**Wayland Mission Statement**

Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused, and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, and service to God and humankind.

**Contact Information**

**Course**

: SOCI 3304 VC01 – Social Problems

**Campus**

: WBUonline

**Term/Session**

**:** Fall 2 2025

**Instructor**

**:** Dr. Beth Durbin

**Office Phone Number**

**:** cell – 907-460-3226 (text is best)

**WBU Email Address**

**:** durbinb@wbu.edu

**Office Hours, Building, and Location**

**:** Email or text and we will set up a time to meet

**Class Meeting Time and Location**

**:** WBU Online

**Course Information**

**Catalog Description**

**:** Social problems including causes, interrelationships, and program of amelioration.

**Prerequisite(s): None, however, SOCI 1301 is recommended.**

**Textbook Information**

**Required Textbook(s) and/or Required Materials**

**:** Understanding Social Problems Mooney/Knox Cengage 11th 2022 ISBN: 9780357507421; digital 9788214355696

*The textbook for this course is part of the* ***Wayland’s Automatic eBook*** *program. You will have access to an eBook and interactive learning material on the first day of class through your Blackboard course site. The cost of this Automatic eBook will be billed directly to your student account when you register for the course. You will be notified via email with access instructions and additional information. If you do not wish to participate in the Automatic eBook program, you will have the first 12 days of class to opt-out of the program (additional details will be outlined in your email instructions). For more information on the Automatic eBook program, visit the Wayland Bookstore* [*Automatic eBook FAQ*](https://bookstore.wbu.edu/site_inclusive.asp) *page.*

**Optional Materials**

**:** None

**Course Outcome Competencies**

**:** Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

* Define social problems from the major sociological perspectives
* Identify social problems that result from inequality
* Analyze the consequences of social problems for society
* Evaluate interventions designed to ameliorate social problems

**Attendance Requirements**

WBUonline

Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses. Online courses are no different in this regard; however, participation must be defined in a different manner. Student “attendance” in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus. Instructors in online courses are responsible for providing students with clear instructions for how they are required to participate in the course. Additionally, instructors are responsible for incorporating specific instructional activities within their course and will, at a minimum, have weekly mechanisms for documenting student participation. These mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, participating in a weekly discussion board, submitting/completing assignments in Blackboard, or communicating with the instructor. Students aware of necessary absences must inform the professor with as much advance notice as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements. Any student absent 25 percent or more of the online course, i.e., non-participatory during 2 or more weeks of an 8-week session, may receive an F for that course. Instructors may also file a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress for students with excessive non-participation. Any student who has not actively participated in an online class prior to the census date for any given session is considered a “no-show” and will be administratively withdrawn from the class without record. To be counted as actively participating, it is not sufficient to log in and view the course. The student must be submitting work as described in the course syllabus. Additional attendance and participation policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the university’s attendance policy.

**University Policies**

[Link to Statement on Academic Integrity , and reference one of the following in regard to how generative artificial intelligence (GAI) such as ChatGPT may or may not be used in this course:](https://www.wbu.edu/academics/writing-center/Academic%20Integrity%20Statement%20Pol%208.4.1%20Attch%20Oct%2020222.pdf)

1. No use of any generative AI tools permitted.
   1. Students are required to create and produce all work themselves or with assigned group members. Any work submitted that has used an AI generative tool like Chat GPT will be in immediate violation of the academic integrity policies for the course and WBU.
   2. All assignments must be fully created, designed, and prepared by the student(s).
   3. Any work that uses generative AI will be treated as plagiarism.

**Disability Statement**

**:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Disability Services Coordinator and Academic Coach serves as the coordinator of students with disabilities and must be contacted concerning accommodation requests (office (806) 291-1057. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

Accessibility issues with content in WBUonline courses or in Blackboard should be addressed to the WBU accessibility coordinator, Dr. Rick Hammer, [hammerr@wbu.edu](mailto:hammerr@wbu.edu) or call (806) 292-9150.

**Course Requirements and Grading Criteria**

Required First Assignment on Blackboard: This assignment must be completed as the first assignment for the course – before any other coursework! This counts as attendance for WBU Online and if you do not accomplish it, they will drop you even if you have done other stuff in class. Due by Wednesday of first week of class. So, get it done first!!

Meet and Greet Discussion Board: So everyone can get to know each other post information about yourself by Friday of first week of class and respond to two classmates by Sunday. 20 points

Email Assignment:In an effort to ensure that you are capable of communicating with me, you will be required to review the syllabus and email me from your Wayland email address on or before Sunday of first week of class by 11:59 PM. The email should simply state that the you are fulfilling the email assignment and that you have read the syllabus. You should also address whether or not you have any questions regarding the syllabus. 25 points possible.

Reading Assignments:Reading assignments are to be completed on time (i.e., before the corresponding assignments are due). It will be to your benefit to take notes as you read. Additionally, you should be prepared to participate in online discussions about the assigned reading.

Discussion Boards: There will be discussion board for each week of class. Each week a prompt will be posted. You will need to formulate an initial response to that prompt by Wednesday @ 11:59 p.m. of each week. By Sunday at 11:59 p.m. CST each week, you will need to have read your classmates initial responses and reply to at least two of your classmates’ initial responses.

Note: You may view your peers work and postings to learn from one another, but you can’t copy their work. While there is no specific word limit, your initial post should be long enough to adequately address the prompt and all issues that are presented. Your initial post must be insightful, thorough, and show an appreciation and understanding of the issues. Your responses to your classmates’ initial posts should identify portions of the post you agree/disagree with and explain why. Additionally, your responses should supplement, contradict, question, or further discussion on the pertinent subject area. All posts should be substantiated by examples from the textbook and/or appropriate websites. **Do not forget to cite your sources**! It is also expected that all posts reflect critical thinking and good grammar.

Exercises**: You will choose 1 of the exercises to complete for each of the exercises due. You will have a total of 5 of these throughout the session. See schedule for due dates. The specific exercises will be posted under the course content tab in blackboard. You must answer question completely; format is up to you. Answers need to be at least ¾ to a full page. Answers are to be submitted by assignment exercise and then number you are doing, ex: exercise 1 will be attached to that assignment by Sunday midnight of the week they are assigned.**

Exams**:  The exams will be multiple choice, short answer and essay questions.  The midterm will cover chapters 1-7 and the final exam will cover chapters 8-15. These are not proctored**.

**The University has a standard grade scale:**

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F= below 60, W = Withdrawal, WP = withdrew passing, WF = withdrew failing, I = incomplete. An incomplete may be given within the last two weeks of a long term, within the last week of an 8-week session, or within the last two days of a microterm to a student who is passing, but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required work for reasons beyond the student’s control. A grade of “incomplete” is changed if the work required is completed prior to the last day of the next long 16-week term or 8-week session, unless the instructor designates an earlier date for completion.  If the work is not completed by the appropriate date, the I is converted to an F.

**Student Grade Appeals**

**:** Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Vice President of Academic Affairs to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

**Tentative Schedule**

**Week 1 – October 13 Chapter 1 & 2**

**Required First Assign. On Blackboard: Due Wed.**

**Meet & Greet Discussion Board: Due Friday @ 11:59 PM**

**Initial Discussion Board Response: Due Wednesday @ 11:59 PM**

**Classmate DB Response: Due Sunday @ 11:59 PM**

**Email Assignment: Due Sunday @ 11:59 PM**

**Week 2 – October 20 Chapter 3, 4 & 5**

**Discussion Board Response: Wednesday @ 11:59 PM**

**Classmate DB Response: Due: Sunday @ 11:59 PM**

**Exercise 1: Due Sunday @ 11:59 PM**

**Week 3 October 27 Chapter 6 & 7**

**Discussion Board Response: Wednesday @ 11:59 PM**

**Classmate DB Response: Due: Sunday @ 11:59 PM**

**Exercise 2: Due Sunday @ 11:59 PM**

**Week 4 November 3 Midterm**

**Discussion Board Response: Wednesday @ 11:59 PM**

**Classmate DB Response: Due: Sunday @ 11:59 PM**

**Week 5 – November 10 Chapter 8, 9 & 10**

**Discussion Board Response: Wednesday @ 11:59 PM**

**Classmate DB Response: Due: Sunday @ 11:59 PM**

**Exercise 3 – Due Sunday @ 11:59 PM**

**Week 6 – November 17 Chapter 11, 12 & 13**

**Discussion Board Response: Wednesday @ 11:59 PM**

**Classmate DB Response: Due: Sunday @ 11:59 PM**

**Exercise 4 – Due Sunday @ 11:59 PM**

**November 24 – No class work due – Holiday week – Happy Thanksgiving**

**Week 7 – December 1 Chapter 14 & 15**

**Discussion Board Response: Wednesday @ 11:59 PM**

**Classmate DB Response: Due: Sunday @ 11:59 PM**

**Exercise 5 - Due Sunday @ 11:59 PM**

**Week 8 – December 8 Final Exam**

**Discussion Board Response: Wednesday @ 11:59 PM**

**Classmate DB Response: Due: Saturday @ 11:59 PM**

**Additional Information**

Other Important Dates**:**

**Census Date, last day to drop without record: October 20, 2025**

**Last day to drop with a W: November 14, 2025**

**Last day to drop with WP/WF: December 5 ,2025**

<http://catalog.wbu.edu>