

SOC282H1F: Introduction to Social Problems
Department Of Sociology
University Of Toronto

Summer 2022
Mondays & Wednesdays 2:10-4pm

Instructor: Dr. Josh Harold

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Office Hours: Wednesday after class or by appointment

Class Location: SS1085

Course Website: g.utoronto.ca

Teaching Assistant: Emily Hammond

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to widely discussed social problems. Why do we consider some things to be a problem and not others? How are social problems defined and who determines what is a problem? Why do some forms of inequality generate significant public attention and concern while others are ignored? What role can we play to help solve problems associated with homelessness, global inequality, or crime and violence? Social problems are circumstances experienced by people that have social causes and social consequences. This course will explore the social construction of and responses to various social problems, including poverty, crime, urban and environmental problems, delinquency, racism, gender inequality, and others.

PREREQUISITE

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

Recommended Preparation: SOC150H1

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with diverse learning needs are welcome in this course. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please contact Accessibility Services at (416) 978-8060 or visit their website <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as>

COURSE FORMAT

This course is scheduled to be delivered in-person, however, in keeping with current circumstances, the delivery mode may change as determined by the Faculty or the Department.

RECORDING LECTURES

Any form of audio or video recording of lectures, including any content displayed or presented, is strictly forbidden without the written permission of the instructor. Students may not record any portion of a lecture, class discussion, or course activity without the prior and explicit written permission of the course instructor. Any request to record any part of class must be made in writing to the instructor.

COURSE READINGS

It is important to complete all the required readings and to come to lecture having read the material in advance of that class. The course relies mostly on the following textbook, which is available to purchase at the U of T Bookstore:

Tepperman, Lorne, Josh Curtis, and Rachel La Touche. 2020. *Social Problems: A Canadian Perspective*, 5th Edition. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

COURSE EVALUATION

<u>Item</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Annotated Bibliography	15%	May 18
Test 1	25%	May 25
Social Problem Essay	35%	June 13
Test 2	25%	June 20

Annotated Bibliography. Students will submit an annotated bibliography on a social problem related to the course. The social problem you choose will be the same social problem you will write about for your essay. As part of the annotated bibliography, you will develop a critical question that will direct your research for the essay. Your question will be further refined as the course goes on, but this assignment will provide the beginnings of your research for your social problem essay. Along with your critical question, this assignment will include a two-page, double-spaced summary that identifies the social problem and its key consequences. You will also annotate five scholarly sources from the last 10 years (no earlier than 2012) that deal with your selected social problem. Each annotation should answer the following questions: What question/puzzle are the authors asking in their article? What is the main argument? What are the key findings of this article? How is the article relevant to your topic and critical question? Each annotation will be approximately 200-250 words and contain the full reference information for the article in ASA citation format.

Tests. There will be two term tests in the course. They will be held during class time and will consist of multiple choice and/or short answer questions. Test 1 will cover material from the four classes preceding it, and Test 2 will cover the lecture material and readings from after Test 1. Test 2 will not be cumulative. More details about the tests will be provided in class.

Social Problems Essay. This assignment is worth 35% of your grade for the course. The essay

will more fully answer the critical question you posed in your annotated bibliography assignment. In this essay, you will explain the social problem in Canada, its construction in historical and current context, discuss how well the social problem is being addressed in policy and practice, and what more can be done. Your essay will be 8 double-spaced pages, with 12-point font and 1" margins on all sides, plus references. Your paper will use at least 10 peer-reviewed journal articles. You may use some or all of the sources from your annotated bibliography. All papers will use ASA citation format for in-text referencing and for full reference information at the end of your essay.

COURSE TOPICS AND READING SCHEDULE:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
May 9	What are social problems?	Chapter 1
11	Class, Poverty, and Economic Inequality	Chapter 2
16	Race and Ethnic Inequality	Chapter 3
18	Gender Relations	Chapter 4
23	Victoria Day; No Class	
25	Test 1	
30	Crime and Violence	Chapter 6
June 1	Global Inequality	Chapter 8
6	Families	Chapter 9
8	Workplaces	Chapter 12
13	Populations and the Natural Environment	Chapter 13
15	What Problems Are on the Way?	Chapter 14
20	Test 2	

MISSED TESTS

Students who miss a test due to illness or injury must immediately inform the professor and declare their absence on ACORN. For missed tests for other reasons, such as family emergency or other personal reasons, you must contact your College Registrar and have your registrar email the instructor. Students who wish to write a make-up test for legitimate reasons may apply to do so by submitting a written request to the professor, accompanied by proper documentation. 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. These instances will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments should be submitted by the due date. It is important to submit work on time to help ensure successful progress through the course. However, if a situation arises that is beyond your control you may request an extension for an assignment by emailing your request

to the professor. Any extension requests should be made in advance of the due date, where possible. Late assignments that have not been granted an extension will be deducted 5% per day up to maximum of seven days. After seven days, late assignments will not be accepted.

PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Any form of cheating and misrepresentation will not be tolerated. Be careful to avoid plagiarism. Students who commit an academic offence face serious penalties. Avoid plagiarism by citing properly: practices acceptable in high school may prove unacceptable in university. To avoid any confusion about plagiarism, please familiarize yourself with the “Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters” (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>). You are expected to be familiar with the contents of this document.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Please treat emails as you would any other form of profession communication. To ensure your emails receive a response, please note the following about email correspondence:

- Emails about assignments, tests, and course materials should first be directed to the TA.
- Emails should be sent from your University of Toronto email account.
- All emails must have the course code (e.g., SOC282) in the subject line. Emails without the course code in the subject line may not receive a response.
- All emails should contain the student’s full name and student number.
- Avoid sending emails that ask for readily available information. Emails that ask for information that is provided in the course outline (e.g. “how much is assignment X worth”) will generally not receive a response.
- Every effort will be made to respond to student emails in a timely manner; however, instant or even overnight responses are not always possible (i.e. on weekends or holidays). Please be patient. We will respond to emails as soon as we can, usually within 24 hours.

OURIGINAL

Sometimes, students will be required to submit their assignments to the University’s plagiarism detection tool 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 tool’s reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).

For some of your assignments, we will be using the software Ouriginal. It uses text matching technology as a method to uphold the University’s high academic integrity standards to detect any potential plagiarism. Ouriginal is integrated into Quercus. For the assignments set up to use

Ouriginal, the software will review your paper when you upload it to Quercus. To learn more about Ouriginal's privacy policy please review its [Privacy Policy](#)

Students not wishing their assignment to be submitted through Ouriginal will not be assessed unless a student instead provides, along with their work, 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.

WRITING SUPPORT

There are a wide range of writing supports available to students at the University of Toronto. You are strongly encouraged to make use of these resources. Please visit <https://writing.utoronto.ca/> for details.

GRADE APPEALS

The instructor and teaching assistant take the marking of assignments and tests very seriously, and will work diligently to be fair, consistent, and accurate. Nonetheless, mistakes and oversights occasionally happen. If you believe that to be the case, you must adhere to the following rules:

- If it is a mathematical error simply alert the instructor of the error.
- In the case of more substantive appeals, you must:
 1. Wait at least 24 hours after receiving your mark.
 2. Carefully re-read your assignment, all assignment guidelines and marking schemes and the grader's comments.
 3. If you still feel the grade you received is not an accurate reflection of the work that you produced, you must discuss your grade with your TA within one week of the grade being returned to you, addressing the comments they provided to you.
 4. If you are unable to come to an agreement, you may request a regrade from the instructor. In your request, you must address your TA's comments and explain why you believe they do not adequately reflect your assignment. Keep in mind that upon regrading, your mark may go up or down or stay the same.