

SELECTED SOCIAL PROBLEMS: HOMELESSNESS

Course Number 077.231; Section L01

Department of Sociology, University of Manitoba

Fall 2005

3 Credit Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 1:30-2:20 p.m.; Room 214 Tier

Instructor: Dr. Catherine Charette

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Office: Isbister 301E

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 2:20 - 2:50 p.m., or by appointment

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students should:

- understand homelessness within the context of poverty and economic inequality
- understand the varied profiles and causes of homelessness
- understand the varied approaches to addressing homelessness
- understand research issues associated with the study of homelessness
- have an appreciation of the personal stories of persons without homes
- be familiar with some of the current local issues pertaining to homelessness
- have developed personal opinions and positions on homelessness and related issues

Evaluation:

Assignment 1: Role Playing	Due: September 26	20 %
Assignment 2: Right to Housing	Due: October 24	20 %
Assignment 3: Current Issue Position Paper	Due: November 28	30 %
Final Exam (2 hours)	Date to be determined	30 %

Grades:

A+	90-100 %	superior	C+	65-69 %	satisfactory
A	80-89 %	excellent	C	60-64 %	adequate
B+	75-79 %	very good	D	50-59 %	poor
B	70-74 %	good	F	< 50	fail

(Standard rounding procedures for decimals: .50+ rounds up; <.50 rounds down)

Reading Material:

Layton, J. (2000) *Homelessness: The Making and Unmaking of a Crisis*. McGill: Penguin.

77.231 Reading Package available from U of M Bookstore (required for Assignments 2 and 3).

Some additional materials to be provided.

TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF TOPICS TO BE COVERED

WEEK	TOPIC	COMPLEMENTARY READING (Layton)
1 (Sept. 9)	Course Introduction	Chapter 1
Week 2 (Sept. 12, 14, 16)	I. Defining Homelessness Terminology; types: social problem or social condition?	Chapter 2
Week 3 (Sept. 19, 21, 23)	II. Poverty and Economic Inequality Definitions and measurements; social problems associated with poverty and economic inequality; theories of poverty; consequences; unemployment and social problems; solving the problems of poverty and inequality	
Week 4 (Sept. 26, 28, 30)	Role Playing	
Week 5 (Oct. 3, 5, 7)	Poverty and Economic Inequality cont'd	
Week 6 (Oct. 12, 14)	III. Researching Homelessness Methodological and ethical issues	Chapter 3 pp. 33-55
Week 7 (Oct. 17, 19, 21)	IV. The varied profile of homelessness Children; youth; families;	Chapter 3 pp. 55-64
Week 8 (Oct. 24, 26, 28)	The right to housing	
Week 9 (Oct. 31, Nov. 2, 4)	The varied profile of homelessness cont'd aboriginal; deinstitutionalised	Chapter 4
Week 10 (Nov. 7, 9)	V. The varied causes of homelessness Social problems; health problems;	Chapter 5
Week 11 (Nov. 14, 16, 18)	housing supply; gaps in social services; government actions	
Week 12 (Nov. 21, 23, 25)	VI. Addressing Homelessness Interventions, Policies, and Obstacles	Chapter 6
Week 13 (Nov. 28, 30, Dec. 2)	Addressing Homelessness cont'd	Chapter 7
Week 14 (Dec. 5, 7)	VII. Focus on Winnipeg Housing initiatives; current local issues Class wrap up and review	

Voluntary Withdrawal Date:

Please note that the voluntary withdrawal deadline date is **November 16, 2005**.

Class Policies and Procedures:

1. **Academic Integrity.** Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on "Examinations: Personations" (p. 26) and "Plagiarism and Cheating" (p. 27) found in the Undergraduate Calendar.
2. **Class Attendance.** Regular attendance is expected of all students. You will be participating in class discussions and will learn from your peers as well as your instructor. Simply acquiring the class notes in the absence of regular class attendance will severely limit what you get out of the course.
3. **Class Etiquette.** Please be reminded that arriving late/leaving early and talking with classmates is disruptive to the class. Please be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of others in the class. Students should be aware that persistent disruption may result in disbarment from the course. Any student who has a legitimate reason for leaving class early should inform the instructor at the beginning of class.
4. **E-mail Etiquette.** Please make sure that your request is e-mail appropriate. When e-mailing, please: identify yourself (first name, last name, student number); be professional; and be polite. Please note that grades will not be provided by e-mail.
5. **Class Contact.** It is suggested that you make a class contact/s—someone who may be willing to share notes with you if you have missed a class, or who may be willing to discuss class material outside of class.
6. **Special Circumstances.** Please note that the University recognizes the rights of all students to observe recognized holidays of their faith that fall within the academic year. With instructor discretion, necessary arrangements can be made to accommodate faith holidays. The instructor should be notified of a student's intended absence in advance. Three weeks notice should normally be given when special arrangements are sought.

Students with special learning needs (aids, supports, etc.) should identify themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the term in order to arrange suitable accommodations.
7. **Assignment Guidelines.** Unless stated otherwise, assignments must be typed and double spaced with one inch margins. Use font size 12 in a readable font style. Reference and heading styles are to be consistent with the publication manual of the American Psychological Association. The cover page should include your name, student number, title of the assignment and due date. Use plain white paper for the full assignment, including cover page. Staple in the upper left corner. Keep a back-up copy of all assignments.
8. **Assignment Due Dates.** Assignments must be submitted **in class** on the date that they are due. Do not leave assignments under the instructor's door or in the Sociology

Department Office. If extenuating circumstances do not allow you to submit an assignment in class, please make alternate arrangements with the instructor.

9. **Late penalties.** Late assignments are penalized one full letter grade for *each* day late. For e.g., 80% (A) would be reduced to 70% (B) after the first day late; to 60% (C) after the second first day late.

If you encounter a legitimate situation/emergency that prevents you from handing in an assignment/writing the test, contact the instructor prior to the due date/date of test. Provide documentation of the situation/emergency. If circumstances prevent you from contacting the instructor in advance, you must contact the instructor within 48 hours after the incident has occurred to be considered eligible for an extension.

10. **Incomplete classwork.** All items listed under Evaluation must be completed to be eligible for a passing grade.

Class Contact/s:

1. _____
Name Contact information
2. _____
Name Contact information

Looking forward to leading you in learning!