



Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: <https://catalog.uvu.edu/>

Semester: Spring

Course Prefix: SOC

Course Title: Modern Social Problems

Year: 2025

Course and Section #: 1020-X01

Credits: 3

Course Description

Studies and analyzes modern social problems such as crime, delinquency, family dysfunctions and inequality and exploitation of people in contemporary society. Class requires volunteer experience in community agencies.

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:

- General Education Requirements
- Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
- Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
- Discipline Core Requirements in Program
- Elective Core Requirements in Program
- Open Elective

Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Yi Yin

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Apply critical thinking and reasoning skills in sociological study.
 2. Identify and integrate the use of the sociological perspective.
 3. Examine social issues with use of the scientific method and sociological theory.
 4. Describe significant modern social issues.
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Course Materials and Texts

- Access to a computer and reliable internet connection.
 - Joann Chirico. 2019. *Global Problems, Global Solutions: Prospects for A Better World.*
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Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

- Syllabus Quiz: It is important that you familiarize yourself with the syllabus. This quiz is multiple-choice and could be taken as many times as necessary to receive a perfect score. This will ensure that course expectations are clear. (2% of overall grade)

- Introduce Yourself: This will give you an opportunity to introduce yourself to the class and learn more about each other. (2% of overall grade)
- Update Profile/Notifications: This assignment will ensure you receive notifications and stay updated with the course. (1% of overall grade)
- Discussion: Discussions will be opportunities to explore Modern Social Issue topics together. In order to complete discussions successfully, you are required to submit one initial post and two peer replies for each discussion. (20% of overall grade)
- Essays: These will ask you to apply sociological concepts or theories to social issues or problems. Essays are based on the readings, class discussions, and documentary films. You are expected to answer all provided questions from the assignment. (20% of overall grade)
- Learning Journals: These assignments will allow you to tap into your creativity to showcase core ideas of your learning in various formats. (10% of overall grade)
- Observation Report: You will complete a daily life observation and analyze it through sociological perspective. (10% of overall grade)
- Comprehensive Reflection: You will be expected to complete a comprehensive reflection in which you will analyze a social problem from sociological perspectives and explore its influence. (10% of overall grade)
- Exams: You will take two exams which will be taken online with open-book and will cover lecture material and assigned readings. Both exams are non-cumulative. (25% of overall grade)

	Points	Percent
Syllabus Quiz	20	2
Introduce Yourself	20	2
Update Profile/Notifications	10	1
Discussion	200	20
Essays	200	20
Learning Journals	100	10
Observation Report	100	10
Comprehensive Reflection	100	10
Exams	250	25
Total	1000	100

Grading Scale: A = 930-1000 A - = 900-929
 B+ = 870-899 B = 830-869 B - = 800-829
 C+ = 770-799 C = 730-769 C - = 700-729
 D+ = 670-699 D = 630-669 D - = 600-629
 F = 0-599

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

- Joann Chirico. 2019. Global Problems, Global Solutions: Prospects for A Better World.
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General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

- Topic 1 Thinking Sociologically
 - Define sociological imagination
 - Apply sociological imagination to real world scenarios
 - Evaluate important social theories with their key assumptions and limits

- Topic 2 Culture
 - Define culture
 - Apply cultural theories in real-life cases
 - Topic 3 Race and Ethnicity
 - Define race and ethnicity
 - Analyze relationships between different groups
 - Topic 4 Families
 - Discuss why we have families
 - Explore social changes in families
 - Topic 5 Consumerism
 - Compare different consumption cultures
 - Analyze the influence of consumerism
 - Topic 6 Debt Culture
 - Describe debt culture
 - Explore the influence of debt culture
 - Topic 7 Environmental Justice
 - Define sustainability
 - Analyze environmental problem from sociological perspective
 - Topic 8 Education:
 - Discuss why we have education
 - Explore the influence of education
 - Topic 9 Migration
 - Describe different types of migration
 - Analyze the influence of migration
 - Topic 10 Technology and Development
 - Define technology and development
 - Explore the influence of technology
 - Topic 11 Climate Change
 - Describe climate change
 - Analyze the influence of climate change
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Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

AI programs are not a replacement for your human creativity, originality, and critical thinking. Writing, thinking, and researching are crafts that you must develop over time to develop your own individual voice. At the same time, you should learn how to use AI and in what instances AI can be helpful to you.

The use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Copilot, etc.) is permitted in this course for other following activities:

- Brainstorming and refining your ideas;
- Fine tuning your research questions;
- Finding information on your topic;
- Drafting an outline to organize your thoughts; and
- Checking grammar and style.

The use of generative AI tools is not permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Impersonating you in classroom contexts, such as by using the tool to compose discussion board prompts/responses assigned to you or content that you put into a Teams/Canvas chat.
- Completing group work that your group has assigned to you, unless it is mutually agreed upon that you may utilize the tool.
- Writing a draft of a writing assignment.
- Writing entire sentences, paragraphs or papers to complete class assignments.
- You are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws, or contain misinformation or unethical content). Your use of AI tools must be properly documented and cited in order to stay within university policies on academic honesty.

Any student work submitted using AI tools should clearly indicate what work is the student's work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, please reach out to me for a conversation before submitting your work.

Using Remote Testing Software

This course does not use remote testing software.

This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: Student Code of Conduct](#).

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.