

**University of Manitoba**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Social Problems – A Canadian Perspective**  
**Sociology 2310**  
**Winter 2010 (3 Credit)**

**Instructor:** Susan Miller  
**Office:** 301B Isbister Bldg.  
**Phone:** 474-9186  
**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30 – 10:15am  
**Class Location and Time:** Tier 312 – MWF at 10:30  
**E-Mail:** [millers@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:millers@cc.umanitoba.ca)

**Course Description/Objectives**

We will examine how the social structure and culture of society contribute to social problems and their consequences. We will learn to recognize that solutions cannot be effective if we don't fully understand the causes of a problem and acknowledge that our ultimate goal is not to solve any or all of society's problems in a few weeks. We will learn to appreciate differing points of view.

**Required Text**

Tepperman, Lorne, James Curtis, and Albert Kwan. (2007). *Social Problems – A Canadian Perspective, Second edition*. Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press.

**Course Requirements**

1. *1 Mid-Term Test. Value: 25%* See Course Schedule for date of this test. This test will be some combination of multiple choice questions and/or short answer questions. This test will cover readings from the text, lectures, movies shown, and class discussions.
2. *1 Final Test. Value: 20%.* Last day of class.
3. *Assignment #1* – Letter assignment – details attached. Value: 10%
4. *Assignment #2* – News Article assignment – details to follow. Value: 10%
5. *Assignment #3* - Presentation and Annotated Bibliography Assignment.  
Total Value: 35%. Details to Follow.

**Letter Grade Assignments**

A+	90 and up	B	70 – 75	D	50 – 59
A	80 – 89	C+	66 – 69	F	0 – 49
B+	76 - 79	C	60 - 65		

## Course Policies

1. *The penalty for late papers/assignments is 10% for every 15 minutes or portion thereof.*
2. *Referencing style to be used in this course is APA.*
3. Missed tests cannot be taken at a later date, unless a valid medical certificate is provided within 1 week of the scheduled test.
4. Students are responsible for all material presented in class and in the text.
5. Students cheating on a test will receive a "0" for the test and the Dept. Head will be notified to determine if further action is warranted.
6. If a student wishes to withdraw from the course, it is their responsibility to do so. The deadline for **Voluntary Withdrawal is March 19, 2010.**
7. Although the chapters on the Course Schedule will be covered in the order that they appear, I may exceed, restrict, or omit individual sections to facilitate smoother course delivery.
8. Students with special needs (e.g., learning, testing, hearing, sight, or physical) should discuss with me how I might make the learning environment more comfortable.
9. The university (and I) recognize and respect the right of all students to observe recognized holidays of their faith, which fall within the academic year. With instructor discretion, necessary arrangements can be made to ensure studies are not jeopardized. Please notify me 3 weeks in advance of any such intended absence where special arrangements are sought...
10. Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on "Personation at Examinations" (Section 4.2.8) and "Plagiarism and Cheating" (Section 7.1) found in the Undergraduate calendar. The Faculty of Arts reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.
11. Disruptions due to excessive talking and late arrival or early departure from the classroom are especially distracting. 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.

## Course Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Jan. 6	Intro to Course	
Jan. 8,11,13,15	What are Social Problems? The Sociological Study of Social Problems	Intro. Appendix
Jan. 18,20,22	Poverty and Economic Inequality	Chapter 1
<b>Jan. 22</b>	<b>Presentations Organized – Attendance is Mandatory</b>	
Jan. 25,27,29	Drugs and Alcohol Abuse	Chapter 3
Feb. 1,3	Race and Ethnic Relations	Chapter 4
Feb. 5,8	Sexism and Gender Inequality	Chapter 5
Feb. 10,12	Sexual Orientation & Homophobia	Chapter 6
<b>Feb. 15 to 19</b>	<b>READING BREAK – no classes</b>	
Feb. 22,24,26	Aging and Ageism	Chapter 7
<b>Mar. 1</b>	<b>Mid Term Test – value: 25%</b>	
Mar. 3,5	Family	Chapter 8
Mar. 8,10	Work and Unemployment	Chapter 9
Mar. 12,15	Health, Illness, and Health Care	Chapter 10
Mar. 17,19	Population, Urbanization and Environment	Chapter 11
<b>Mar. 19</b>	<b>Last Day for Voluntary Withdrawal</b>	
March 22	War and Terrorism	Chapter 12
<i>Mar. 24, 26, 29, 31, and April 5, 7</i>	<b><u>PRESENTATIONS</u></b>	
<b>Apr.9</b>	<b>Final Test - VALUE: 20%</b>	

Sociology 2310  
**Assignment #1**  
**Value: 10%**

**Due: January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 at 10:30 a.m.**

(The penalty for late assignments is 10% for every 15 minutes or portion thereof)

For this assignment you will be writing two letters. Each will be about a social issue you are particularly passionate about.

One letter will be about a Canadian social issue and the other letter will be about a social issue outside of Canada.

For each, you need to identify who would be the most appropriate person to express your concerns to about the issue in a letter.

You will need to clearly outline what the issue is, its consequences (i.e., why this issue is cause for concern), and how it might be remedied.

Each letter should be about 1 page long, single-spaced. Each should be written in letter format.

When you hand in your letters, I will require 2 copies of each one and an addressed, stamped envelope for each. I will be mailing one copy of your letter and marking the other for return to you. You should also hand in a list of references, in APA format, used to solidify your knowledge of the issues.