

Introduction to Social Problems
SOCI 1160 (CRN 30010)
Spring 2012

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Jewrell Rivers

CLASS LOCATION: Room 126, Bowen Hall

CLASS DAYS/TIMES: Tuesday, Thursday, 9:30 – 10:45

OFFICE LOCATION: Room 223, Bowen Hall

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10:00 – 11:00, 12:00 – 1:00,
Tuesday, Thursday, 9:00 – 9:30, 11:00 – 12:30

PHONE: 391 – 5088 (office phone)
391 – 5080 (school phone)

E-MAIL: jrivers@abac.edu

ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER TUTORIAL HOURS:

Monday – Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Ground Floor of the Carlton Center

WEATHER HOTLINE: (229) 391 - 5225

LS REQUIREMENTS: Reading

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. (2012).
Social Problems: Readings with Four Questions. Fourth 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.
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.

COURSE ARRANGEMENTS: Lectures, small group discussions, oral presentations, videos and outside assignments.

CLASS ATTENDANCE: Courses at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College are provided for the intellectual growth and development of students. To attain maximum success, students must attend all their classes, be on time, and attend all scheduled course activities including, but not limited to, field trips, seminars, study sessions, individual conferences and lectures. This interaction with instructors and other students is an important element of the learning process, and a high correlation exists between class attendance and grades. A student must understand the importance of regular participation in classroom and laboratory activities. The absence of any student affects not only his or her performance but the performance of the class as a whole. Absence from class, for whatever reason, does not excuse a student from full responsibility for class work or assignments missed. Students must accept this responsibility.

Students who accumulate more than 6 excused or unexcused absences will be subject to receiving a grade of "F" for the course. Absences incurred due to authorized and approved college sponsored events will not be counted. However, whenever a student is absent, whether for official or personal reasons, the student must assume responsibility and provide notice to the instructor, preferably in advance, for making arrangements for any assignments and class work missed because of the absence. **Final approval for makeup work remains with the instructor.** A student who stops attending class without officially withdrawing from the course is subject to this attendance policy and will receive a grade of "F" for the course. At the beginning of each semester, the instructor

will explain clearly to the student the specific attendance policy and will publish it on his syllabus and websites.

WITHDRAWAL: A student may withdraw from a course up to the midpoint of the semester, **Wednesday, February 29**, and receive a grade of **W** without penalty. After midterm, students may withdraw only with the permission of the Academic Dean. If permission is granted, students will be assigned **W** or **WF** according to their performance at the time they withdrew. Students who simply abandon class will be given an “F” at the end of the semester.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Because Abraham Baldwin College has the dual responsibility of educating students and helping them mature into worthy citizens who take their place in the larger community, it has adopted a code for dealing with academic irregularities. 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 educational process; selling, giving, lending or otherwise furnishing to any person any questions and/or answers to any examination known to be scheduled at any subsequent date; and plagiarism (taking credit for another author’s work without proper citation and recognition) in any form related to themes, essays, term papers, tests and other assignments.

GRADING POLICY: The student’s grade will be determined by the following:

3 Exams (including the final)	300 points
3 Current Events	30 points
3 Abstracts	75 points
1 Social Problems Analysis	100 points
Virtual Tour	10 points
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Total possible points:	515 points

A = 464-515 (90-100%)

B = 412-463 (80-89%)

C = 361-411 (70-79%)

D = 309-360 (60-69%)

F = below 309 (less than 60%)

EXAMS: There will be two regular exams and a final. The exams will count 60% of the course grade. The exams will be all multiple choice items. There will be no comprehensive exam.

STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PURCHASING THEIR OWN SCANTRONS!

CURRENT EVENTS: There will be 3 current event reports that will count a total of 5% of the course grade. Each report will require a written summary and a minimum of 2 will be presented orally in class. All current event reports should be written in ASA style.

ABSTRACTS: There will be 3 written abstracts that will count 15% of the course grade. Abstracts will be written up as summaries taken from journal articles.

VIRTUAL TOUR: Students will be required to complete a virtual tour of various websites related to the field of sociology. Each website contains a tremendous amount of information on sociological research, theories, concepts and issues. Students can begin the virtual tour by assessing the following website:

http://www.wadsworth.com/sociology_d/special_features/virtualtours.html

After completing the exercises and activities of the virtual tour, students should submit their answers by entering their e-mail address and their instructor's e-mail address at the bottom of the webpage. The virtual tour will count as class participation.

SOCIAL PROBLEM ANALYSIS: The social problem analysis is a cumulative, semester-end assignment that will be designed to assess the student's overall understanding of the course content. The social problem analysis will count approximately 20% of the course grade.

EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES: Students will have the opportunity to earn extra credit through interactive WebCT activities. WebCT activities will include online discussion forums and virtual class reviews. Also, students may form their own virtual study groups or online discussion groups through WebCT.

Make-up exams will be given at the discretion of the instructor. If given, make-up exams will include all short answer questions. Assignments should be turned in on time. Late assignments are subject to penalty. A bonus opportunity of 5 points may be available during exams.

CONFERENCES: Please come by and talk to me if you are having problems with the material or with studying. You can find me in Bowen Hall, Room 215. If you have questions during the day, please call my office at 391-5088 or the division office at 391-5080 and leave a message with Mrs. Epperly if I am not in. Tutorial help is also available at the Academic Success Center on Mondays through Thursdays from 8:00 a.m.- 9:00 p.m. and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS: Special accommodations will be provided for students with a documented learning disability. Documentation should be presented from the Office of Student Development located in J. Lamar Branch Student Center.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR:

- **CELL PHONE USAGE IS PROHIBITED**
- **NO LEAVING CLASS EARLY WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION**
- **NO USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

COURSE OUTLINE

Day	Activity	Reading Assignment
January 10	Introductions, Review of Syllabus	Chapter 1, Chapters 1-2
January 12	“Thinking about Social Problems”	
January 17	“Thinking about Social Problems”	
January 19	“Thinking about Social Problems” Virtual Tour Assignment Due	
January 24	“Thinking about Social Problems”	Chapter 2, Chapters 42-45
January 26	“Illness and the Health Care System”	
January 31	“Illness and the Health Care System”	
February 2	“Illness and the Health Care System”	Chapter 3, Chapter 30
February 7	Exam 1	
February 9	Oral Presentations of Current Events	
February 14	Guest Speaker	
February 16	“Alcohol and Other Drugs”	
February 21	“Alcohol and Other Drugs” Abstract #1 Due	
February 23	“Alcohol and Other Drugs”	Chapter 4, Chapters 27-31
February 28	“Crime and Social Control”	

March 1	“Crime and Social Control”	
March 6	“Crime and Social Control”	
March 8	“Family Problems”	Chapter 5, Chapters 31-36
March 12 – 16	Spring Break	
March 20	“Family Problems”	
March 20	“Family Problems”	
March 22	Exam 2	
March 27	Oral Presentations of Current Events	Chapter 9
March 29	“Race, Ethnicity and Immigration” Powerpoint/Podcast on Diversity	
April 3	“Race, Ethnicity and Immigration” Abstract #2 Due	
April 5	“Race, Ethnicity and Immigration”	Chapter 10
April 10	“Gender Inequality”	
April 12	“Gender Inequality”	
April 17	“Gender Inequality”	Chapter 8
April 19	“Problems in Education”	
April 24	“Problems in Education”	
April 26	“Problems in Education” Last Day of Class/Wrap-Up Social Problems Analysis/All Remaining Assignments Due	

NOTE: THIS COURSE OUTLINE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

FINAL EXAM: THURSDAY, MAY 3, 8:00 – 10:00 A.M.

Course Syllabus

Course Name: SOCI
Course Number: 1160
Course Description: A theoretical and empirical analysis of selected major social problems confronting American society.
Pre-requisites/Co-requisites: LS Reading
Course Learning Outcomes: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 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.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: <ol style="list-style-type: none">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 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 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 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.

This is a partial syllabus. More detailed information relating to the class and Instructor will be made available to each student.

