

SOCIAL PROBLEMS
SYG 2010-389R (class # 24171)
3 credits, 100% traditional (face-to-face)
Spring 2022

CLASS: Tue, periods 5-6 (11:45 a.m. - 1:40 p.m.); Thu, period 6 (12:50 - 1:40 p.m.),
McCarty Hall C, room 0100

Instructor: Dr. Alin M. Ceobanu, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law
Office: 3338 Turlington Hall
Office Phone: (352) 294-7170
Office Hours: Tue & Thu 9:30-10:30 a.m. (in-person, conditional on COVID-19 protocol) & by appointment
E-mail: aceobanu@ufl.edu (PLEASE USE THIS E-MAIL TO CONTACT ME DIRECTLY RATHER THAN THE CANVAS SYSTEM)

Teaching Assistant: Barbi Sanchez, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law
Office: 3349 Turlington Hall
Office Hours: Thu, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. (in person, conditional on COVID-19 protocol) and Mon, 11:00 a.m.–12:00 noon (Zoom)
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Course Objectives, Topic and Goals:

This *3 credit-hour course, delivered 100% traditionally (face-to-face)* satisfies three credits of Gen Ed: Social Science. In this course, students will learn about various theoretical and conceptual frameworks used by sociologists to examine social problems in the United States and in other parts of the world. Thus, students will learn how to frame questions about social issues deemed as “problems,” when certain processes and structures become social problems, and what strategies to address social problems are available to policy makers.

The first objective of this class is to introduce students to how C.W. Mills’ concept of “sociological imagination” can be applied to various social problems. The second objective is to develop an understanding as to how social problems are defined as such (and by whom). The third objective is to expose students to a variety of social problems in the United States and in other countries and continents.

Regarding specific learning outcomes, by the end of this class, students will be able to: (a) understand what constitutes a social problem and the forces behind it; (b) make the connection between main sociological perspectives and various social problems; (c) understand the contribution of sociology to the articulation of potential solutions to core social problems.

This class makes extensive use of Canvas/e-Learning. You are responsible for regularly checking e-Learning for updates, discussions, instructions, posted lecture notes, and many other resources. Students can learn more about Canvas and other technologies by visiting <https://elearning.ufl.edu/keep-learning/>. The UF Computing Help Desk is available to help troubleshoot technical issues.

Required Text:

Eitzen, D. Stanley, Maxine Baca Zinn, and Kelly Eitzen Smith. 2018. Social Problems. 14th ed. New York: Pearson (ISBN: 9780134726618).

Lecture presentations (in PDF), as well as other class materials, will be posted by the instructor in the course’s Canvas shell.

UF Policy on COVID-19:

Per the Office of the Provost, and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- **If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated.** Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment:

<https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.

- **You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings, even if you are vaccinated.** Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.

- o Sanitizing supplies should be available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.

- o Hand sanitizing stations should be located in every classroom.

- **If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine.** Please visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect](#) website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect](#) offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect](#) website for more information.

- o Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.

- o If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.

- **Continue to regularly visit <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/> and <https://coronavirus.ufl.edu/> for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.**

COURSE POLICIES

➤ Class Participation and Excused Absences:

Class participation is an important component of the learning process for this course. *Students must complete the assigned readings before class time.* Students are strongly encouraged to attend classes on a regular basis, given that participation in lectures and labs facilitates understanding of the topics and prepares you for tests and quizzes.

Students who miss classes for reasons of excused absences, must email the instructor to arrange for any make-up work as soon as their condition permits this. Medical situations must be documented (such as a signed physician’s form) to be excused. Consistent with university policies, make-up work will be allowed in the case of excused absences, as defined by UF policy, which include illness, religious holidays, university activities, and military obligation.

Classes will be conducted in a mixed format (lecture-discussion). The instructor will provide a context-setting lecture and students should come prepared with questions from readings – the two will form the basis of structured discussions.

➤ Online Home Quizzes:

Except for Chapter 1 (The Sociological Approach to Social Problems), students must take a weekly (or so) quiz in this course’s Canvas shell (UF’s e-learning portal). Each online home quiz consists of 10 multiple-choice questions (some, very easy) that are based on the assigned chapter and must be completed within a limited time frame. Of the 13 online home quizzes, the 2 lowest scores will be dropped, with the remaining 11 scores counting as 22% towards your final grade.

➤ Tests:

Students will be tested on their knowledge of information from the textbook and lectures. Each of the 3 in-class tests is paper-based and corresponds to the knowledge learned specifically in the assigned chapters (non-cumulative). All tests are closed-book (no assistance) and students will have the entire class time to complete their tests, although many will likely finish early. Each test score counts as 24% towards the final grade.

Students who must miss a test for reasons of religious observation should contact the instructor during the first two weeks of the semester. Per UF policy, other acceptable excuses for missing a test include illness, university activities, or military duties. Students who cannot take the test during the scheduled day of the test must notify the instructor and TAs before the test time and make arrangements to take a make-up.

➤ In-class Assignments:

Over the course of the semester, we’ll have 12 short, in-class assignments (unannounced), which are intended to motivate students to come to class and keep up with the readings. Each in-class assignment is worth 5 points and there are 3 possible grades: ‘Absent’ (0 points), ‘Adequate’ (3 points), and “First-class” (5 points).

➤ Grading Distribution:

The course grades are based on individual performance and are determined by each student’s ranking in the class. There are no extra credit assignments in this class. The following grading scheme will be used:

<i>Component</i>	<i>Points each</i>	<i>Points total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Online home quizzes (11/13)	20	220	22%
Tests (3 total)	240	720	72%
In-class exercises (12)	5	60	6%
TOTAL		1,000	100%

➤ Grading Scale:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>
A	≥ 920	C	720 – 779
A-	900 – 919	C-	700 – 719
B+	880 – 899	D+	680 – 699
B	820 – 879	D	620 – 679
B-	800 – 819	D-	600 – 619
C+	780 – 799	E	≤ 599

Please be respectful of every participant in this class, as we are all trying to make the best of these unprecedented, trying circumstances. Let's approach this semester with patience and flexibility! Thank you, in advance! ☺

UF POLICIES

➤ In-Class Recording:

Per UF policies, students are permitted to record video or audio of class lectures, although the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

➤ Academic Honesty:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in

doing this assignment.” The [Conduct Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

➤ [Online Evaluation Policy:](#)

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.a.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>.

➤ [Classroom Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:](#)

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

➤ [Health and Wellness Resources:](#)

For students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of health care or other support:

- *U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website (<https://umatter.ufl.edu/>) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center:* Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website (<https://counseling.ufl.edu/>) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- *Student Health Care Center:* Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website (<https://shcc.ufl.edu/>).
- *University Police Department:* Visit UF Police Department website (<https://police.ufl.edu/>) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:* For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website (<https://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center>).

➤ [Academic Resources:](#)

- *E-learning technical support:* Contact the UF Computing Help Desk online (<https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>), by phone at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- Career Connections Center (<https://career.ufl.edu/>): Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- UF Library Support (<https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- Teaching Center (<https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>): Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- Writing Studio (<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers

Critical Dates:

Feb 10 (Thu)	TEST 1
Mar 5-12	SPRING BREAK
Mar 17 (Thu)	TEST 2
Apr 19 (Tue)	TEST 3

Course Schedule:

Week 1

Thu, Jan 6: Introduction, no reading

Week 2

Tue, Jan 11 & Thu, Jan 13: **Ch. 1: The Sociological Approach to Social Problems**

Week 3

Tue, Jan 18 & Thu, Jan 20: **Ch. 2: Wealth and Power**

Week 4

Tue, Jan 25 & Thu, Jan 27: **Ch. 3: World Population and Global Inequality**

Week 5

Tue, Feb 1 & Thu, Feb 3: **Ch. 4: Demographic Changes**

Week 6

Tue, Feb 8: **Ch. 6: Threats to the Environment**

Thu, Feb 10: TEST 1

Week 7

Tue, Feb 15 & Thu, Feb 17: **Ch. 7: Poverty**

Week 8

Tue, Feb 22 & Thu, Feb 24: **Ch. 8: Racial and Ethnic Inequality**

Week 9

Tue, Mar 1 & Thu, Mar 3: **Ch. 9: Gender Inequality**

SPRING BREAK: Mar 5-12

Week 10

Tue, Mar 15: **Ch. 11: Crime and Justice**

Thu, Mar 17: TEST 2

Week 11

Tue, Mar 22: **Ch. 12: Drugs**

Thu, Mar 24: **Ch. 13: Economy and Work**

Week 12

Tue, Mar 29: **Ch. 13: Economy and Work**

Thu, Mar 31: **Ch. 14: Families**

Week 13

Tue, Apr 5 & Thu, Apr 7: **Ch. 14: Families; Ch. 15: Education**

Week 14

Tue, Apr 12 & Thu, Apr 14: **Ch. 15: Education; Ch. 16: Health and Health Care Delivery**

Week 15

Tue, Apr 19: TEST 3