

Nashville State Community College
(Social & Behavioral Sciences)
(Sociology)
Spring 2023 Web Course Syllabus
(SOCI 1040 – Social Problems)

This syllabus describes the instructor's expectations for course content, work, and grading as well as expectations for student performance and conduct. The syllabus does not constitute a contract between the student and the instructor or the College. The information contained here may be changed at any time. Students will be notified if any changes are made. Though changes are possible, it is expected that the course will be conducted as described in this syllabus.

Course Information:

Course Title: Social Problems

Credits: 3

Class Hours: 3

Section and CRN: SOCI 1040, W01

Course Description:

A study of issues and topics identified as social problems in American society, such as crime, drug and alcohol abuse, environment, changing family and gender relationships, poverty, and violence.

Prerequisite(s): English 1010 and Reading 0815.

Note: SOCI 1040 meets the requirement for a Social Sciences elective.

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Yvonne Simerman

Email address at D2L/NS Online: A00001290@elearn.nsc.edu

Email address at any site: yvonne.simerman@nsc.edu

Office Location at Southeast/Antioch: 2008C

Office Location at White Bridge Rd.: Weed Building, Office D-6

Office Phone: 615-353-3482 (Please leave a clear message.)

Virtual Office Zoom Link: <https://nsc.edu.zoom.us/my/simermanoffice>

Scheduling Link for Appointments:

<https://calendly.com/simermancalendar/student-meeting?month=2022-01>

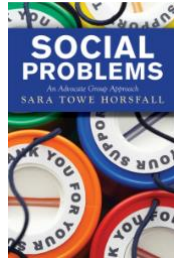
QR Code for Appointments in Zoom: Scan this QR Code to reach the instructor's scheduling link for appointments. It's the same as the link above.



NOTE: After you make an appointment, check the email you provided for confirmation. If you need to reschedule, the confirmation email message provides instructions for this.

Required Textbook(s) & Other Materials

Textbook: *Social Problems: An Advocate Group Approach* by Sara Towe Horsfall. The image below shows the cover of this book.



You are required to have regular access to the book. You are not required to have a paperback version of the book. You can purchase new and used copies of it from several online book sellers.

ISBN-13: 9780813345079

ISBN-10: 0813345073

eText ISBN: 9780429972737, 0429972733

You may purchase an epub (electronic version) or print version of this book at this Vital Source web address: <https://www.vitalsource.com/products/social-problems-sara-towe-horsfall-v9780429972737?term=Social+Problems+Horsfall>

All students should verify that they have the correct textbook and materials information by consulting the D2L/NS Online shell for the course.

Reference Materials: See online resources in Content at the course webpage

Supplies Needed: Computer, Internet access

Reading is Fundamental

Reading the textbook and other documents in the Content Modules online is essential for your success in this course. Check the To Do lists in the Content Modules which correspond with the Course Schedule. There are several ways to read them: online, download and read them offline, print them out, or purchase a paper copy of the book.

Please read the assigned chapters or documents before completing the discussions, quizzes, reports, or essays. You will need to know the definitions of terms and examples in the readings.

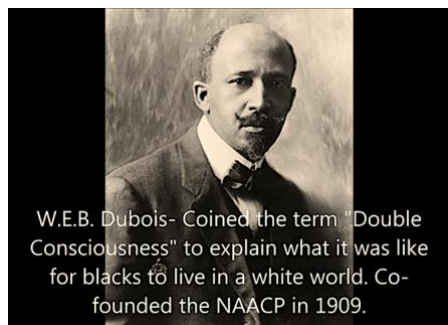
Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. know that social problems can originate in and affect individuals, groups, institutions, and/or global organization by studying a variety of social problems such as inequality, deviance, family, education, health and/or environment
2. know how each of the major theoretical paradigms in sociology defines and views social problems in society by reviewing and applying each paradigm to several issues defined as a social problem
3. know that the analysis of issues defined as social problems is related to the structure and organization of the society as well as political and philosophical orientations within the society by considering the spectrum of conservative to radical solutions to social problems

The following are general education competencies intended to support the course outcomes. Upon successful completion of this course, students may gain skills toward numbers 1, 2, 5, 6.

1. Write clear, well-organized documents
2. Know how to locate, evaluate, and use information sources
3. Prepare and deliver well-organized oral presentations
4. Apply mathematical concepts to problems and situations
5. Use critical thinking skills
6. Apply scientific thought processes to a range of situations



Topics to Be Covered:

- Review of Sociology
- Social problems in your community
- Effects of Social Problems
- Origins of Inequality
- Origins of Deviance and Crime
- Symbolic-interactionism
- Functionalism
- Conflict Perspective
- Advocate Groups
- Ameliorations and Reactions
- Political positions

Course Assessments

My goals for helping you to develop a sociological eye and various critical thinking skills cannot be achieved through multiple-choice testing alone. Therefore, I have designed the course with a variety of course assessments.

- The online discussions are worth fewer points and are designed to give you practice at thinking and writing so that you can succeed at the quizzes, reports, and essays.
- Links to all assessments are in the Content Modules at the course webpage. The Course Schedule tells you which module they are in and when they are due.
- It is each student's responsibility to complete the assessments by the dates that are listed in the course schedule and online calendar.
- If I believe that changes to due dates are necessary, I will announce them in a News item at the course website (NS Online/D2L).

The following performance assessments will give you opportunities to demonstrate your understanding, knowledge, and skills:

Online Discussions = 150 points (15% of course grade)

- online discussions are required each week for attendance
- most weeks, the discussion is worth 10 participation points
- check instructor feedback. It is designed to guide your thinking and improve your writing skills to succeed at the reports and essays.

Written Reports and Essays = 400 points (40% of course grade)

- See instructions for these in the Content Modules and Assignment Dropboxes online.
- Submit them in the dropboxes online.

Multiple-Choice Quizzes = 350 points (35% of course grade)

- All quizzes are online.
- You have 2 attempts at the reading quizzes.
 - Complete them from home using the textbook and other documents in Content.
 - The highest score of these 2 attempts will be recorded in your grade list.
 - Find correct answers to the questions that you answered incorrectly in your quiz submission 1 so that you can improve your score on attempt 2.

Final Exam = 100 points (10% of course grade)

- It includes a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions which ask about information you learned throughout the semester.
- You may complete it online from home or in a computer lab.
- You may NOT use a textbook or search for answers online.

Grading Policy

You may earn a total of 1000 points by the end of the semester. I will determine your final grade by adding the points you earn on all the assignments. See the FA = F for Attendance

According to NSCC policy, an FA is awarded to students who do *not* officially withdraw from a course *and* do *not* attend *after* the cut-off date provided in the academic calendar. Students who stop attending on or before this date receive an FA; students who stop attending after this date receive an F.

March 24 is the last day you can withdraw from a course and earn an F for attendance (FA).

FN

An FN is awarded to students who never attended class.

Grading Scale for more information.

Extra Credit Policy

Extra credit points are limited to a total of 50 for the semester. Please check the Assignment Dropbox for Extra Credit Assignments.

Low Score Policy

Any student who receives a grade of D or lower on the first written essay, report or quiz is required to attend a conference with the instructor to discuss how to improve his or her performance on these assignments. The conference may be scheduled for a face-to-face meeting, or it may be conducted over the phone. If I consider it appropriate, I will allow students to revise one written report or essay for a higher score.

Honors Option

If you wish to take this course for honors credit, you must be enrolled in the Honors College and complete an Honors Contract. It is your responsibility to inform your instructor within the first four weeks of the semester that you want to complete an Honors Contract for this course.

Late Work Policy & Make-up Procedures for Missed Assignments and Work

I will not accept Online Discussions that are submitted after the date and time listed in the schedule.

I will accept any report or essay within one week after the assignment was due. Every late assignment will receive an automatic reduction of 25% of the points for that assignment.

To submit a late assignment, you must attach it to the correct Assignment Dropbox online. Then email the instructor at the course webpage with your full name, the name of the assignment and explain the reason it is late.

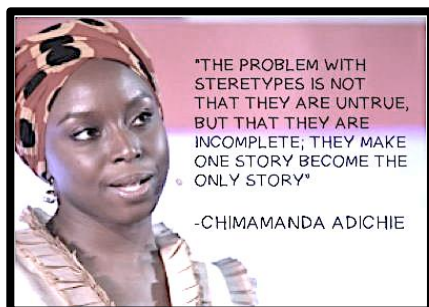
After the half-way point in the semester, you will receive an email message giving you a Quiz Redo Coupon. You will respond to the message with your request to make up a quiz that you missed or to make another attempt at a quiz that you would like to improve.

Attendance Policy

The College is not an attendance taking institution as defined by 34 CFR 668.22(b)(1) in the Code of Federal Regulations; however, students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and laboratories.

- Absences in a course may affect a student's final grade.
- Tardiness may also affect a student's final grade.
- Students are responsible for all work/tests that occur during any missed class session(s) regardless of reason(s) for absence.
- Students who are sick or not well enough to attend class must notify the instructor as soon as possible before the scheduled class time, unless incapacitated or unable to do so. In that case, students must contact the instructor as soon as reasonably possible.
- If a student has an unavoidable conflict with a scheduled class session, students must notify the instructor, preferably before the class session, or as soon as possible.

For purposes of financial aid continued attendance is determined via engagement in the course. This can be accomplished in several ways including, but not limited to, continued attendance and/or participation in on-ground class sessions, participating in D2L as prompted (e.g., responding to an instructor's email, posting to a discussion board), and/or completing and submitting assignments.



Attendance and participation policy for this class:

To the extent that attendance is kept in this class it is not for the purpose of the College but is instead associated with the instructor's individual grading rubric.

- I count you as attending when you complete the online discussion questions each week.
- Consequences for missing online discussions:

- You will miss opportunities to understand the course materials.
- You will miss opportunities to earn points toward your course grade.
- If you miss more than two weeks of discussions back-to-back, you may earn an FA in the course.

Policies About COVID

- Students who have been exposed to COVID-19 or who have tested positive should inform the instructor of their status and consider the health of others on campus before coming to campus.
- You may wear a mask on campus and especially during class meetings.
- *If you are not well enough to complete assignments online, please notify the instructor as soon as reasonably possible. It is possible to adjust due dates for reports and/or quizzes.*

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Grading Scale

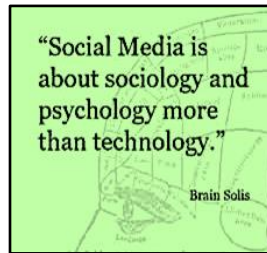
Letter Grade	Percentage Range	Point Range
A	90%-100%	900-1000 points
B	80%-89%	800-899 points
C	70%-79%	700-799 points
D	60%-69%	600-699 points
F	0-59%	0-599 points

Technology Statement

- All classes at the College are web enhanced.
- It is essential for students to have access to a computer and an internet connection to complete assignments, and access various course materials through D2L/NS Online course shells.
- Students may also be required to use free video conferencing platforms (ex: Zoom, Teams) for classes and meetings.
- Students will be responsible for appropriate dress while on video, to ensure a distraction free environment (mute sound as needed) and to ensure their background is neutral for others to view.
- If you have questions or concerns regarding access to a computer or internet resources, please contact your instructor. Additional information available: <https://www.nsc.edu/current-students/student-online-resources/access-to-internet-and-technology>.
- Certain publisher materials may not work on cellphones.

Computer Labs

Computers are available for all Nashville State students to use at each campus during open hours. Open computer lab availability may vary from campus to campus. You should check the NSCC website for current hours of operation.



D2L/NS Online and myNSCC

It is your responsibility to check your email in *both* D2L/NS Online course shells and your student email (@my.nsc.edu) on a regular basis. These are the official communication channels between the college and you:

- D2L/NS Online emails contain specific course information from the instructors of your classes
- @my.nsc.edu emails contain important information from college offices, such as Financial Aid

Equity Statement

Nashville State Community College strives to ensure that each student receives what that student needs to be successful, with goals of success beyond the classroom. We understand and practice ideas of equity and inclusion for our students by embracing a full spectrum of experiences, viewpoints, and intellectual approaches in order to overcome barriers to success.

“Whereas for most whites racism is prejudice, for most people of color racism is systemic or institutionalized.”

Quote by Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, from *Racism without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in the United States*.



ADA Compliance Statement

Nashville State complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you require accommodations for any courses in which you are enrolled, contact the Access Center at:

- Phone: 615.353.3741
- Phone: 615.353.3721
- Email: accesscenter@nsc.edu

If you are registered with the Access Center and require an alternate format for the textbook and other course materials, please contact the Access Center.

Classroom Misconduct

Disruptive conduct is not allowed in the classroom. Disruptive conduct is any behavior that prevents students from learning and interferes with the ability of the instructor to teach. This may change from class to class; therefore, your individual instructors will give you guidance on what qualifies as “disruptive

conduct” in their classes. Please review the [Nashville State Student Code of Conduct policy](#). Please be aware that children are not allowed in class or to be left unattended on campus.

Academic Misconduct

You have started this academic journey to prepare for a future career. Therefore, it is important that you learn the materials being presented in your classes. For this reason, cheating, in any form, robs you of your opportunity to learn and master the material that will enable you to succeed in that future career. Thus, Nashville State has a clear [Academic Misconduct Policy](#) that you are expected to follow. In addition, your instructors will clarify what Academic Misconduct looks like and the consequences for violations in each class you take. The instructor has the authority to assign an “F” or a “zero” for such violations or for the semester grade.

Academic Early Alert System

If you are not doing well in class, your instructor may send you an Early Alert through your @my.nsc.edu email. This email will go to your academic advisor and Student Success advisor, as well. If you get an Early Alert, contact your instructor immediately. Instructors send these when they want to help you figure out how to get extra support to pass the course. An Early Alert does not mean that you have already failed the course. Rather, it means you are in danger of failing the course if you do not change your learning strategy. Please use an Early Alert to your advantage and as an opportunity to improve your grade.

RAVE Emergency Alert System

You can log in to this free alert system to receive text messages about emergencies related to NSCC campuses: <https://www.getrave.com/login/nsc>. The instructions for this are listed below.

- Your RAVE Username is your NSCC email address.
- If you've never received an email from RAVE with your password, or if you need to reset your password, select “Forgot your password?” and a new password will be emailed to you.
- Should the RAVE system indicate “user not found”, select Register and create your own RAVE account.

Student Wellness

Your well-being is important to us. With this in mind, the college has several resources available to provide support when needed:

- Free tutoring: <https://www.nsc.edu/current-students/on-campus-resources/learning-center-and-tutoring>
- NSCC email, scheduling, online classes, textbooks, tech check out and support, computer labs on campuses, academic advising, financial advising, COVID-19 information and procedures on campuses: <https://www.nsc.edu/current-students/student-online-resources>
- Services that help with bus passes, food, childcare, textbooks, housing, financial counseling, personal counseling, suicide prevention, health insurance: <https://www.nsc.edu/current-students/on-campus-resources/student-support-services>

Inclement Weather & Campus Closings

Campus closures and class delays will be announced at these places:

- local television stations
- NSCC website
- RAVE alert system text message
- Course website in NS Online/D2L

Students should use their own best judgment in determining whether to report to campus during inclement weather when classes are not cancelled.

Even when campuses are closed, students are still responsible for completing all assigned work.

Class Cancellations

This section of the course does not have regular meetings and is not affected by any campus closings or cancellations.