



COURSE SYLLABUS

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 Program 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 the courses 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 your time outside the course to prepare for and complete the course assignments. This varies between students and courses; however, students typically spend nine-twelve hours per week on course material.

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

- 1. Participate in and complete the online orientation prior to your first online course.
- 2. Obtain the required course materials prior to the course start date.
- 3. Login and participate in your course a minimum of three times per week.
- 4. Complete all assignments to the best of your ability.
- 5. Participate in the class discussions and demonstrate respect and consideration to the instructor and other students when they express themselves in discussion.
- 6. If you have any technical difficulties, you must contact the Office of Distance Education immediately at ubonline@bridgeport.edu.

If you cannot perform these six expectations, it is recommended that you drop the course. We look forward to your academic success in each course and the ultimate completion of your degree.

Course No. & Title: SOC 102 DL2, Social Problems

Semester and Term: Spring 2014 Day and Dates: 3/9/14 – 5/3/14

Time: online

Campus Location: Distant Learning

Course Description:

Analysis of major problems in modern society; existing methods for dealing with these problems.

Prerequisite Courses: None

Course Code: HS-PE, LA, SS, SsC, HSM

Instructor & contact information:

Professor Sadia Babar sbabar@bridgeport.edu

Required Textbook:

Social Problems Community, Policy, & Social Acton Leon-Guerrero ISBN# 978-1452205434 4th ed. 2013

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.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

- Understand the basic overarching sociological problems involving culture, socialization, and stratification.
- Explain how society functions as a dynamic process in which social structure, institutions, organizations, formal and informal groups are created, maintained and sustained through social interactions.
- Analyze how class, race, and gender impact group and have an affect on social problems.
- Identify theoretical frameworks for analyzing social problems and policies, and critical empirical questions about society and human behavior.

Description:

Welcome to Social Problems in Sociology emphasizing methods, basic concepts, terminology, and perspectives used by sociologists in analysis of social movements. Sociological analysis will focus on the concept of culture; the individual as a social product; social groups, and basic social institutions such as the American government, family, education, religion, and the economy. Social Problems presents basic concepts and analysis of the major problems of contemporary society, including the social causes of these problems and the public policy consequences of solutions. Topics include inequality, crime and violence, substance abuse, deviance, and family problems.

Sociology provides perspectives and information useful in understanding all societies. The major theories (functionalism, conflict, and symbolic interactionism) and concepts provide the foundation upon which the remaining material rests. The study of socialization provides perspectives on how one becomes a member of society. Exploring social interaction adds insight into the formation of the social self and the salience of group identities and norms. Ending this first section with a discussion of social control highlights the forces of stability and change in society. The course then progresses to considerations of inequality, crime and violence. The nature of privilege and oppression are discussed and considered in the specific contexts of substance abuse, deviance, and family problems. Finally, considering large-scale forces for change provides a platform to comprehend where human societies have been, are now, and might be headed.

Assignments:

Assignments and Deadlines

Assignments will be posted on Mondays when NEW Lectures are Posted and due by the following Sunday evening by 11:59 pm EST. Check Assignment Folder for details.

Tentative Course Outline:

What follows is a tentative schedule for the semester. I have included dates of when I expect papers will be due. This may change, given our progress in class.

I have included dates of when I expect papers will be due. See Assignment Addendum below for Due Dates.

Week 1: Sunday, Mar 9

Part I: Social Problem—Personal Troubles or Public Issues?

1. Sociology and the Study of Social Problems

Part II: The Basics of Inequality

2. Social Class and Poverty

Week 2: Sunday, Mar 16 (Test 1 due end of WK 2)

Part II: The Basics of Inequality

- 3. Race and Ethnicity
- 4. Gender

Week 3: Sunday, Mar 23 (Test 2 due END WK 3)

Part III: Our Social Institutions

- 5. Sexual Orientation
- 6. Age and Aging
- 7. Families

Week 4: Sunday, Mar 30 (Test 2 due END WK 4)

Part III: Our Social Institutions

- 8. Education
- 9. Work and the Economy

Week 5: Sunday, Apr 6 (Paper 1 Due END of WK 5)

Part III: Our Social Institutions

- 10. Health and Medicine
- 11. The Media

Week 6: Sunday, Apr 13

Part IV: Our Social and Physical Worlds

- 12. Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- 13. Crime and Criminal Justice
- 14. Cities and Suburbs

Week 7: Sunday, Apr 20

Part IV: Our Social and Physical Worlds

- 15. The Environment
- 16. War and Terrorism

Week 8: Sunday, Apr 27 (Final Exam Due END of WK 8)

Part V: Individual Action and Social Change

17. Social Problems and Social Action

REVIEW FOR FINAL

ASSESSMENT:

Group discussions Quizzes and tests Written essays Research paper(s) and/or research project(s)

COMMON STRATEGIES: Lots of reading, talking, and writing. **RUBRIK FOR DISCUSSION BOARD GRADING:**

Rubrik for Discussion Board:

95-100Includes substantive insight of topic, interweaves reference of lecture/Reading. Responds insightfully to other students' post. Contains all below elements. Engaged in discussion

90-94Demonstrates application of material and can discuss innovative ideas. Minor deductions for organization of thought/ clarity of ideas.

85-89Demonstrates application of material and has some difficulty discussing innovative ideas. Contains several grammatical errors.

80-84Does NOT discuss Material as applied to question and students' OWN response to Reading. Contains rambling and structure of Post is outside a Sociological Frame. Grammatical Errors and Lacks Organization of Thought/ Clarity.

75-89-Incomplete Post; does NOT reference lectures and reading. Response to other students' post is incomplete.

66-74-Rote response, does not demonstrate application of concepts discussed. Posts are NOT on a timely basis. 4 Posts on Sunday Night are given credit as 1 Post. Grammar and Syntax Errors. Deductions are also made for not reading Discussion Board and other Students' Posts.

50-65 Does not respond to other students' Posts at all. Response to reading does not contribute to students' understanding of ideas. Deductions are also made for not reading Discussion Board and other Students' Posts.

GUIDELINES to observe for Discussion Board:

- Discussion Board is counted as Attendance for the Course and is 20% of the overall grade. Posting twice a week --6 POSTS in Total (see details below)-- is required to be considered for full credit.
- Take note: This is an ASYNCHRONOUS VIRTUAL CLASS.
- You must also comment on other students' Posts, which is also part of your Discussion. Posting: 'I agree,' does not qualify as a response. See Codes of Conduct.
- Your comments to other Posts are equally important in gauging your understanding of the material. And, as any educator would readily quip, there are no 'dumb questions.'

- Do not wait until the end of the semester to be more active in the course! Time flies!
- Visiting the Discussion Board on Sunday Night to post twice will be counted as one post and to receive full credit the student will have to visit on a separate day.
- I do track my students and notice if they are not reading other posts, which is an integral part of the course as well; hence the Discussion part of Discussion Board. I will CHECK to see how many posts each student has read! And, if a particular student is spending minimal time Navigating the course, he/she will NOT receive full credit.
- Commenting on other students' responses is also part of Discussion and the more active you are the more I learn your voice, as I am on the Discussion Board every week as well and post comments.
- The Discussion Board should be used strictly to discuss the weekly topic posted by the professor. Student posts pertaining to issues outside the topic will be deleted!
- Question: "How LONG should the Posts be?" I will answer: A very good question. The student's application of the material covered in his/her Discussion Board Post should exemplify the understanding it. In other words, Posts should be sufficient in length enough for me to gauge the student's understanding. I am not looking for regurgitated responses. Else, it is necessary to post on at least 2 out of the sometimes 4 questions, so you will have a choice.
- Here's a common question asked regarding DB: Do I have to respond to all the questions or just to one and comment on someone else's post? or do I have to write something and comment on a post for each question?

Answer: Answer ANY 2 QUESTIONS and 2 COMMENTS, so a total of 4 POSTS ALTOGETHER>>>

ANSWER 1st QUESTION, and 2 comments + ANSWER 2nd QUESTION, and 2 comments TOTAL= 6 POSTS

- General Frustrations aired on the Discussion Board often serve but one purpose: to needlessly create an air of uncertainty in our virtual classroom environment.
- It is of utmost importance that the class understands there is NO NEED to panic. I will facilitate issues to bring them to a quick resolve. So, worry not! You're in good hands.
- Students are graded on the Discussion Board as noted in the Syllabus. The posts should be in response to the Week's Material and Supplemental Study Tools Provided (Media, PowerPoint, Interactive Activities) and should take care to keep grammar and syntax in mind.
- Let your thoughts flow, and reread your posts to make sure others will get the point you are trying to get across.

• Last, Tests will be explained in proximity of when they are given. For now, familiarize yourself with the Course Layout.

Grading Criteria:

EVALUATION:

1 Paper (10% ea.): 15% 3 Tests (10% ea.): 45% 1 Exam (Final Exam): 20% Discussion Board: 20%

Total: 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

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Attendance Policy

Course attendance via online participation is an integral part of the online academic experience; therefore, students are expected to be participative in all course activities and discussions. If an absence is unavoidable, the student should communicate with the instructor. Arrangements should be made at that time for submission of any missed assignments.

IMPORTANT:

- An absence (lack of participation) in any week of the course, will drop the final grade by one letter grade (for example if a student earns a grade of "B" in the course, the final grade would be a "C").
- An absence of two or more weeks will be cause for a failing grade.

Drop Procedures

To drop a course, you must complete and submit a Schedule Change Request Form. The form can be accessed at the IDEAL Course Schedule webpage:

http://www.bridgeport.edu/academics/continuinged/ideal-academic-degree-programs-and-certificates/ideal-course-schedule/.

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.

Please review the drop fees and tuition refunds at the Academic Calendar; accessed at the IDEAL Course Schedule webpage (same link above).

Cell Phones

Cell phones must be turned off (or placed on "vibrate") while in the classroom. A cell phone call is disruptive and disrespectful to the other students in the class.

Academic Dishonesty

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 psychology course. He has co-workers who have taken the same course. As the end of the course approaches, he wonders how he will find the time to get the research paper finished, and asks one of his co-workers for help. His co-worker hands him a research paper that he submitted in a similar course. The student makes minor modifications to the paper, and submits it under his own name.

Case #2: A student enrolled in a humanities course is unsure about how to structure an essay. She is doing research on the World Wide Web, and comes across an essay written by a student from another university. Using her computer mouse, she copies and pastes the essay 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. 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 courses; 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

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.

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://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2209.asp The Center is located on the 5th Floor of the Wahlstrom Library. 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 MyUB; the portal for grades, library services, Canvas online learning system. Also, the account allows you access to computers in the Library and 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 private email account you use. Following the activation of your UBNet account (takes 24 hours), login at: http://www.bridgeport.edu/email and click on "forwards" at the top of the page. Follow the directions to forward email messages to your other account.

Learning Management System (LMS) - Canvas

For all courses that use Canvas, you can access Canvas through the portal by using the myUB link. Faculty post class documents on Canvas e.g. syllabus, power points, discussion questions, case studies, current event articles, papers, reports etc. (save some trees). All students have access, and can download and copy the documents.

Canvas Tutorial For Students: https://bridgeport.instructure.com/courses/985903
For assistance contact the UB Help Desk at 203-576-4606 or email https://bridgeport.instructure.com/courses/829447/

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. To access WebAdvisor, login in to MyUB and follow the WebAdvisor menu on the right. If you are carrying a financial balance, access to WebAdvisor will be restricted.

Using the Library

Access to the Digital Library is through MyUB. On the MyUB home, in the central column, click on "myEureka Digital 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.

Using Computers

Open access computer labs are available at three locations:

- 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

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.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Office	Telephone	Email
Bridgeport Campus Security	(203) 576-4911	ubsecurity@bridgeport.edu
Bursar	(203) 576-4692	bursar@bridgeport.edu
Cashier	(203) 576-4682	cashier@bridgeport.edu
Financial Aid	(203) 576-4568	sfs@bridgeport.edu
Registrar	(203) 576-4635	registrar@bridgeport.edu
Emergency Notification Phone	(203) 576-4159	
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

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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