Instructor:    Dr. Holly Campeau
Contact:        hcampeau@ualberta.ca
Office:    Tory 4-26
Office Hours:    Tuesday 12:30 – 1:30pm
TA:            Bridget Alichie    alichie@ualberta.ca (TA Office hours TBA)

Course Description

This course provides a general introduction to the study of social problems. We examine a variety of widely discussed social problems, including poverty, crime, criminal justice approaches, substance abuse, sexism, health, the dark side of the internet, climate change and urban sprawl. We will also look at common denominators throughout these various substantive topics, including social inequality and the “social construction” of social problems and factors that influence public attention and concern.

Objectives of this course:
1. Introduce students to sociology’s role in identifying and understanding social problems.
2. Articulate sociological concepts and theories toward developing a deeper understanding of why social problems recur and endure.
3. Understand and develop proficiency in applying sociology’s key perspectives to societal issues.
4. Develop an ability to critically analyze how social problems that are encountered in everyday life are socially constructed and represented through the media.
5. Learn how to participate in peer group discussion to work through questions about specific problems in the real world.

Required Readings

University Press, 2015
NOTE: A more affordable online version of this text is available at the following link:

2) Additional readings will be posted on the course website.
Teaching Method

The course will consist of both lectures and required readings. Guest lectures and films that address specific topic areas may be arranged periodically and should be considered part of the course material. In other words, the content of films and guest lectures will be covered on tests and/or the final exam. Students are responsible for both readings and lectures regardless of whether the material overlaps or not.

Use of eClass and e-mail: Class announcements will generally be posted on eClass. Messages for individual students will be mailed to university accounts only. Therefore, it is important that you check eClass and your ualberta account regularly. Failure to do so cannot be used as a reason for dispensation of term work policies and course work requirements. Please do not email the professor with questions that can be answered by consulting this syllabus (those emails will not receive response).

Evaluations

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>February 5, 2019</td>
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<td>Test 2</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>March 12, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Media Analysis Assignment</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Throughout</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Throughout</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>April, 2019</td>
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- **Tests**: TWO tests will take place in class and be comprised of multiple choice questions. Tests are NON-CUMULATIVE. Sample multiple choice questions will be made available on eClass one week before Test 1.

- **Media Analysis Assignment**: Details of the assignment will be discussed in the second week of class (and posted online on eClass). See asterisks [*] for topics in Course Schedule below.

- **Participation – Group Discussions**: Periodically, students will be divided into set groups to discuss a question posted on a slide. Instructor and TA will circulate to record student participation. The group will designate a note-taker and a speaker (new students each time in order to share responsibility) to share the ideas generated by the group.

- **Final Exam**: The exam will be given during the final exam period, and is will be scheduled in April. It is NON-CUMULATIVE and consists of multiple choice and short-answer questions. Sample short-answer questions will be made available on eClass one week before the exam.

Grading

Marks will be given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned according to the scale below:
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<td>95-100</td>
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<td><strong>Excellent</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Satisfactory</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Marginal Pass</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fail</strong></td>
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**Required Note:** Policy about course outlines can be found in Course Requirements, Evaluation Procedures and Grading of the University Calendar.

**Accessibility Resources**

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Student Accessibility Resources, contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; Email arrec@ualberta.ca; Phone 780-492-3381; WEB [https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students/accessibility-resources](https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students/accessibility-resources)).

**Important Term Work Policies**

Students are expected to take responsibility for making appropriate judgments to ensure that their assignment is submitted in a timely manner. It is also the student’s responsibility to back up their work either electronically or by photocopying the work for their own reference.

- **Missed Tests and Extensions**

  **Missed tests** will be assigned a grade of zero. If you miss a test, you must approach the instructor within **TWO days** of the test date in order to request an opportunity to write a make-up.

  Requests for **extensions** must be received in writing along with supporting documentation preferably well BEFORE the due date.

  A make-up test or extension will **only** be granted if there are legitimate medical or compassionate grounds. Students will not be given make-up tests or extension due to travel, employment, vacations or other personal commitments. As a matter of fairness, you will be required to support any request for extensions or make-ups with documentation, which may include the following:
• For incapacitating medical illness
  - “University of Alberta Medical Statement” signed by a doctor (this cannot be required, but
    must be accepted if provided in lieu of other documents)
  - “Request for Excused Absence or Deferral of Term Work”
  - “Statutory Declaration” (to be obtained from the Office of the Registrar)
• For all other cases (i.e. domestic afflictions, religious convictions, etc.)
  - For a death in the family – a copy of the death certificate
  - For a religious conflict – a letter from the church or pastor
  - For a car accident – a copy of the accident report
  - For other serious afflictions – consult with Instructor or Department

NOTE: Instructors can NOT grant final exam deferrals. Students must apply to their home faculty
for a deferred final exam within two working days of the missed exam, or as soon as the student is
able to, having regard to circumstances underlying the absence. The Department of Sociology will
hold deferred final exams for the Winter 2019 term on:
Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 9:00am (Location: BUS 1 10)

❖ Late Penalties

Assignments are due in hard copy at the beginning of class. Late papers will incur a penalty of 5% per day (weekends included), unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor (see information about extensions above). Papers will not be accepted 10 days after the due date. Late papers must be submitted through eClass using the “late submissions link”, which will be made active after the deadline.

Recording of Lectures
Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the Instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or Instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Academic Integrity
The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at https://www.ualberta.ca/governance/) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicion of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.
COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

* Media Analysis topic option

WEEK 1 – January 8 and 10: INTRODUCTION – Defining Social Problems and Social Constructionism
   Textbook CH 1

WEEK 2 – January 15 and 17: SOCIAL INEQUALITY
   Textbook CH 2

*WEEK 3 – January 22 and 24: RACE and GENDER RELATIONS
   Textbook CH 3 and CH 4

*WEEK 4 – January 29 and 31: FAMILY, WORK, and their INTERSECTION
   Textbook CH 11 and CH 12

WEEK 5 – February 5 and 7
   
   February 5 → TEST 1
   February 7 → MENTAL HEALTH – Addictions and Suicide

*WEEK 6 – February 12 and 14: MENTAL HEALTH (cont…) – Addictions and Suicide
   Textbook CH 8
   See Week 6 Reading on eClass

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WEEK 7 – February 19 and 21: READING WEEK (NO CLASS)

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*WEEK 8 – February 26 and 28: CRIME and VIOLENCE
   Textbook CH 7

*WEEK 9 – March 5 and 7: CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUES – Policing and Prisons
   See Week 9 Readings on eClass

*WEEK 10 – March 12 and 14: INTERNET’S DARK SIDE – Trolls, Harassment and Cybercrime
   See Week 10 Readings on eClass
WEEK 11 – March 19 and 21:

March 19 → TEST 2

March 21 → Guest Speaker (UofA Sexual Assault Centre)

*WEEK 12 – March 26 and 28: HEALTH and AGING – Canada’s Changing Population

Textbook CH 6 and CH 9

*WEEK 13 – April 2 and 4: NATURAL ENVIRONMENT – Pollution and Climate Change

Textbook CH 15

WEEK 14 – April 9: CITIES and NEIGHBOURHOODS – Sub / Urbanization

Textbook CH 14

April Exam Period → FINAL EXAM (date, time and location will be available on Bear Tracks)