SOC 102 SOCIAL PROBLEMS IDEAL PROGRAM COURSE SYLLABUS

Dear Student,

Please read the following course syllabus carefully, especially the course dates, times and location. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to communicate with the IDEAL office, your academic advisor, or the instructor.

The IDEAL degree-completion program is designed with the adult learner in mind. Adult learners approach learning with specific goals, want to be able to directly apply new learning to their work and personal lives, and tend to learn best when the coursework is problem-centered so that they are actively engaged in the learning process. In addition, adults bring rich and varied experience to the classroom, which becomes a valuable learning resource for other students.

The IDEAL Program assumes joint responsibility in the learning process. The activities and assignments in our classes build on the shared experience of all learners in each class. This is why each student's preparation, participation and interaction in class activities and discussions are critical to the success of each course. The accelerated format of each course requires a significant amount of time outside the classroom to prepare for and complete the course assignments. This varies between students and courses; however, students typically spend a minimum of ten-twelve hours per week on course material.

To participate in the IDEAL Program, it is expected that you will do the following:

- 1. Attend every class session. Be on time.
- 2. Obtain the required course materials prior to the first class session.
- 3. Complete the first assignment prior to the first class session and all subsequent assignments to the best of your ability.
- 4. Participate in the class discussions and demonstrate respect and consideration to the instructor and other students when they express themselves in discussion.

If you cannot perform these four expectations, it is recommended that you drop the course.

Missing one class session will drop the final grade by one letter grade (for example if the student earned a grade of "B" in the course, the final grade would be a "C"). If a student misses two or more classes a grade of F will be entered as their final grade.

Cheating and Plagiarism

It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with and adhere to the standards set forth in the policies on cheating and plagiarism as defined in Chapters 2 and 5 of the Key to UB http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2623.asp or the appropriate graduate program handbook

E-mail correspondence

It is imperative that you check your UB e-mail on a regular basis. All written correspondence, to include IDEAL and the University will be sent to you through his e-mail. The University can no longer correspond to your personal e-mail account(s).

Ref: Jul, 2013

Ethics Statement of Confidentiality

An integral component of an IDEAL course is student and faculty expression of personal experiences for the purpose of facilitating coursework. Students enrolled in the program are expected to honor confidentiality as it pertains to student disclosure. Shared information, comments, or opinions expressed by another student or the faculty member during the course of classroom discussion should never be used in a manner which is intended to humiliate, embarrass, harass, damage, or otherwise injure other students in their personal, public, or business lives. In addition, confidentiality must be upheld by not disclosing any information that would identify any particular individual.

The IDEAL Program

SOC 102 Social Problems – COURSE OVERVIEW Instructor Information

Instructor: Tony Devine. Ed.D Email: tdevine@bridgeport.edu

Course Information

- Course Dates- Wednesdays, August 28 September 25, 2013
- Course Location- Waterbury Campus
- Time: 6pm 10pm

Course Description:

This course challenges students to recognize social problems in their communities and inspire them to become part of the solution. The course clearly presents contemporary social problems and addresses their consequences while emphasizing community involvement by both individuals and groups to achieve real solutions. The course provides a platform for discussion that encourages critical thinking and inspires hope rather than simply present a disheartening parade of maladies. As such our operating title for this course is "Social Solutions to Social Problems." We will be taking an optimistic approach that examines our individual and collective roles in exploring innovative solutions to social problems.

Discussion will cover such topics as: Social Class and Poverty, Race and Ethnicity, Gender, Age and Aging, Families, Education, Work and the Economy, Health and Medicine, The Media, Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Crime and Criminal Justice, The Environment and Social Action. Each week we will examine "Community, Policy, and Social Action" with a solution orientated emphasis that encourage students to get involved in their own communities. The course will help students to personally relate the problems and solutions presented for particular social problems in the context of real individual or group experiences.

Course Objectives

- 1. Examine terminology, theories, and research methods used to study social problems.
- 2. Develop a heightened awareness of the existence of social problems in our community, country and world at large.
- 3. Understand the past, present, and future projected trends within identified social problems.
- 4. Examine community involvement by both individuals and groups to achieve real

solutions.

Required Textbook:

Leon-Guerrero, Anna. (2013). <u>Social Problems: Community, Policy, and Social Action</u>. 4th Edition. SAGE Publications, Inc. ISBN: 9781452205434

<u>Come to the first class with your textbook</u>. To order textbooks, go to the bookstore website at http://bridgeport.textbooktech.com/

Select IDEAL Campus and login to the bookstore. Select the course and follow instructions.

Additional readings and resources will be posted on Canvas.

WEEKLY AGENDA: TOPICS, READINGS, ASSIGNEMNTS

Note: All weeks refer to COURSE WEEKS and NOT CALENDAR WEEKS.

Week 1: Social Problems

READINGS

Social Problems 4th Edition

Chapter 1 Sociology and the Study of Social Problems

Chapter 2 Social Class and Poverty

Chapter 3 Race and Ethnicity

ASSIGNMENTS - DUE BY FIRST WEEK OF CLASS

- Come to class having completed all Week 1 readings, and prepare to discuss.
- Come to class with your selection of four chapters from the class text for a class presentation. In the first class one of these four chapters will be approved for a class presentation to be given during Weeks 2 to 5.

Week 2: The Basis of Inequality

RFADINGS

Social Problems 4th Edition

Chapter 4 Gender

Chapter 5 Sexual Orientation Chapter 6 Age and Aging

Chapter 7 Families

ASSIGNMENTS

- Chapter review due. Do a two page review of one chapter from the text
- Bring a working title and outline of your final course paper. Typed on 81/2 X 11 paper for approval.
- Student presentations

^{*} Come to class with your text book

Week 3: Our Social Institutions

READINGS

Social Problems 4th Edition

Chapter 8 Education

Chapter 9 Work and the Economy
Chapter 10 Health and Medicine

Chapter 11 The Media

ASSIGNMENTS

- Student presentations
- Group support and collaborative on Service Learning Project

Week 4: Our Social and Physical Worlds

READINGS

Social Problems 4th Edition

Chapter 12 Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Chapter 13 Crime and Criminal Justice

Chapter 14 Cities and Suburbs
Chapter 15 The Environment

ASSIGNMENTS

- Student presentations
- Group support and collaborative on Service Learning Project

Week 5: Individual Action and Social Change

READINGS

Social Problems 4th Edition

Chapter 16 War and Terrorism

Chapter 17 Social Problems and Social Action

ASSIGNMENTS

- Readings quiz (Based on week's 1-3 readings. Open book and open notes)
- Group meeting, reflection and report out on Service Learning Project
- Final course paper due

Assessment

Class participation	10
Group Work	10
Chapter Review	15
Mid-term Test / Quiz	15
In class presentations	20
Research Paper	30
Total Possible Points	100

Letter Grading Scale:

% of Points Earned	Letter Grade
100-94	A
93-90	A-
89-87	B+
86-84	В
83-80	B-
79-77	C+

% of Points Earned	Letter Grade
76-74	С
73-70	C-
69-67	D+
66-64	D
63-60	D-
Below 60	F

Chapter Review

The goal of your review is to concisely summarize and evaluate a chapter from the textbook so that others who may not be familiar with the content can determine the key ideas and concepts. The reviews generally follow the following format:

- A summary of the major parts/sections of the chapter
- An critical evaluation of the content of the chapter (strengths/weaknesses, agree/disagree and why)
- Relating student's experiences and perspectives (professionally and/or personally) with the content.

This assignment is designed to help you digest the material covered, and improve your facility in handling academic content. The review is to be a minimum of two pages, typed double spaced and 12 point font. No folders or title pages are required. No extra research is required - the emphasis is on analysis and using ideas from the course texts. Use APA style for references.

Student Presentations

Each student will make a class presentation of one chapter from the text. The chapter you will present on will be decided upon during the Course Week 1 class. Come to the first class with four possible chapters and the final selection will be decided in class. Prepare well for the class presentation. You can use audio/visual aids, PowerPoint, handouts, etc. to support your presentation. It is advisable to create an outline. The content/criteria are similar to the chapter/article review outlined above. Plan on about seven minutes for your presentation. For this presentation, consider yourself an 'expert' on the content, and be prepared to respond to student comments and questions following your presentation.

Reading Quiz

This is a learning experience to comprehend key concepts from the readings.

- 1. Based on REQUIRED Weeks 1-3 readings as outlined in the Syllabus
- 2. Time: One Hour
- 3. Open Book and Open Notes
- 4. Questions are all multiple choice
- 5. Choose the one alternative choice that <u>best</u> completes the statement or answers the question.

As a class we will be review the questions and correct responses following the test. Further information will be given during class.

Research Project and Paper – Social Solutions to a Specific Social Problem

- 1. Each student is to identify one social problem that is of interest to him/her and one that the student is unfamiliar. The student should then locate an agency, community center, or organization that is contributing a solution/s to that social problem.
- 2. Arrange a site visit in order to learn more about the chosen social problem and solutions being advanced. It is recommended that you make a list of organizations to reach out to so that you increase your prospects of getting an interview.
- 3. Prior to the site visit, research the organization online by reviewing their website, and any articles written about the organizations work. During this process, outline a list of questions to ask the administrator and staff.
- 4. During the site visit arrange for an interview with the Executive Director or an Administrator. Also, interview staff that specializes in specific programs at the agency. You can also arrange to volunteer at the agency for a deeper insight into their mission.
- 5. Students should not go to places they have been to or normally go to (e.g., college campus, place of employment, place of worship, etc.). You should go into this project with an open mind putting aside personal bias and prejudice.
- 6. The content of the paper should be comprised of thoughtfully and thoroughly responding to the following statements.
 - a. What social problem was selected and why.
 - b. Name of organization, date of visit/'s, name of who you met with, etc.
 - c. Information about the organization you visited with (e.g., history, mission, etc.).
 - d. Communications with administrator, staff, etc. on the social problem their agency addresses, the solutions that they are advancing. What are their perception of opportunities and challenges in dealing with the issue.
 - e. An overview of activities you participated in.
 - f. It is critical that you relate your experience to course materials. Apply concepts, theories, and issues discussed in class and through course readings to the mission of the organization and the social problem that it targets.
 - g. Compare innovative solutions offered by other agencies or organizations to the ones being advanced in the agency you visited.
 - h. What did you identify as the most important things that you learned about the social problem through your experiences at the organization?
 - i. How was your experience as a result of the site visit or as a volunteer affected, if at all, in terms of the way you think about the social problem and/or clients that the organization deals with?
 - j. What did you personally learn about yourself from your site visit or service

- learning participation?
- k. What realistic and feasible things would you like seen done about the social problem that you learned about.
- 7. Adhere to the following guidelines when preparing the paper. The paper must be typed using double spacing, a font size of 12, and one-inch margins. Include a title page with your paper containing the following: Your name, course name, course number, professor's name, and paper title. There must be a minimum of five references citied and included on a reference sheet at the end of the paper. Use APA style for citing references. The total length of the paper (excluding the title page and references page) must be a minimum of five complete pages.
- 8. Limit your personal experience with the topic to no more than ¼ page. This personal experience must support the academy points that are being made in the paper.
- 9. A typed proposal of your topic, title and outline for this paper is due at the beginning of class on either Course Week 1 or latest by Course Week 2. The proposal form should be prepared in a manner similar to the one included in this course syllabus. You will be given input on your proposed topic that may result in some revisions. The final paper is due at the beginning of the last class in Course Week 5.
- 10. This assignment is almost 1/3 of the course grade. As such it is important to start working on it prior to the first class and we will be making it a priority during each week of the course.

Discussion and Attendance

In this course class participation and discussion is central to the success of the course. Students will therefore be expected to attend and participate fully in classes. Class attendance is mandatory. The register will be taken at the *start* of every class. The following are consequences of missing classes or arriving late or leaving early:

- Missing a class: Full Grade Reduction
- Arrive between 6:15 7:00PM: ¼ Grade Reduction
- Arrive between 7:00 7:45PM: ½ Grade Reduction
- Arrive after 7:45PM: Full Grade Reduction
- Leave after 7:00PM: ¾ Grade Reduction
- Leave after 7:45PM: ½ Grade Reduction
- Leave after 8:45PM: ¼ Grade Reduction

Email Communications

All communications will be done ONLY thought your UB Mail Address: name@bridgeport.edu. It is recommended that you have made an arrangement to have your UB Emails forwarded to your personal email address so that you are not missing key communications. Check the UB Web site for information or call the IT Office at the university. In addition, all course materials

will be distributed online through Canvas. In advance of the course be familiar with logging on to Canvas for this course.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Attendance Policy

Classroom attendance is an integral part of the academic experience; therefore, students are expected to attend all class sessions. If an absence is unavoidable, the student, prior to class, should advise the instructor. Arrangements should be made at that time for additional assignments if appropriate. It is also expected that students arrive on time and not leave until the class is dismissed. Tardiness will result in a reduced grade for the course. If you cannot attend every class session you should consider dropping the course.

IMPORTANT:

- Missing one class session will drop the final grade by one letter grade (for example if the student earned a grade of "B" in the course, the final grade would be a "C").
- Missing two or more class sessions will be cause for a failing grade.

Incomplete grade

An incomplete <u>may be</u> given, at the discretion of the instructor, to those students who fail to complete assignments due the <u>last day</u> of your course. These would include absence from a final examination or inability to complete terminal assignments (papers, presentations) due to illness, employment conflicts, etc.

Incompletes <u>will not</u> be given to a student who fails to complete any assignment during the term. At the discretion of the instructor, these assignments could be completed no later than the last scheduled day of your class.

Drop Procedures

To drop a course, you must complete and submit a Schedule Change Request Form. The form can be accessed at the following web page:

http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2595.asp

Starting Fall 2012

- Add and/or Drop a course after the start date.....\$30.00 per transaction
- Drop prior to the start of classes......100% Tuition Refund
- Drop prior to the third class session......50% Tuition Refund
- Drop after the third class session.........................0% Tuition Refund

**Please note students <u>will not be</u> automatically dropped for missing the first class. Missing one class session will drop the final grade by one letter grade. If you have to miss the first class, or the first week of class for online classes, *you must contact your instructor* in writing before or after the first class/first week. However, a grade reduction will apply.

Please print and complete the form and fax the form to the IDEAL Office: 203-576-4537. Prior to dropping a course, the student should contact their IDEAL Academic Advisor to understand the implications to financial aid and/or degree plan progress.

Ref: Jul, 2013

Please review the Academic Calendar to see the fees for a drop and the impact on tuition. The Academic Calendar can be found at: http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2595.asp

Cell Phones

Cell phones must be turned off while in the classroom. A cell phone call is disruptive and disrespectful to the other students in the class.

Academic Dishonesty

We are committed to intellectual integrity in our academic pursuits; therefore, the IDEAL program prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is normally defined as, but not limited to, the following two categories:

Cheating – Using inappropriate sources of information in an assignment or on a test. The following are examples of cheating taken from real student experiences:

Case #1: A student is enrolled in an introductory computer-programming course. He has coworkers who program in the same language as his final project. As the end of the term approaches, he wonders how he will find the time to get the project finished, and asks one of his co-workers for help. His co-worker hands him a disk with a complete program similar to the kind required for the course project. The student makes minor modifications to the program, and submits it under his own name.

Case #2: A student enrolled in a religious studies course has never taken a humanities or history course, and is unsure about how to structure a research paper. She is doing research on the World Wide Web, and comes across a paper written by a student from another university. Using her computer mouse, she copies and pastes the document into her word processor. She goes to great lengths to re-word the paper in her own style, but essentially leaves the content and organization the same.

Plagiarism – Intentional as well as unintentional failure to acknowledge sources as well as the use of commercially available so-called "research papers" without full recognition of the source. Presenting as one's own, the ideas, words, or products of another. The following are examples of plagiarism taken from real student experiences:

Case #3: A student is conducting research for a Civil War research paper. He has reviewed work on the Internet as well as in the library. Finding helpful information, he has summarized his findings without citing his sources. He believes that minor paraphrasing is all that is necessary.

Case #4: A student is writing a paper that requires her to address specific topics and problems in the assigned course textbook. She takes the information directly from the textbook with slight modification, without giving any citation. She thinks that since it is the course textbook, she doesn't have to use quotations or citations.

Academic dishonesty applies to all courses, assignments or exams completed by students and submitted as their own original work, whether in person or by electronic means. The University does not tolerate cheating in any form. It is a serious breach of conduct with serious consequences. Instructors have the right to determine the appropriate penalty for academic dishonesty in their own classes; generally, however, such acts will result in a failing grade for the assignment and/or the course. The penalty for subsequent acts of academic dishonesty may include expulsion.

More information on how to recognize plagiarism can be found at this site: http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/plagiarism_test.html

ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

The Academic Resource Center is available for IDEAL students seeking help in their studies. The Center is staffed by writing professionals and peer tutors. More information can be found at: http://myub.bridgeport.edu/academics/academicrescenter/Pages/default.aspx The Center is located in the Wahlstrom Library, Room 506. Hours of operation are Mondays –Thursday 9am – 6pm and Fridays 9am – 1pm. Make an appointment or walk-in: Telephone: 203-576-4290. **Online Tutoring** is available at: www.etutoring.org. To use this free service you must have a UBNet account.

Obtaining a UBNet Account

Every registered student should obtain a UBNet Account. The account allows you to access your grades, access library services, access online tutoring, access the computers in computer labs, and provides an email account in which the University sends out information. Go to: http://www.bridgeport.edu/ubnet - Click on "New UBNet Account" and follow the instructions.

The @bridgeport.edu email address is the official email the University uses to send information to you. You can have your Bridgeport.edu email forwarded to any other email account you use. Following the activation of your UBNet account (takes 24 hours), login at:

<u>http://www.bridgeport.edu/email</u> and click on "forwards" at the top of the page. Follow the directions to forward email messages to your other account.

Accessing Your Grades & Schedule Online

The WebAdvisor online information system allows students to search for available classes, check grades, view semester class schedule and verify your personal profile. Grades are generally posted 2-3 weeks following the end of a course. Information on WebAdvisor is password protected and requires you to use your UBNet username and password. To access WebAdvisor, go to: http://www.bridgeport.edu/webadvisor

- 1. Login in with your UBNet username and password.
- 2. Click on "Student Menu."
- 3. Click on "My Grades."

If you are carrying a financial balance, access to WebAdvisor will be restricted.

Using the Library

You can access the library through the library's website: http://www.bridgeport.edu/library. Research tools available:

- Search for books held at the library.
- Search the online databases for your academic field; business, counseling, human services, psychology, etc.
- Send questions to the Reference Librarian for assistance in research topics and searching strategy. To access the online journals for research purposes, you will need a UBNet account (see above).

Using Computers

Open access computer labs are available at three campuses:

- Bridgeport 1st floor of the Wahlstrom library. Check library hours of operation at: http://www.bridgeport.edu/library.
- Stamford Room D; Check open hours at: http://www.bridgeport.edu/stamford

 Waterbury – Computer Lab; Check open hours at: http://www.bridgeport.edu/waterbury

Course Cancellations/ Weather Policy

Any emergency necessitating the canceling of courses will be announced by the University through the Emergency Notification Telephone Line, (203) 576-4159. Please call this number for information on course cancellations. Also, information will be posted under "Latest News" on the UB home page, (www.bridgeport.edu). Canceled classes will be made up either the week following the end of the course or in consultation between the instructor and the students as to day and time availability. Course cancellations are also announced on television and radio stations.

Please note each campus makes weather cancellations independently. You should always check with the specific campus staff. It is best to call the campus emergency phone.

Bridgeport – 203-576-4159 Waterbury - 203-573-8501 Stamford – 203-358-0700

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Office	Contact	Telephone	Email
Bridgeport Campus Security		(203) 576-4911	ubsecurity@bridgeport.edu
Bursar	Robinson Hernandez	(203) 576-4692	bursar@bridgeport.edu
Cashier	Lana Mistry	(203) 576-4682	cashier@bridgeport.edu
Financial Aid		(203) 576-4568	sfs@bridgeport.eud
Registrar		(203) 576-4642	registrar@bridgeport.edu
Emergency Notification Phone		(203) 576-4159	
Distance Education Office		(203) 576-4853	ubonline@bridgeport.edu
IDEAL Office		(203) 576-4800	idealinfo@bridgeport.edu

CAMPUS CONTACT INFORMATION

Campus	Address	Telephone	Email
Bridgeport	126 Park Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06604	(203) 576-4800	idealinfo@bridgeport.edu
Stamford	5 Riverbend Drive Stamford, CT 06750	(203) 358-0700	ubstamford@bridgeport.edu
Waterbury	84 Progress Lane Waterbury, CT 06705	(203) 573-8501	ubwaterbury@bridgeport.edu
Woodbridge	6 Lunar Drive Woodbridge, CT 06525	(203) 576-4800	idealinfo@bridgeport.edu
IDEAL Office		(203) 576-4800	idealinfo@bridgeport.edu

Directions to IDEAL Campus locations	http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2260.asp

To fill out your financial aid report to the Federal Government, please go online to www.fafsa.ed.gov. The school code for the University of Bridgeport is 001416. Federal Student Aid Information: 1-800-433-3243.

Ref: Jul, 2013