



Abraham Baldwin

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

A State College of the University System of Georgia TIFTON, GEORGIA

Suzanne W. Smith, M.Ed.
Spring Semester 2011
Tues and Thurs. 12:30 – 1:45
Bowen 213
Contact hours: 11:30 – 12:30 Tues and Thurs in Office 215
Office phone: 391-5082
Email: ssmith@abac.edu or suzialan@gmail.com

Introduction to Social Problems

SOCI 1160 (CRN 20250)

TEXTBOOK: Mooney, Linda A., Knox, David and Schacht, Caroline. (2011). Understanding Social Problems. Seventh Edition. Belmont, CA: Cengage Learning.

SUPPLEMENTAL READER: Charon, Joel M. & Vigilant, Lee G. (2009). Social Problems: Readings with Four Questions. Third Edition. Belmont, CA: Cengage Learning.

Supplemental materials can be found at <http://cengage.com/wadsworth>

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A theoretical and empirical analysis of selected major social problems confronting American society.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To provide students with an understanding of the nature of social problems
2. To provide students with an understanding of how social problems are defined, created and maintained.
3. To provide students with an understanding of how social problems affect individuals, social groups and societies as a whole.
4. To familiarize students with the basic theoretical perspectives that attempt to explain social problems.
5. To familiarize students with the research methodology and techniques used to study social problems.
6. To allow students to examine social programs and policies that are designed to bring about social change.



Abraham Baldwin

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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7. To familiarize students with the various social agencies and other entities that deal with social problems.

8. To make students aware of the current plight of various social problems.

INSTITUTIONAL ABSENCE

A student who serves as an official representative of the college is defined as one who:

1. is authorized to use the college name in public relationships outside the institution;
2. regularly interacts with non-college individuals and groups over an extended period of time (at least one semester);
3. represents the college as a part of a group and not as an individual;
4. represents the college under the direct supervision of a college faculty or staff member; and
5. is authorized in writing, in advance, by the President of the college.

Such a student is in no way released from the obligations and responsibilities of all students, but will not be penalized with unexcused absences when absences result from regularly scheduled activities in which he/she represents the college.

Further, it is the responsibility of each student to contact instructors prior to the absence and to make arrangements to make up any work that will be missed, in a manner acceptable to the instructor. Advisors of activities will schedule off-campus activities in a manner that does not unduly disrupt the learning process for a student.

College Policy on Academic Dishonesty:

A. Academic Dishonesty

Academic irregularities include, but are not limited to, giving or receiving of unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any academic assignment; taking or attempting to take, stealing, or otherwise obtaining in an unauthorized manner any material pertaining to the education process; selling, giving, lending, or otherwise furnishing to any person any question and/or answers to any examination known to be scheduled at any subsequent date; fabricating, forging, or falsifying lab or clinical results; plagiarism in any form related to themes, essays, term papers, tests, and other assignments; breaching any confidentiality regarding patient information.

B. Disciplinary Procedures

1. When a faculty member suspects that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty, the faculty member will contact the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. The Vice President for Academic Affairs will notify the student in writing of the report and will appoint a neutral person from among the faculty or staff to meet with the faculty member who reported the matter and the student(s) believed to have engaged in academic dishonesty. The purpose of the meeting, to be scheduled by the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, will be to provide a facilitated discussion about what may have occurred. The faculty member who reported the matter, the student(s) believed to have engaged in academic dishonesty, and the facilitator are the only participants in the meeting. Audio nor video recordings of



Abraham Baldwin

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

A State College of the University System of Georgia

TIFTON, GEORGIA

these proceedings will be permitted. Following the discussion, the facilitator will submit a form summarizing results of the proceedings to the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

2. The faculty member and student(s) may reach an agreement about the matter and, if dishonesty is involved, may determine the appropriate consequences. If no resolution is agreed upon, the matter will be forwarded to the Dean of Student Life and Housing, who will convene the Student Judiciary Committee to determine the outcome of the allegation.
3. Guidelines for disciplinary procedures as outlined in Section V of the Student Code of Conduct will be applicable in cases involving alleged academic dishonesty. A written copy of the recommendations by the Student Judiciary Committee shall be sent not only to the student but also to the faculty member who made the allegations of academic dishonesty against the student, to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, and to the President.
4. Prior to any finding of responsibility on the part of the student, the faculty member shall permit the student to complete all required academic work and shall evaluate and grade all work except the assignment(s) involved in the accusation of dishonesty. The faculty member may, however, take any action reasonably necessary to collect and preserve evidence of the alleged violation and to maintain or restore the integrity of exam or laboratory conditions.
5. A student may not withdraw from a course to avoid penalty of plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty.

C. Appeals Process

Students have the right to appeal a Student Judiciary Committee hearing recommendation in accordance with the following procedures:

1. Requests for appeals must be submitted in writing to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs within five business days of the date of the letter notifying the student of the original decision. Failure to appeal within the allotted time will render the original decision final and conclusive.
2. Written requests for appeals must be specific and detailed as to the nature and substance of the student's complaint and must clearly indicate what action is requested. The written request should specify the grounds for appeal. Judicial recommendations may be appealed on the following grounds:
 - A violation of due process
 - Prejudicial treatment by the original hearing body
 - New evidence has become available which was not available at the time of the hearing.
3. Appeals shall be decided upon the record of the original proceedings, the written appeal submitted by the defendant, and any written briefs submitted by other participants. Cases will not be reheard on appeal.
4. If the student is dissatisfied with the decision of the Vice President for Student Affairs, the student may request in writing that the President consider the appeal, but such request must be made within five business days of the Vice President's decision or the Vice President's decision will be considered final and conclusive.
5. Within five business days of receiving the appeal, the President will either rule on the appeal or refer the appeal to a special Presidential Panel. The Presidential Panel will review all facts and circumstances connected with the case and within five business days make a report of its findings to the President. After consideration of the Panel's report, the President will within five business days



Abraham Baldwin

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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TIFTON, GEORGIA

make a decision which shall be final so far as the College is concerned.

6. Should the student be dissatisfied with the President's decision, written application may be made to the Board of Regents for a review of the decision. This application must be submitted within twenty days following the decision of the President. Additional information regarding procedures for appealing to the Board is available in the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. The decision of the Board shall be final and binding for all purposes.

If there is a student in this class who has specific needs because of learning disabilities or any other disability, please feel free to contact the instructor. Any modifications require appropriate authorization.

Classroom behavior:

- Because this class will rely heavily on group discussion of the topics presented it is imperative that students exhibit respect towards each other at all times, despite differences of opinion. Having had different experiences often leads us to have different viewpoints; we don't have to agree, we just have to listen and grant others the right to their own opinions.
- Cell phones should be turned off upon entering the classroom and should not be used to either text or talk until you leave. Failure to do this will, at the very least, affect your participation grade, and will likely result in the confiscation of your phone until class is over. Don't make me do this!! Having a phone out on your desk or in your lap during a test is absolutely prohibited. If I see this, I will take your test and give you a zero. If you are expecting an EMERGENCY call, you must let me know prior to class the nature of the expected call; if I agree that it reaches the level of emergency, you will be allowed to leave your phone on vibrate and can leave the room to answer ONLY that call.
- It is my expectation that you will read the assigned chapter to be discussed BEFORE class so that you will be prepared to discuss what you've read.
- All writing assignments should be neat and employ good grammar and spelling; if this is not your strong suit, get someone to proof it for you before you turn it in. The ability to effectively communicate your ideas in writing is a life skill that will often determine your ability to flourish in a professional setting. It IS important!

Assignments: See schedule for exact dates.

Abstracts: There will be 2 abstracts of articles due in writing at different points in the semester. Students will also give a short presentation of one of these abstracts to the class. Details of these writing assignments, as well as the grading rubric used, are available on WebCT.

Current Event: Each student will pick a current event that reflects a social problem in today's society and write a paper on it; this will also be presented to the class. Details, as well as the grading rubric used, are available on WebCT.

Exams: There will be a total of 5 exams worth 100 pts., including the final. I will count your four best grades when calculating your final average. I **do not** do makeup exams; if you must be out



Abraham Baldwin

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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TIFTON, GEORGIA

on the day of a test, that 0 will be your dropped grade. DO NOT ask me to give you a makeup exam!!

Attendance/Participation: This grade will come from both your class attendance as well as various, unannounced in-class assignments. In-class participation assignments cannot be made up. (Many students are surprised at how much their absences end up hurting their final grades ~ don't let that be you!)

Course Grading:

4 Exams (4 @ 100 pts)	400
Current Event (1)	50
Abstracts (2 @ 50 pts)	100
Attendance/Participation	<u>100</u>
Total Possible Points	650

Grading Scale:

585 – 650 = A
520 – 584 = B
455 – 519 = C
390 – 454 = D
389 or below = F

Attendance: You are expected to come to class each time, having already read and/or completed all assignments. I will take attendance each time, and you will lose participation points for each absence, regardless of the reason. As a courtesy, you should make the instructor aware of any planned absences, but know this will not prohibit you from losing points for the absence. The participation grades from in-class assignments CANNOT be made up. *My experience has been that a person's attendance record in school or at a job has far less to do with life circumstances than with personal priorities!!*

Tardiness: If you come in after I have called roll, it will be **your** responsibility to come and tell me after class that you were indeed in attendance. If I am not told at the end of the class period, I will count you as absent.



Abraham Baldwin

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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Make-up for missed exams: Since you will be allowed to drop one test grade, there will be no make-up for a missed test – NO exceptions!

Late Assignments: Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Anything not ready to be turned in at that time will be considered late, and, if accepted, will incur a 5 - 10 point penalty per day late. Keep in mind that I am not here every day, so there will be many days I will not check my box. If emailing me an assignment is the only way to get it to me, that is fine, but it is your responsibility to double check that I received it.

Important Dates:

- First day of class: Monday, January 10
- First day this class meets: Tuesday, January 11
- End of drop/add: January 12 at 4:30
- January 13 ~ Library Day ~ Class meets in our classroom with Ms. Midge re: library resources
- Midterm: Wednesday, March 2
- Last day this class meets: Thursday, April 28th