiz	0
	Course Reflection 1	Assignment	20
	Course Reflection 2	Assignment	20
	Course Reflection 3	Assignment	20
	Course Reflection 4	Assignment	20
	Course Reflection 5	Assignment	20
	Course Reflection 6	Assignment	20
	Course Reflection 7	Assignment	20
	Course Reflection 8	Assignment	20
	Documentation	Assignment	0
	Exam 1	Quiz	25
	Exam 2	Quiz	25
	Exam 3	Quiz	25
	Exam 4	Quiz	25
	Exam 5	Quiz	25
	Exam 6	Quiz	25
	Exam 7	Quiz	25
	Exam 8	Quiz	25

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	Growing Up Poor in America	Assignment	0
	Hikikomori in an Aging Japan	Assignment	0
	Introduce Yourself	Discussion	0
	Mid-Semester Grade (UCC Requirement)	Assignment	100
	Open Forum	Discussion	0
	Practice Quiz	Quiz	0
	Step Four	Assignment	40
	Step One	Assignment	40
	Step Two	Assignment	40
	Syllabus Quiz	Quiz	25
	Witches of Gambaga	Assignment	0

Schedule of Topics

Module and Topic	Readings and Tasks	Assignments

Policies & Resources

Please review the [FIU's Policies webpage](#). The policies webpage contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU, as well as additional information about acceptable netiquette for online courses. For additional information, please visit [FIU's Policy and Procedure Library](#).

As a member of the FIU community, you are expected to be knowledgeable about the behavioral expectations set forth in the [FIU Student Conduct and Honor Code](#).

Extra Credit - Optional

Keep an eye out for extra credit opportunities! I will announce at least two extra credit assignments worth 10 points each.

Early Alert

In an effort to help you succeed in your academic courses, FIU utilizes an Early Alert system. Instructors are now able to notify students' academic advisors if there are concerns about class performance. If an alert is submitted, your academic advisor will send you a message via your Student Dashboard (accessed via your MYFIU page) to discuss ways to improve your performance. Please respond to any communication you receive from your academic advisor about an early alert. Our goal with this program is to help you to be successful by identifying any issues as early on as possible and working to address them.

Midterm Grade

The Provost's Office, in conjunction with the Student Success and Advising Center will collect midterm grades. The midterm grade is simply the percent derived from your

points/the total graded at the time of midterm. This data is collected in an effort to identify students that may need assistance at the half-way point.

Missed or Late Assignments

Dr. Mueller's policy to allow each student ONE extension per term regardless of the reason upon request. Once that request has been used, no further extensions will be granted unless the student provides documentation from the Disability Resource Center.

Assignments & Assessments

Discussion Forums

Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

Discussion Forum Expectations:

- Provide clear guidance on the expectations and requirements
- Available dates (unlimited or for a specific time)
- Criteria for evaluating the originality and quality of students' comments and grade credit expected
(Rubric is highly encouraged)
- The expected turn-around time for feedback or grades.

Assignments

- Provide clear guidance on the expectations and requirements
- Provide due dates and late assignment policies
- Define if it is an individual or group assignment (groups: Let the students know how the groups will be formed)

- Specify and describe how to submit assignments
- State the criteria for evaluation (Rubric or list of criteria)
- The expected turn-around time for feedback or grades

Quizzes

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the Practice Quiz from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet.

- List all assessments (i.e. graded or practice)
- Provide the dates and times when assessments will become available (i.e. From Monday 10:00 am – Tuesday 11:59 pm)
- Provide assessment duration (i.e. 30 minutes, 1 hour)
- Provide details for results
- When will students be able to see the results (i.e. Immediately after the exam, after the availability period has ended, or not at all)
- What will they be able to see the results (i.e. Total score only, all of the questions and answers, etc.)
- The expected turn-around time for feedback or grades

Core Principles of this Course

This course will serve all students, encouraging collaboration by preparing students to value the differences in others. We appreciate the multiplicity of the lived experiences and perspectives of all students. We are committed to the ongoing education of our students and their open participation within the course.

Nondiscrimination Statement

The **Office of Civil Rights Compliance and Accessibility (CRCA)** is responsible for ensuring that FIU maintains a workplace and learning environment free from discrimination, where current and prospective faculty, staff, and students are treated equitably. If any student, employee, or applicant has a sincere and reasonable belief that they have been discriminated against or harassed based on age, color, disability, gender, marital status, ethnic or national origin, race, religion, retaliation, sex, or any other protected category, they can report their concerns to the CRCA team through report.fiu.edu.

Course Meeting Information

This is a 3-credit college course offered online through the FIU Dual Enrollment Program.