



WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES
VIRTUAL CAMPUS

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.

SOCI/JUAD 3304, VC01

SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Term:	Summer 2016 Virtual Campus
Professor:	Dr. Deidre Redmond
Office Phone Number:	806-291-1181
WBU Email Address:	deidre.redmond@wbu.edu
Office Hours:	Virtual Office Hours via Blackboard IM Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00pm-5:00pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00am-11:00am Central Standard Time (CST)
Class Meetings:	This class meets 100% online May 23 rd – August 6 th 2016
Catalog Description:	Social problems including causes, interrelationships, and program of amelioration
Prerequisites:	To be successful, online students must be competent users of Blackboard and able to navigate and search the Internet, use email, attach and upload documents, download and save files, and have access to and use Microsoft Word. If you are not a competent user of Blackboard, please visit this website to be trained: http://www.wbu.edu/academics/online_programs/works/BbTutorial/ .
Required Textbook(s):	Mooney, Linda, David Knox, and Caroline Schacht. 2015. Understanding Social Problems. Boston, MA: Cengage. [ISBN: 1285746503] To order your textbook from the WBU bookstore go here: http://bookstore.wbu.edu/waylandvs/default.asp? In the box, Generate Your Book List: first, select a campus term and choose virtual campus – summer 2016; second, in the drop down box just below the first one, select social sciences; third, select a course: SOCI/JUAD3304; fourth, choose VC01 section; and fifth, click the green box [add] to see the options for the textbook.
Optional Materials:	n/a
Course Outcome Competencies:	Upon completion of this course, students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Define social problems from the three major sociological perspectives<input type="checkbox"/> Identify issues in society related to wealth, social class, race/ethnicity and gender<input type="checkbox"/> Critically analyze social problems and their effect on society<input type="checkbox"/> Discuss strategies and interventions to ameliorate various social problems

University Attendance Requirements

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 3 or more weeks of an 11 week term, 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 term 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.

Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

Wayland Baptist University observes a zero tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. Per university policy as described in the academic catalog, all cases of academic dishonesty will be reported and second offenses will result in suspension from the university.

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 Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291- 3765. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations. **Please email documentation in the first two weeks of class.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING CRITERIA

Chapter readings

Each week of the course students will read a chapter of the textbook. Reading the textbook and taking notes is important for participation in the discussion (see below) because discussion questions posted by the instructor will be based on what you have read.

Lecture notes

Lecture notes for each chapter of the textbook are posted on our Blackboard page in the lecture notes folder. These notes will be useful when studying for the exam. Please make sure to watch any video links that are embedded in the PowerPoints. Lecture notes will be posted at least two weeks in advance.

Exams (Midterm + Final - 150 points each = 300 points)

Exams will be administered via Blackboard. Each exam will test your knowledge of the prior weeks’ readings, lectures, and discussions. Exams typically include multiple-choice, true-false, short answer, or essay questions. The second exam is cumulative in the sense that important core concepts and theories will be reevaluated. Review sheets will be posted two weeks before the exam due date and the exam will open five days before it is due.

Exam directions:

1. Students have 1 attempt to complete the exam (no extra attempts allowed).
Once you start the exam, you must finish it in the same attempt. Once you click “Begin” you must complete it at that time. I have access to a log of each student’s Blackboard activity. If you **cheat** by browsing the exam to look at questions before you intend to answer questions I will know, and **I will fail you**.
2. Students are allowed only 60 minutes to complete the exam.
3. Questions appear one at a time, and you cannot go back to a question after you answer it.
4. Answers will not be available until after all students have taken the exam.
5. After the due date, exams will not be accepted.

Please see this website for instructions about how to take exams in Blackboard:

http://ondemand.blackboard.com/r91/movies/bb91_student_taking_test_online.htm

Response Papers (5 @ 15 points = 75 points)

You will be required to write five short, 1- 2 page papers throughout the semester. Each paper is different and requires a different skill set; some papers require research and others are opinion or critical thinking based. Details for the papers are posted on our Blackboard page. Papers are due by 7:00pm on the due date and must be uploaded to Blackboard. You may not receive full credit from 7:01pm onward. For every day a paper is late, I will reduce your grade by 10%.

Discussion Board (10 @ 10 points = 100 points)

We will have weekly discussions about the course material via the discussion tab on the Blackboard page. Discussion questions will be posted at least one week in advance of the due date. You are required to participate in the discussion by posting meaningful questions and responses. I will begin the discussion by posting a question and ask that **each student reply to my post and post one additional question or reply to a student’s question (2 post per week)**. You should not post until you have read the assigned chapters and lecture notes and completed the assignments, as I expect your discussion posts to be thoughtful and engage the course material. I will grade the quality of your questions and responses and moderate the discussion to make sure it is moving along well. After the due date, discussion posts will not be graded. Please see this website for how to creating a discussion board post:

http://ondemand.blackboard.com/r91/movies/bb91_student_creating_discussion_board_post.htm.

The University’s 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 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 (10 to 15 weeks) term, 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 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 Executive Vice President/Provost 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.

Questions or concerns

Students are welcome to email me (deidre.redmond@wbu.edu) if they have questions or concerns. However, I created Blackboard Discussion forums for questions that meet certain criteria. These discussion will be ongoing throughout the course: “questions about the syllabus,” “questions about assignments,” and “I cannot figure out how to.” I will respond to questions with the best of my ability and your classmates are allowed to help. Instead of emailing me privately with these types of questions, post to the appropriate discussion forum so that your classmates can help or get help if they are also having trouble.

Participation and success

In traditional college courses, there is a built-in structure provided by the university in the form of a two or three day a week meeting schedule. It is convenient for students who live off campus, work full-time and/or have families to take online courses because there are no regular class meetings. This is at the core of why online courses are preferred by some students. However, without a built-in structure some students find it difficult to manage online courses. I would argue that while there are important differences between online and traditional courses, **what brings about success in online courses is not different from what brings about success in traditional courses: it takes discipline to complete the coursework on time and do well.** (I have taught online courses where students were allotted *one year* to complete assignments. Some students failed the course because *even in one year's time* they did not have the discipline to complete assignments.) To avoid this problem, I have a recommendation: create your own structure; **reserve a few hours two or three days a week to keep up with the coursework.** During these designated times, read, complete assignments, and study for exams.

Since I am assuming that most students have family and/or work responsibilities outside of school, all assignments are due by 7:00pm on Saturdays and late assignments will only be accepted by 9:00pm on the due date. Late assignments will receive an automatic 10% deduction (points vary by assignment).

When will items be posted?

In the spirit of keeping the course as synchronous as possible, postings will follow this schedule:

- Lecture notes will be posted at the start of the week for which the reading is assigned
- Exam review sheets will be posted two weeks before the exam
- Exams will open 7 days prior to the due date
- Paper directions are already posted
- Discussion questions will be posted at the start of the week

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE*

This is a calendar of our weekly schedule. Assignments are due on Saturdays by 7:00pm. Before completing assignments or posting to the discussion, you must read the textbook chapter and the associated notes. The discussion questions will be based on readings and assignments. Although assignments are due on Saturdays, you can submit them earlier. Do not wait until Saturday to complete course assignments; instead, develop a schedule that works for you and that takes into account your other obligations.

**Your professor retains the right to revise this schedule*

Date/Topic	Reading(s)	Notes/Links
Week 1: May 23-27 Sociological Imagination, Theory, & Methods	Read Mooney Chapter 1 Read Chapter 1 - Lecture notes Post to discussion 1 by 7pm on 5/28	
Week 2: May 30 – June 3 Physical and Mental Health	Read Mooney Chapter 2 Read Chapter 2 - Lecture notes Post to discussion 2 by 7pm on 6/04	
Week 3: June 6 – 10 Drug Use	Read Mooney Chapter Read Chapter 3 - Lecture notes Post to discussion 3 by 7pm on 6/11 Response paper 1	
Week 4: June 13 – 17 Crime and Prisons	Read Mooney Chapter Read Chapter 4 - Lecture notes Post to discussion 4 by 7pm on 6/18 Response paper 2	
Week 5: June 20 – 24 Family Problems	Read Mooney Chapter Read Chapter 5 - Lecture notes Post to discussion 5 by 7pm on 6/25 Complete Midterm by 7pm on 6/25	Study for Midterm; review sheet
Week 6: June 27 – July 1 Inequality	Read Mooney Chapter Read Chapter 6 - Lecture notes Post to discussion 6 by 7pm on 7/2 Response paper 3	
Week 7: July 5 – 8 Unemployment and Underemployment	Read Mooney Chapter Read Chapter 7 - Lecture notes Post to discussion 7 by 7pm on 7/9	
Week 8: July 11 – 15 Education	Read Mooney Chapter Read Chapter 8 - Lecture notes Post to discussion 8 by 7pm on 7/16 Response paper 4	
Week 9: July 18 – 22 Race & Immigration	Read Mooney Chapter Read Chapter 9 - Lecture notes Post to discussion 9 by 7pm on 7/23	
Week 10: July 25 – 29 Gender	Read Mooney Chapter Read Chapter 10 - Lecture notes Post to discussion 10 by 7pm on 7/30	
Week 11: Aug 1 – 5	Response paper 5 Complete Final by August 6th at 7pm	Study for Final; review sheet

COURSE POLICIES

Netiquette

We will have discussions, use email to communicate, and written assignments will be graded for proper grammar and spelling. Do not write your discussion posts, emails, or papers like text messages. Do not use shorthand, acronyms, or symbols. Communicate with your professor *and classmates* using a professional tone.

Here are guidelines on how to compose your emails to the professor:

1. Be sure to include a meaningful subject line; this helps to clarify what your message is about. Your email subject should begin with the course information (i.e., SOCI 3304). This should be followed by a colon; then, provide a glimpse of what your email is about.
2. Just like in a written letter, your email must open with a greeting. This means that I expect your email will address me by name, “Professor Redmond.” There is nothing more annoying than an email that begins, “Hey!”
3. Use standard spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. THERE'S NOTHING WORSE THAN AN EMAIL SCREAMING A MESSAGE IN ALL CAPS. Multiple instances of “!!!” or “???” are perceived as rude or condescending.
4. Read your email aloud before sending it to ensure the tone is that which you desire.
5. When we are engaging in a conversation that continues for several emails—which means that we have volleyed emails back-and-forth—it is okay to remove the formal greeting and closing, but do not become careless by losing your professional tone.

Visit this website for more information about netiquette:

http://www.wbu.edu/academics/online_programs/works/netiquette.htm

Virtual office hours

I will hold virtual office hours through the Blackboard IM Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00pm-5:00pm and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am to 11:00am Central Standard Time. Please keep in mind, as noted previously, that I created discussion forums for certain types of questions. *Instead of emailing me privately about some questions, post to the appropriate discussion forum so that your classmates can help or get help if they are also having trouble.* I will respond to questions with the best of my ability and your classmates are allowed to help as well. Directions for how to download Blackboard IM: On our Blackboard page in the navigation pane (on the left side), you can click on “office hours BB IM,” which will take to a page to download Blackboard IM to your computer.