

**Office Hours: Tuesday 2-3:30; Thurs 11- noon and by appointment.**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** DESCRIPTION: This class will introduce the often unique perspectives of sociologists on what might be seen as familiar, common, or even unavoidable social problems. These problems might be in daily news headlines, such as poverty crime, drugs and the environment. They may have inspired civil rights movements, such as those centered on race, gender, sexual orientation and age. The problems could be subject to sharply divided political debate on how society should address them such as health care, education, workers and the economy. Ameliorating social problems is not impossible, but in the U.S. we often have what appear to be insurmountable differences that keep us from success. This class attempts to describe both-- the issues we face and reasons we seem to be stymied. They are addressed through the work of social scientists, most often sociologists, and based on research that began in the 19th century. These findings may challenge common assumptions, and help explain the reasons we are foiled in our efforts to bring about a more just and equitable society.

The class is partially “flipped,” objective assessments are online, class time includes some lecture, working on cases and problems in groups, and addressing a social problem of your own choice, also in groups. Subjective assessments include written assignments on activities done outside of class.

**OBJECTIVES:** After this course, students will:

- 1) Recognize the complexity of social issues.
- 2) Be alert to the interrelationship of local and global in social problems and issues.
- 3) Recognize the conflicts and inequalities in our social structures and institutions.
- 4) Use sociological tools and think critically.
- 5) Become informed and capable citizen decision-makers, with leadership skills.
- 6) Gain practical experience and improve interpersonal, team, research and advocacy skills.

**READINGS:** Two required textbooks and supplementary readings. (See below for bibliography of text and recommended books.) In class readings include news articles, research summaries, essays, and poetry. Any assigned readings not in the text are posted online in D2L.

**TEXT:** Buy texts in the bookstore—available as a package—or online. Books are on reserve in Norlin on 4 hour loan.

- Leon-Guerrero, Anna. 2015. *Social Problems Community, Policy and Social Action*. 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Sage Publications: Los Angeles.
- Crone, James A., ed. 2013. *15 Disturbing Things You Need to Know*. Sage Publications: Los Angeles.
- This class uses iClickers.
- **ADDITIONAL:** \$2 is collected from all students at the beginning of the semester. This money will be used for speakers (coffee cards or donations) and for stamps and envelopes for the social action project. Some money is used for other class benefits and unspent money is donated.

**WRITING:** About 40 % Class assignments include two short papers (about 400 words) on experiences outside the classroom; other short assignments (often begun in class) that help you place yourself in relation to our subject (20%). A three part “social action” project on a social issue you choose concludes the semester. The project includes informal research reports (10%), and a persuasive letter to an influential person that serves as the course final (10%).

## SOCY 2031 Social Problems~Godfrey

**ONLINE CHAPTER TESTS:** Weekly reading is accompanied by a brief online quiz accessible on D2L. (25% of your grade). These are taken before class to reinforce important information and enhance discussions and group work. **Up to three quizzes will be dropped. The remaining quizzes are averaged for your final score.** Make-up quizzes are rarely granted.

**IN-CLASS PARTICIPATION:** The course addresses today's critical issues and **competent social interaction is central to solving these problems.** Hence, attendance and participation are worth a significant portion of your grade. Measurement of participation is both objective (ex. attendance, in-class writing) and subjective (preparedness and level of commitment).

**PARTICIPATION (15%):** Includes questions and comments during class discussion, including written feedback, iClicker responses, submitted iClicker questions, emails (not absence and grade questions), office visits and some free-writing. Participation also includes attendance. **Computers are used in a limited way in this class.** Class will include "lids down" (lecture and many discussions) and "lids up" (group time, on-line activities) *Using technology inappropriately detracts from your score.*

**GROUP PARTICIPATION (20%):** Don't panic, it's individually graded. You join a mutual interest group sometime after week six. Ongoing activities include group problem-solving exercises, and discussion prior to free writes. The group works together to coordinate and deliver the presentation given to the class (10%), addressing the social problems and actions taken (see writing section). This includes attendance and participation during the last month of class

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Extra assignments are offered when a significant portion of the class needs better understanding (improved grades) on an issue. I do not assign extra credit on an individual basis, but if you are not doing well, come see me. I can usually help you bring your grade up.

**\*Office Hours:** I enjoy student visits to discuss projects, clarify material, go over tests and papers and discuss your progress in the class. In case of absence, I will clarify notes obtained from other class members and make sure you have all the material correctly. *All international students and anyone needing accommodations (including athletes) are asked to make an office visit **before** the fourth week of class.*

**EVALUATION:** All your assignments, participation and tests contribute to your final grade based on the CU grading scheme of the letter grades A to F. *By law, grades cannot be discussed by e-mail. Make an appointment or come to office hours.*

The *approximate* weight of course assignments is below:

Online quizzes:	25%	Final letter	10%
Class participation	35%		
Writing Assignments	30%	<b>Total</b>	<b>100 %</b>

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** In the final analysis, the way you produce your work is a demonstration of your work ethic and how you value others. I expect you to do your own work *based on the achievements and discoveries of others who you will cite.* Academic dishonesty includes all actions that misrepresent the work of others as your own. For definitions and University regulations regarding academic dishonesty, see the University Honor Code: [www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode](http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode). The definitions for infractions are found here: <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/about/definitions.htm>

## SOCY 2031 Social Problems~Godfrey

**Conduct and courtesy:** We all are expected to adhere to the behavior standards listed in the Rights and Responsibilities Regarding Standards of Conduct. When discussing controversial issues, we do not attack individuals, rather we consider ideas respectfully. The CU policy may be found at [www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html).

**Sexual harassment** is not tolerated. For more information on maintaining a fair and safe environment or sexual harassment policies and reporting see [www.colorado.edu/sexualharassment](http://www.colorado.edu/sexualharassment) or call the Office of Sexual Harassment at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550.

## ACCOMODATIONS

Many students deserve accommodations, but academic policy requires written documentation to receive them. Contact **Disability Services** at 303-492-8671, C4C Room N200, or <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>. Give me the written documentation you receive *before* the fourth week of class, or as soon as you receive it.

If you are involved in **University sponsored activities** (including sports or club activities) that result in missing class, you must inform me by the second week of class, or as soon as you become aware of the conflict.

**Religious Observances:** If class activities, or tests, assignments conflict with your religious practice please notify me two weeks in advance, so I can make alternative arrangements.

**Illness:** It happens, unfortunately, and may interfere with class, including attendance, tests, and assignment due dates. Here are directions on how to handle each of these situations.

- **NOTES:** You must connect with other students to get any notes you miss due to absence.
- **QUIZZES:** Because you have an extended time to take the quiz, I usually do not make exceptions. However, some circumstances are extreme. If you feel this is true for you, you must notify me by email as soon as possible.
- **ASSIGNMENTS:** If you cannot complete an assignment on time, you must email me by the due date, and *attach a copy of the work you have completed thus far*.

**The Writing Center:** Located in Norlin Library, Room E-156, this free service provides a one-to-one meeting with a writing consultant for sound advice at ANY stage of your writing process. They teach strategies to formulate and organize strong thesis statements, to use and cite evidence appropriately, to master style and grammar, and overcome writing anxiety AND it is FREE! Please visit <http://www.colorado.edu/pwr/writingcenter.html> , email wrtghelp@colorado.edu, or call (303)735-6906.

## SCHEDULE

**PLEASE NOTE: Things happen. Better ideas, including student generated ideas, happen. Changes in the syllabus may become desirable. Any changes will be communicated promptly by email and posting on D2L.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Before Class</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>After Class</b>
Week 1		Introductions to class structure, materials, participants, video	
	Read Crone, #2, #4; L-G 18-19	What are social problems? Adventure Assignment. Science of Sociology; Socy Imagination & Observation skills.	Look at list of Adventure opportunities (volunteer/talk/video) Essays are due Feb. 8 & Mar. 6

## SOCY 2031 Social Problems~Godfrey

Week 2			
	Read L-G Chapter 1	SOCY perspectives	
	Take reading quiz on D2L Read Crone #7	Social policy, Discuss reading	
Week 3			
	Read L-G Chapter 2 Take reading quiz on D2L	Social Class and Poverty Class activity	finish activity @ home if necessary
	Read Crone #12	Democracy? Speaker invited	
Week 4			
	Read L-G Chapter 3 Take reading quiz on D2L	Race and Ethnicity Introduce “implicit racism” quiz	Take implicit racism quiz, brief reflection on D2L
	Reading on D2L—“Why Police Shoot” & “White Privilege”		
Week 5			
	<b>First Adventure Essay Due on D2L</b> Read L-G 7 Take reading quiz on D2L	Families, Class Activity	Finish class activity
	Video on Kaltura, “Mother—Caring for 7 Billion”	Population, Lecture, Discussion and speaker	
Week 6			
	Read L-G 8 Take reading quiz on D2L	Education - video	Start thinking about social action topic.
	Read “How Schools Really Matter” on D2L	Intersectionality; Values, Attitudes and Behavior	
Week 7			
	Read L-G 9 Take reading quiz on D2L	Work and Economy Computer: Job outlook	
	Read Crone #8, World Happiness Report	Consumption; speaker invited.	
Week 8			
	Read L-G 17 Take reading quiz on D2L	Social problems/Social Action introduce assignment, Topic selection	
	Read Crone #4, #14	Social Action; group work	<b>Second Adventure Essay Due on D2L</b>
Week 9			
	Read L-G 11 Take reading quiz on D2L	Media	
	Watch Frontline: “Climate of Denial” on D2L	Group meetings	
Week 10			
	Read Crone #11, #13	How can we incorporate new/old ideas? Group meetings	
	Read L-G Conflict and War Crone #15, #1 <b>Take reading quiz on D2L</b>	War, Conflict and Peace, speaker invited. Group meetings	<b>Due on D2L Sunday Mar. 22:</b> Presentation outline, with required reading list

## SOCY 2031 Social Problems~Godfrey

Mar. 23	Spring Break	No Classes	
Week 11			
	Readings TBD*		
	Readings TBD*	Topical	Take weekly quiz on D2L
Week 12			
	Readings TBD*	Presentations	
	Readings TBD*	By	Take weekly quiz on D2L
Week 13	*		
	Readings TBD*	Class	
	Readings TBD*	Groups	Take weekly quiz on D2L
Week 14			
	Readings TBD*	Supplemented with	
	Readings TBD*	lecture, activities	Take weekly quiz on D2L
Week 15			
	Readings TBD*	and in-class reflections	
	Readings TBD*	by instructor	Take weekly quiz on D2L
Week 16			
	Finish social action letter Post on D2L	Bring two copies to class	Good luck in the future. Address social problems!

**\* These readings are determined by the group topic scheduled for the week, most often the topical chapter from your textbook.**

**Classmate Information:**

Get contact information from a few of your classmates - this benefits everyone. Consider those on this list as resources for notes, questions and a future study buddy or adventure companion:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Group Topic** \_\_\_\_\_ **Member List**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## SOCY 2031 Social Problems~Godfrey

**General Grading Rubric**

Letter Grade	Percentage Grade	Description
A	90-100	Exceeds all required elements of an assignment, and the quality of the work is considerably greater than what was required. The quality of the work is considerably above the class average and impressive to the evaluator.
B	80-89	Meets all required elements of an assignment, and the quality of the work is better than what is required and demonstrated by the class average.
C	70-79	Meets all required elements of an assignment, no more, no less. Quality of assignment is satisfactory for college level work.
D	60-69	Fails to meet all required elements of an assignment, and/or the quality of the assignment is less than satisfactory.
F	Less than 59	Only meets some of the required elements of an assignment, and/or the quality of the assignment is considerably lower than satisfactory. 50% of points are not guaranteed. At this level points are only given if some elements of the assignment are met. If not, very low percentages are likely.
Zero	0	Fails to meet any of the required elements of an assignment, and/or the quality of the assignment is well below basic standards of writing, comprehension, and/or ability to follow instructions; assignment is late or incomplete; assignment is not turned in at all; assignment shows signs of plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty. If the latter is the case, I will file a formal accusation through the honor code council.

REMEMBER: Grades cannot be discussed by e-mail. (FIRPA regulations) Make an appointment or come to office hours.