

Sociology 282H1F
Introduction to Social Problems
Fall 2018, Thursdays 12:10-2:00 pm
Ramsay Wright Laboratories, 25 Harbord Street, Room 110 (RW110)

Course Syllabus

SCOPE AND AIMS

This course provides a general introduction to the study of social problems (sometimes called “social issues.”) When you hear the words **social problem** do you think of juvenile delinquents? Drug addicts? Homeless people? Sex workers? Or do you think about insider trading? Tax fraud? Arms sales? The mass marketing of junk food? How about witchcraft? Devil worship? Interplanetary abduction? Celebrity sex scandals? The secret lives of powerful people? The label *social problem* has been applied to each of these topics and to hundreds more. In this course, we will look at social inequality and some of its consequences, including crime, addiction, ill health, poverty, unemployment, family violence, population pressure, and environmental degradation. By the end of this course, you’ll have a better idea of how the world works today, and what you may be able to do about it.

PREREQUISITE

SOC101Y1 or SOC102H1 or SOC100H1. Students without this requirement will be removed at any time discovered and without notice.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Professor Lorne Tepperman teaches this course. His office is in University College, room 143. Office hours are on Thursdays 2-3pm, or by appointment. His e-mail address is lorne.tepperman@utoronto.ca

READINGS

The assigned readings, listed below, are available at the U of T Bookstore and Robarts Library.

EVALUATION

Test 1 October 4.....	20 percent
Test 2 November 15	20 percent
Final Examination.....	20 percent
Term Paper.....	30 percent
Participation.....	10 percent

Assignments and Grading

1. **Tests:** There are two in-class tests, each worth 20 per cent. These in-class tests will cover the assigned readings and lectures for the designated section of the course. The tests **are not** cumulative. Test dates are highlighted on the syllabus. To assist you in preparation for the tests, review sessions will be held one week before the test (see course outline below for locations and times)

2. **Essay Assignment:** The details of this assignment follow below. This assignment will be worth 30% of your grade and it is due on the second-to-last scheduled class (November 22nd). You have the entire semester to work on this assignment. The instructions for preparing your term paper can be found below.
3. **Final Examination:** The final examination – 3 hours in length – is cumulative and is worth 20% of your grade. It will take place in the examination period.
4. **Participation (10%):** As part of your grade for this course, you will receive credit for turning in a “response card” at the **end** of each lecture.

Here’s how the response cards work (**read this!**):

- At the end of each lecture, submit a 3x5 inch index card (it must be 3x5 or you will not get credit). Your card should have your name, your student number, the date, and **at least two sentences** of response to the **QUESTION OF THE DAY**, which will be given to you during lecture.
- You can submit a "response" only if you were actually in class. Do **NOT** turn in a card for someone else—this is a violation of the academic code of conduct.
- The responses are each worth 1.44 marks and you must do 7 for a total 10 marks, or 10 percent of your final mark.
- Each card is marked pass/fail. If your answer demonstrates critical engagement with the question, you will receive full credit. If it doesn’t, you will receive a 0 grade.

There will be no comments given on these assignments, but you can meet with your TA to discuss them. Given that you have 8 opportunities to submit 7 cards (you can miss one class without penalty), there will be **NO MAKE-UP opportunities**. Card marks will be posted periodically to Quercus, but please do not e-mail us about this.

The date of the Final Examination is set by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and is announced in November. If you miss this examination, or expect to miss this examination, please discuss this problem and its solution with the Registrar of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

THE GRADING METHOD

The term tests and final examination will entirely comprise multiple choice questions based on the lectures and assigned readings. If you attend lectures, take notes, read carefully, and review thoroughly, you can expect to get a good grade. Everyone who gets a good grade in this course follows this practice. Many students also benefit from studying and reviewing the material with other students. If you have problems doing well on multiple choice tests, seek help from the Academic Success Centre at:

<http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/asc/exam-preparation>

Instructions for Preparing the Essay Assignment

1. Select one of the social problems we have discussed in this course. Then, show how the extent of this problem in Canada is affected by international flows of people (e.g., migrants, tourists, or terrorists), information, jobs, and money, or by other global processes and events.
2. The total length of your paper is to be ~2000 words (8 pages) plus references. Please correct for spelling and grammar errors before submitting.
3. Use and cite a minimum of 10 **peer-reviewed** journal articles in preparing your paper. Your paper should use ASA (American Sociological Association) referencing. Please see the document posted on Quercus for instructions on how to write a paper using ASA formatting (**ASA format citation guide.pdf**).
4. All references should be from the year 2000 or later; earlier references should be justified (e.g., as a “classic study”).
5. Direct quotations must be enclosed in quotation marks and a specific reference cited. Paraphrases of published material do not require quotation marks but must indicate a reference source.
6. Submit one paper copy for grading and keep the original. Additionally, submit an electronic copy to Turnitin, as per instructions on the website. Assignments not submitted through *Turnitin* will receive a grade of zero (0 %) **unless a student instead provides, along with their paper**, sufficient secondary material (e.g., reading notes, outlines of the paper, rough drafts of the final draft, etc.) to establish that the paper they submit is truly their own.

Go to <http://www.turnitin.com> to submit your paper online. For access, enter the **class ID** and **enrolment password** (you will receive these before your paper is due). Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to *Turnitin.com* for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the *Turnitin.com* service are described on the *Turnitin.com* web site. If you cannot submit your paper in class, go to room 225 at 725 Spadina Avenue by 4:50 p.m. on the due date, put a date/time stamp on the top page of your paper (found in room 225), put it into the drop box for 200-level courses, **and then notify your TA that your paper is there.**

This assignment is due at the beginning of our second-to-last scheduled class. There will be no extensions except for documented medical reasons. Penalties of **10% per day of lateness** will be applied for papers handed in after the deadline.

Plagiarism

Cheating and misrepresentation will not be tolerated. Students who commit an academic offence face serious penalties. Avoid plagiarism by citing properly: practices acceptable in high school may prove unacceptable in university. Know where you stand by reading the “Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters” in the Calendar of the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the U of T degree that you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement, and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

Familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto’s *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>). It is the rule book for academic behaviour at the U of T, and you are expected to know the rules. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the *Code*. The consequences for academic misconduct can be severe, including a failure in the course and a notation on your transcript. If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact the professor or TA’s. If you have questions about appropriate research and citation methods, seek out additional information from us, or from other available campus resources like the [U of T Writing Website](#). If you are experiencing personal challenges that are having an impact on your academic work, please seek the advice of your college registrar.

“ Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to *Turnitin.com* for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the *Turnitin.com* reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the *Turnitin.com* service are described on the *Turnitin.com* web site.

ATTENDANCE

Responsibility for being aware of what the professor says in lectures (including administrative announcements) rests with students. As a precaution in case they miss a lecture, students should have a “buddy” who is willing to share their lecture notes. Students are expected to regularly check the course website on Blackboard for important information about tutorial and test locations, lecture slides, and grades.

MAKE-UP TESTS

Students who miss a test will receive a mark of zero for that test unless reasons beyond their control prevent them from taking it. **Within three days** of the missed test, students who wish to write the make-up test must send or give the Course Coordinator a written request for special consideration that explains why the test was missed. A request should be accompanied by contact information (the student’s telephone number and email address) so the date, time and place of the make-up test can be communicated to the student. At the

make-up test a student must submit **proper documentation from a physician or college registrar** (see below). A student who misses a test and the subsequent make-up test for a valid reason will not have a third chance to take the test. Instead, the grade assigned for the missed test will be the same as the grade the student earns on the other test in this course.

Makeup Tests will be held at _____ pm on the following dates, in a room to be assigned:
Makeup test #1 – October 11
Makeup test #2 – November 22

ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.

HELP FROM YOUR TEACHING ASSISTANT

Your TA will hold scheduled office hours and respond to your emails. Please be judicious in your use of email. Use it only for questions that are brief and specific. Before sending a question by email, be sure to check the course outline to see if an answer is already available. Emails should not be seen as an alternative to doing the reading or attending the lectures. Expect to receive a response from your T.A. within three working days. For more in-depth discussions of the lectures, readings, tests and position papers, please make use of your T.A.'s office hours.

DOCUMENTATION FROM YOUR PHYSICIAN OR COLLEGE REGISTRAR

If you miss a test or a paper deadline, **do not** contact the instructor or a TA unless you have followed the steps described here. Telling the professor or TA why you missed a deadline or a test probably will not help.

- In case of **illness**, you must supply a duly completed University of Toronto Verification of Student Illness or Injury form, available at www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca. A doctor's note is acceptable but **MUST** contain the start and anticipated end date of the illness.
- If a **personal or family crisis** prevents you from meeting a deadline, please ask your college registrar to send a letter of explanation to Professor Tepperman.

NEED ADVICE?

Students who need advice on any subject relevant to their success and well-being at the University of Toronto should immediately seek help from their College Registrar's Office. That's what the Registrar's advisors are there for. You can rely on their help to be intelligent, compassionate, and confidential.

Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments, by date

Sept 6	Introduction: What are social problems?	PSP 1; SP 1
Sept 13	Class and economic inequality	PSP 2; SP 2
Sept 20	Crime and violence	PSP 7; SP 7
Oct 27	Addictions	PSP 8; SP 8
Oct 4	Test #1	
Oct 11	Health issues	PSP 9; SP 9
Oct 18	Families	PSP 11; SP 11
Oct 25	Work and the Economy	PSP 12; SP 12
Nov 1	Schools and Formal Education	PSP 13; SP 13
Nov 8	No class – reading week	
Nov 15	Test #2	
Nov 22	Cities and Population	PSP 14; SP 14
Nov 29	Social problems of the future	SP 15; SP 16

Final Examination

Assigned readings:

Tepperman, Lorne and Josh Curtis, **SOCIAL PROBLEMS**, 4th edition, Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2015 (**SP**)

Tepperman, Lorne, Cinthya Guzman, and Ioana Sendriou, **PICTURING SOCIAL PROBLEMS**, Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2018 (**PSP**)

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Price: \$144.95

Containing the following components:

Social Problems, ISBN 9780199009091

Picturing Social Problems, ISBN 9780199022960