Introduction to Social Problems
SOCI 1160 (CRN 30025)
Spring 2016

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Jewrell Rivers

CLASS LOCATION: Room 210, Moultrie Center

CLASS DAYS/TIMES: Monday, Wednesday, 3:30 – 4:45

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

WEATHER HOTLINE: (229) 391 - 5225

ACADEMIC SUPPORT CENTER TUTORIAL HOURS:
Monday – Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Ground Floor of the Carlton Center

LS REQUIREMENTS: Reading


Supplemental materials can be found at http://cengagebrain.com

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

OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will identify and apply the three theoretical perspectives of sociology (e.g., structural-functionalism, conflict perspective, symbolic-interactionism) to understanding the cause of social problems.
2. Students will compare, contrast and discuss the three theoretical perspectives of sociology (e.g., structural-functionalism, conflict perspective, symbolic-interactionism) in terms of how social policies are used to solve social problems.

3. Students will select and apply appropriate research methodology to understanding how social problems are studied.

4. Students will define and explain the components of culture (e.g., beliefs, values, norms, language, symbols) that shape our perceptions of social problems.

5. Students will identify and explain the building blocks of social structure (e.g., social interaction, statuses, roles, social relationships, groups, institutions, societies) in understanding how they influence social problems.

GENERAL EDUCATION STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME FOR AREA E, SOCIAL SCIENCES: Students will describe how historical, economic, political, social, and spatial relationships develop, persist, and change as well as how they are impacted by the complexity and diversity of individual and group behavior.

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 4 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, Tuesday, March 1, 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Exams (including the final)</td>
<td>300 points</td>
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<td>3 Current Events</td>
<td>30 points</td>
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<td>3 Abstracts</td>
<td>75 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Social Problems Analysis</td>
<td>100 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virtual Tour</td>
<td>10 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Essays</td>
<td>10 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>D2L Activities</td>
<td>10 points</td>
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Total possible points: 535 points

A = 482-535 (90-100%)
B = 428-481 (80-89%)
C = 375-427 (70-79%)
D = 321-374 (60-69%)
F = below 321 (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 cumulative 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.

D2L ACTIVITIES: Students will be required to engage in the course material through interactive D2L activities. D2L activities will include online discussion forums and virtual class reviews. Also, students may form their own virtual study groups or online discussion groups through D2L. D2L activities will count as class participation and as fulfillment of the engaged student learning requirement.

ONLINE ESSAYS: Students will also be required to engage in the course material through writing online essays. Online essays will be written based on critical thinking based on selected topics. Online essays will count as class participation and as fulfillment of the engaged student learning requirement.

ENGAGED STUDENT LEARNING REQUIREMENTS: The ABAC Credit Hour Policy, in accordance with the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and federal regulations that are reflected in SACSCOC’s Credit Hours Policy Statement, require 6750 minutes of engaged student learning for a 3 semester hour course. Engaged Student Learning occurs both in and outside the classroom at the ratio of 1:2, two hours of independent and student learning for each hour of classroom learning. 15 weeks of 50 minutes of class instruction for 1 credit hour = 750 minutes. For a 3hr course, engaged classroom instruction will equal 2250 minutes, the remaining 4500 minutes of engaged learning will be the responsibility of each individual student. The engaged student learning requirement will be fulfilled through outside reading and writing assignments, D2L activities and virtual explorations.
MAKE-UP EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS: Make-up exams and assignments will be given at the discretion of the instructor. If given, make-up exams may include all short answer questions. Assignments should be turned in on time. Late assignments are subject to penalty.

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 223. If you have questions during the day, please call my office at 391-5088 or the school office at 391-5080 and leave a message with Ms. Epperly if I am not in. Tutorial help is also available at the Academic Support Center on Mondays through Thursdays from 8:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m. and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS: Special accommodations will be provided for students with a documented learning disability. Documentation should be presented from the Office of Student Development located at the Ground Floor of the Carlton Center.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR:

- CELL PHONE USAGE IS PROHIBITED
- NO LEAVING CLASS EARLY WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION
- NO USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS
- NO DISRUPTIONS OF ANY NATURE WILL BE ALLOWED

COURSE OUTLINE

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 6</td>
<td>Introductions, Review of Syllabus</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 11</td>
<td>“Thinking about Social Problems”</td>
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<td>January 13</td>
<td>“Thinking about Social Problems”</td>
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<td>January 18</td>
<td>MLK Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 20</td>
<td>“Thinking about Social Problems”</td>
<td>Virtual Tour Assignment Due</td>
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<td>January 25</td>
<td>“Thinking about Social Problems”</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 27</td>
<td>“Physical and Mental Health and Health Care”</td>
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February 1  “Physical and Mental Health and Health Care”  
February 3  “Physical and Mental Health and Health Care”  Chapter 3  
February 8  Exam 1  
February 10  Oral Presentations of Current Events  
February 15  “Alcohol and Other Drugs”  
February 17  “Alcohol and Other Drugs”  Abstract 1 Due  
February 22  “Alcohol and Other Drugs”  Chapter 4  
February 24  “Crime and Social Control”  
February 25  “Crime and Social Control”  
February 29  “Crime and Social Control”  Chapter  
March 2  “Family Problems”  
March 7  “Family Problems”  
March 9  “Family Problems”  
March 14 – 18  Spring Break  
March 21  Exam 2  Chapter 9  
March 23  Oral Presentations of Current Events  
March 28  “Race, Ethnicity and Immigration”  
March 30  “Race, Ethnicity and Immigration”  Abstract 2 Due  
April 4  “Race, Ethnicity and Immigration”  Chapter 10  
April 6  “Gender Inequality”  
April 11  “Gender Inequality”  
April 13  “Gender Inequality”  Chapter 8
April 18        “Issues in Education”
April 20        “Issues in Education”
April 25        “Issues in Education”
April 27        Last Day of Class/Wrap-Up
                Social Problems Analysis and Remaining Assignments Due

Note: This course outline is subject to change.

The final exam will be given on Monday, May 2 from 2:45 – 4:45 p.m.