

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM/UNIBETSEDAT GUAHAN SO-202-01
Contemporary Social Problems **Fall Semester 2024**

Course Delivery: OLL-SYN at UOG Moodle Site and Zoom Meetings.
Enrollment Key: so20201stu2024
Lecture Hours: M/W 4:00 – 5:20 pm
Instructor: Dr. Angeline Ames
Office Hours: M/T/F 2:00 – 4:00 pm by appointment via email or Zoom
Email: aames@triton.uog.edu
Phone: 671-735-2881
Office: HSS 220D

Link to Sociology Program’s website:
<https://sociologyprogram4.wixsite.com/marxdurkheimweber>

REQUIRED TEXT *Social Problems of the Modern World*
Francis V. Moulder
Wadsworth Publishing (2000)
*****Uploaded on Moodle course page



COURSE CONTENT

This course will cover a wide range of topics dealing with the definitions, processes, trends, explanations and some of the responses to social problems. The focus of this course will be on sociological descriptions and explanations of such issues as poverty, the world economy, democracy, human rights, global crime, social media, genocide, world health, environmental issues, population growth, nuclear testing, indigenous populations, and the global media.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this course will be to introduce to students the Sociological principles, concepts and issues that contribute to our understanding of social problems. After completing the course students should be able to define and describe and contrast theoretical perspectives that apply to social problems. This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the relevant research that has been conducted on social problems and assist students in developing the ability to research social problems, to use technical skills in retrieving information and data from various archival and electronic sources, and to present research findings in a scientific technical writing format. Finally, this course is intended to aid students in developing an understanding of the ethical issues surrounding the study of social problems.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

This course will consist of a combination of approaches that are intended to aid the student in approaching and entering the study of social problems. The course is designed to develop oral communication skills, essential leadership skills, and to increase students' understanding of materials presented throughout the semester.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR STUDENTS:

To successfully complete this course, students must demonstrate:

- a) Knowledge of specific sociological principles, concepts and issues which contribute to students' understanding of social problems.
- b) Effective performance in defining and describing theories of social problems which will generate sociological knowledge.
- c) Effective performance in comparing and contrasting theoretical perspectives which apply to the social construct of social problems.
- d) On-going understanding of the relevant research conducted within a social problem's framework.
- e) How to investigate qualitative and quantitative data in relation to social problem studies, including learning how to use technical skills in retrieving information and data from various archival and IT sources.
- f) Application of techniques of qualitative and quantitative analyses in relation to scientific technical writing which accurately conveys research findings.
- g) Application of ethical practices surrounding the study of social problems.

PROGRAM'S STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES LINKS TO INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

The Learning Objectives of the Sociology Program are based on those of the American Sociological Association (ASA). Graduating students must be able to demonstrate their understandings and application of:

PLO 1: Apply sociological principles and concepts to the social world. ILO4: Understanding and appreciation of culturally diverse people, ideas and values in a democratic context; ILO6: An appreciation of the arts and sciences; ILO7: An interest in personal development and lifelong learning.

PLO 2: Evaluate the effectiveness of sociological theories in explaining aspects of the social world. ILO1: Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving; ILO3: Effective oral and written communication.

PLO 3: Apply qualitative and quantitative research methodologies in research design, data collection and analyses in an ethical manner. ILO1: Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving; ILO2: Mastery of quantitative analysis.

PLO 4: Explain sociological knowledge through oral and written communication. ILO1: Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving; ILO2: Mastery of quantitative analysis; ILO3: Effective oral and written communication; ILO4: Understanding and appreciation of culturally diverse people, ideas and values in a democratic context.

This is a web-based class and as such, you are to submit your assignments on-line via Moodle Assignments.

Access Statement

Students must have access to a computer daily. The computer should have access to general software applications for word processing software, electronic spreadsheets, graphic presentation, video viewing software, the recommended web browser and a reliable internet connection. The student must be able to navigate the Moodle System site, upload and download materials, participate in assigned online activities, and follow generally accepted online etiquette.

General Discussion Forums (GDF): If you are asking a general question about the course and assignments that affects other students, you should ask the question via GDF, through the appropriate Moodle Forum.

Technical Assistance Statement

Students needing technical assistance from the Center for Online Learning can reach them at the following contacts:

Location: Dean's Circle, House #6

Tel: (671) 735-2620

Help Desk: helpdesk@uog.edu

Moodle Help: moodlehelp@triton.uog.edu

Hours: 8 a.m. – Noon and 1 p.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday

Grading

Final grades are based on the percentage scale of total possible points:

Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Percent Grade	Definition	
A+	4.00	98-100%	Outstanding	Honors-level performance with superior quality and extraordinary distinction.
A	4.00	93-97%		
A-	3.67	90-92%		
B+	3.33	87-89%	Good	Solid accomplishment, indicating a substantial mastery of course materials and a good command of skills required by the course.
B	3.00	83-86%		
B-	2.67	80-82%		
C+	2.33	77-79%	Adequate	Students have achieved the level of competency needed for advancing to a subsequent course which has this course as pre-requisite.
C	2.00	70-76%		
D	1.00	60-69%	Deficient	Minimal passing, but not adequate to take a subsequent course which has this course as pre-requisite.
F	0.00	<60%	Failure	Inadequate to receive credits.
P			Pass	
I			Incomplete	
NC			No Credit	

GRADING

Grades for the course will be awarded on the following basis:

Media Articles	50%
Attendance/Class Participation (via Zoom)	20%
Mid-term	15%
Final	15%

Students' evaluations are based on 1) media article/case studies in-class discussions, 2) class attendance and participation, 3) mid-term, and 4) final exam.

Assignment Descriptions

MEDIA ARTICLE/CASE STUDIES IN-CLASS DISCUSSIONS: Throughout the semester, students will bring in a media article which addresses the social problem discussed during that class time (see syllabus for dates/topics).

The media article needs to be from an accredited source and, to represent contemporary social problems, published 2015 and beyond. You need to link your media article to one of the case studies presented in the Chapter under discussion. For example, Chapter 2 puts forth a general discussion on the world economy in relation to world poverty (pgs. 24 – 29). The chapter then illustrates world poverty through case studies (*Tortilla Curtain*, *The Uses of Poverty*, *Why Can't People Feed Themselves?* and *Fair Trade: Buying and Selling for Justice*). The media article needs to reflect one of the case studies found in the chapter. You are required to turn in the article link and a two-page write-up on the case study found in the chapter in relation to the article you are presenting.

Within a social problem context, students need to apply Sociological principles and concepts to the article utilizing the Sociological Imagination (see pgs. 9 – 10 in required text). Discussion also needs to pull in the case studies found in the chapter, and the linkages found between the case study and the media article. Students will present what they felt are some of the more interesting and applicable points in your article and the topics' relation to the study of social problems. We will have 10 media article assignments due throughout the semester. Each article assignment is worth 5pts, with a total of 50% at the end of the semester.

This is a web-based class and as such, you are to submit your assignments on-line via Moodle. Each Assignment for the course will require the student to verify the originality of their work when submitting the assignment using the following statement:

Certificate of Original Work: *I certify that the attached assignment is my original work. I am familiar with, and acknowledged my responsibilities which are part of the University of Guam Student Code of Academic Integrity. I affirm that any sections of the assignment which has been submitted is attributed and cited as such, and that this paper has not been submitted by anyone else. I have identified the sources of all information whether quoted verbatim or paraphrased, all images, and all quotations with citations and reference listings. Along with citations and reference listings, I have used quotation marks to identify quotations of fewer than 40 words and have used block indentation for quotations of 40 or more words. Nothing in this assignment violates copyright, trademark, or other intellectual property laws. I further agree that the submission of my assignment or paper as replied back to this thread is intended to have, and shall have, the same validity as my handwritten signature.*

NO RECORDING POLICY

Recording of online class meetings is not allowed. Not only is the delivery of course content the intellectual property of the instructor, but students enrolled in the course have privacy rights. Unauthorized recording and distribution of online courses may violate federal law.

Using computers not phones. Many teleconferencing features, like screen sharing do not work if you are on a phone. Moreover the screen may be too small to see the materials being shared. I urge you to connect via a computer if you have access to one. If you do not, please let me know.

Netiquette. This is a set of rules for behaving properly online. Cyberspace makes it easy for people to forget that they are interacting with other real people. The following bullet points cover some basics to communicating online:

- Be sensitive to the fact that there will be various cultural and linguistic backgrounds, as well as different political and religious beliefs, plus just differences in general.
- Use good taste when composing your responses in Discussion Forums. Swearing and profanity is also part of being sensitive to your classmates and should be avoided. Also consider that slang can be misunderstood or misinterpreted.
- Do not use all capital letters when composing your responses as this is considered "shouting" on the Internet and is regarded as impolite or aggressive. It can also be stressful on the eye when trying to read your message.
- Be respectful of others' views and opinions. Avoid "flaming" (publicly attacking or insulting) them as this can cause hurt feelings and decrease the chances of getting all different types of points of view.
- Be careful when using acronyms. If you use an acronym it is best to spell out its meaning first, then put the acronym in parentheses afterward, for example: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). After that you can use the acronym freely throughout your message.
- Use good grammar and spelling, and avoid using text-messaging shortcuts.

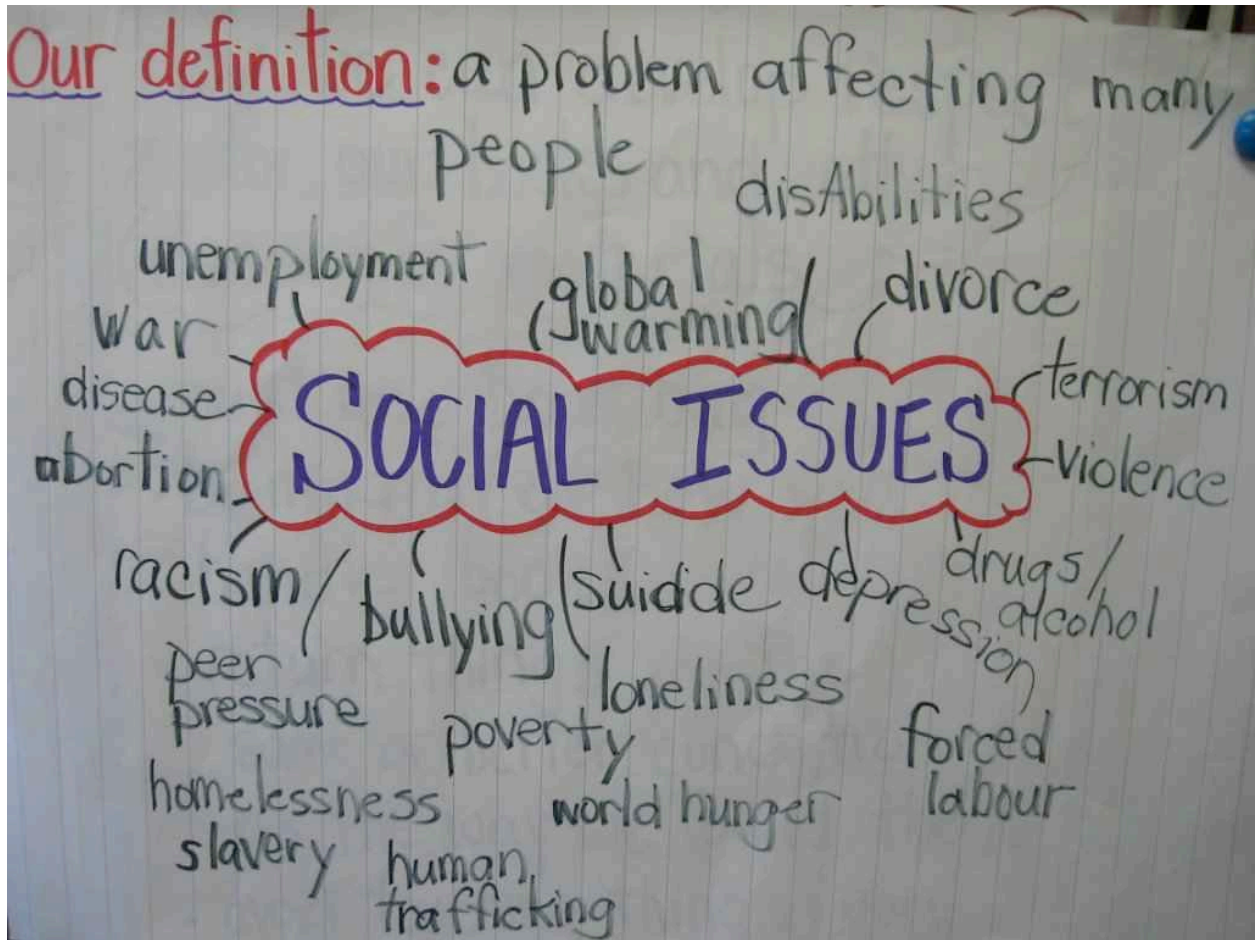
Communication Policy

Use of gotritons/triton email accounts are the preferred method of communication, the course will also be using ZOOM and Instructor Course Mail on the Moodle Site for messages and assignments.

EEO/ADA Statement

The University is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community. Federal and local laws protect the University community from any act of sex discrimination. Such acts violate the essential dignity of our community members. If you need assistance with EEO (Equal Employment Opportunity) and/or Title IX concerns, please contact the Director of EEO/ADA & TITLE IX Office at 671-735-2244, 671-735-2971, TDD 671-735-2243 or eeo-ada@triton.uog.edu.

For individuals covered under the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), if you are a **student** with a disability requiring academic accommodation(s), please contact the Student Counseling and Advising Service Disability Support Services Office to discuss your confidential request. A Faculty Notification letter from the Disability Support Services/Student Counseling and Advising Service Accommodation counselor will be provided to me. To register for academic accommodations, please contact or visit Sallie S. Sablan, DSS counselor in the School of Education, office 110, disabilitysupport@triton.uog.edu or telephone/TDD 671-735-2460.



SYLLABUS SO 202-01: Contemporary Social Problems
(2024) Fall

Topics and Readings:

Week 1:

Aug 14 [W] Overview of Course and Requirements: access Moodle site, download syllabus, and discuss course texts, assignments, exams, and OLL policies.
*** Synchronous Zoom Meeting 4:00 pm (Target SLO 1)

Week 2:

Aug 19 [M] *Films: Challenges the World is Facing, Top 10 Global Issues of Today, & Introduction to Sociology* posted under Week 2 via Moodle course page
*** Asynchronous (Target SLO 1)

Aug 21 [W] Introduction to the Study of Global Social Problems
Read: Moulder Chap. 1 pgs. 1 – 23
How would you define a global social problem?
Discussion on Media Article #1, watch *ASA Citation Style Guide* posted under Week 3.
*** Synchronous Zoom Meeting 4:00 pm (Target SLO 1)

Week 3:

Aug 26 [M] Global Social Problems
Media Article #1, upload Pdf file via Moodle Assignment, due 4:00 pm
*** Asynchronous (Target SLO 1)

Aug 28 [W] The World Economy and World Poverty
Read: Moulder, Chap. 2 pgs. 24 – 80
*** Synchronous Zoom Meeting 4:00 pm (Target SLO 1)

Week 4:

Sept 02 [M] World Poverty and Economic Development
Media Article #2, upload Pdf file via Moodle Assignment, due 4:00 pm
Film: *Poverty on Guam* posted under Week 4
*** Asynchronous (Target SLO 1)

Sept 04 [W] Democracy and Human Rights
Read: Moulder, Chap. 3 pgs. 51 – 80
*** Synchronous Zoom Meeting 4:00 pm (Target SLO 1)

Week 5:

Sept 09 [M]

Democracy and Human Rights

Media Article #3, upload Pdf file via Moodle Assignment, due 4:00 pm

*** Asynchronous (Target SLO 1)

Sept 11 [W]

In-class discussions on Media Articles #1, #2, and #3

*** Synchronous Zoom Meeting 4:00 pm (Target SLO 1)

Week 6:

Sept 16 [M]

Global Crimes

Read: Moulder Chap.11 pgs. 290 - 318

Film: Trafficked in America (a documentary film on human trafficking, global crimes, and human rights) posted via Moodle course page under Week 6

*** Asynchronous (Target SLO 1)

Sept 18 [W]

In-class discussion on global crimes and the documentary *Trafficked in America*

*** Synchronous Zoom Meeting 4:00 pm (Target SLO 1)

Week 7:

Sept 23 [M]

Global Crimes

Media Article #4, upload Pdf file via Moodle Assignment, due 4:00 pm

Sept 25 [W]

Video Violence (power point presentation)

*** Synchronous Zoom Meeting 4:00 pm (Target SLO 1)

Week 8:

Sept 30 [M]

Film: Episode 18: Rwandan Genocide (The true-life story of Tutsi refugees during their struggle against the Hutu militia in Rwanda).

*** Asynchronous (Target SLO 1) – Posted under Week 9

Oct 02 [W]

Racial/Ethnic Conflicts and the Danger of Genocide

Read: Moulder, Chapter 10 pgs. 262 – 289

*** Synchronous Zoom Meeting 4:00 pm (Target SLO 1)

Week 9:

***** Fall Break (10/7 – 10/12)*****

Week 10:

Oct 14 [M] Review Materials for Midterm

Oct 16 [W] Review for Midterm Exam
*** Synchronous Zoom Meeting 4:00 pm (Target SLO 1)

Week 11:

Oct 21 [M] *Films: Traditional Medicine From Past to Future and Sociology Crash Course: Health and Medicine* posted under Week 11
*** Asynchronous (Target SLO 1)

Oct 23 [W] World Health
Read: World Health, Chapter 12 pgs. 319 – 347
*** Synchronous Zoom Meeting 4:00 pm (Target SLO 1)

Week 12:

Oct 28 [M] World Health
Media Article #5, upload Pdf file via Moodle Assignment, due 4:00 pm
*** Asynchronous (Target SLO 1)

Oct 30 [W] Environmental Destruction
Read: Moulder Chap. 6 pgs. 140 – 171
*** Synchronous Zoom Meeting 4:00 pm (Target SLO 1)

Week 13:

Nov 04 [M] Genocide, World Health, or Environmental Destruction (pick only one)
Media Article #6, upload Pdf file via Moodle Assignment, due 4:00 pm
*** Asynchronous (Target SLO 1)

Nov 06 [W] Guest Speaker
Nuclear War Testing in Micronesia
*** Synchronous Zoom Meeting 4:00 pm (Target SLO 1)

Week 14:

Nov 11 [M] Nuclear Weapons
Media Article #7, upload Pdf file via Moodle Assignment, due 4:00 pm
*** Asynchronous (Target SLO 1)

Nov 13 [W] Population Growth
Read Moulder Chap. 5 pgs. 109 – 139
*** Synchronous Zoom Meeting 4:00 pm (Target SLO 1)

Week 15:

Nov 18 [M] Population Growth
Media Article #8, upload Pdf file via Moodle Assignment, due 4:00 pm
Films: UN Declaration on Rights, Cultural Survival, and 10th Anniversary of the UN Declaration posted under Week 15
*** Asynchronous (Target SLO 1)

- Nov 20 [W] The Cultural Survival of Indigenous Peoples
 Read: Moulder Chap. 9 pgs. 232 – 261
 *** Synchronous Zoom Meeting 4:00 pm (Target SLO 1)
- Week 16:
 Nov 25 [M] The Cultural Survival of Indigenous Peoples
 Media Article #9, upload Pdf file via Moodle Assignment, due 4:00 pm
 *** Asynchronous (Target SLO 1)
- Nov 27 [W] The Global Media
 Read: Moulder Chap. 8 pgs. 200 – 231
 *** Synchronous Zoom Meeting 4:00 pm (Target SLO 1)
- Week 17:
 Dec 2 [M] The Global Media
 Media Article #10, upload Pdf file via Moodle Assignment, due 12:30pm
 *** Asynchronous (Target SLO 1)
- Dec 4 [W] Review for Final
 *** Synchronous Zoom Meeting 4:00 pm (Target SLO 1)
- Week 18:
 Dec 13 [M] Final Exam Dec 10th 4:00 – 5:50 pm

Schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

Always check Moodle for the latest schedule.

Readings and other related materials are posted on SO202-01 Moodle Course Page.

Plagiarism will be dealt with in accordance to the Student Handbook. The UOG Student Handbook p. 49 defines plagiarism as: “The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to the use by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.”