



The mission of Concord University is to provide quality, liberal arts based education, to foster scholarly and creative activities and to serve the regional community (<http://www.concord.edu/academics/>).

SOC 201 Social Problems

Course CRN #20355 Section 1AS

Semester Taught: Spring 2019

Professor: Stephen Pridgen

Credit Hours: 3

Office Location: Online

Prerequisites: None

Office Hours: Online

Email: spridgen@concord.edu

College/Department Website: <https://www.concord.edu/sws/node/45>

Course Description

Throughout this course we will be using the sociological approach to explore various social problems that we face in the modern world. Sociology provides us with tools of analysis that attempt to define and provide clarity for problems that often get muddled by misinformation and strongly held personal beliefs. The goal of this class is to weigh the data provided to us by social scientists in an effort to improve not only our own lives, but the society in which we all live.

Course Management System: Blackboard

Hardware/Software Needed: PC access with internet capabilities

Text requirements:

Treviño, Javier. 2018. Investigating Social Problems, 2nd edition. ISBN# 978-1506348506

Concord University Educational Goals:

1. Skill 1: Effective inter-communication skills and literacy adapted as needed for the demands of various kinds of discourse.
2. Skill 2: An ability to employ appropriate observational, logical, analytical, computational, creative, and critical thinking skills within and across disciplines; and to apply these skills in problem-solving
3. Knowledge 1: An ability to discern the reciprocal influences of environments, cultural beliefs and attitudes, and societal institutions and practices.
4. Attitudes 1: Habitual reflection on ethical/moral implications of actions when weighing decisions and evaluating outcomes.
5. Attitudes 3: Respectful attentiveness to differing perspectives and willingness to engage in dialogue across differences in order to seek mutual understanding and equitable conflict resolution.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Foster critical thinking and informed decisions about social issues, especially through the examination of messages.
2. Introduce you to the sociological examination of social problems as a scientific field of study.
3. Provide an understanding of social problems in general, including their definition, construction, presentation, major arguments, relevant claimsmakers, and strategies for change.
4. Examine particular social problems using sociological theory and a sociological imagination.
5. Help you come up with ways to use this information in the future, be it in other sociology courses or in everyday life.

Course Expectations

A) Communication

Check the course website and your Concord University email address frequently. Do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached via email (listed above) or through the Blackboard course management system. You may send me messages in either format – I will do my best to respond within 24 hours through the week.

B) Course Work

All assessment (quizzes, assignments, and final exam) must be completed **BEFORE** the due date and time. Make-up work will **ONLY** be available to students with excused absences (see Make-Up Work Policy). If you have any problems with the course website, contact the IT Help Desk at 304-384-5291 or cuhelpdesk@concord.edu. Computer problems are **NOT** an acceptable excuse for missing an assessment, so I suggest you complete each one as early as possible.

Make-Up Work Policy

Due to the online format of the course and the availability of materials, make-up work will only be accepted in limited circumstances. If you are in a situation where you are unable to complete work for 3 days or more AND you are able to submit acceptable documentation, contact me to discuss possible accommodations. For an absence to be considered “excused,” allowing you the chance to make up the work, you must meet the following conditions:

- Your absence is due to illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (ie: field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays or participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (ie: jury duty or subpoena) will also be excused. Other reasons may also be approved, please talk to me directly.
- You can provide appropriate documentation. Remember that as an employee of Concord University, I am bound by federal FERPA regulations regarding the disclosure of any of your personal information.
- You contacted me before your absence if possible and *no later* than 24 hours after your absence.

If your absence is excused, it is your responsibility to complete the missed work within one week of your absence.

C) Cheating

No cheating. This includes – but is not limited to – plagiarism (the use of any work from books, articles, other students, the Internet, or other sources that are incorrectly cited). The majority of all written assignments/discussions must be your own original content and written in your own words. If you have questions about citations, plagiarism, or cheating, please ask me. All of your work will be scanned by TurnItIn and checked by the instructor.

Course Content

A) Details about Modules

- Modules open on Mondays at 8am.
- Quizzes and original discussion posts are due on Wednesdays at 11:59pm.
- Assignments and responses to others’ posts are due Friday at 11:59pm.
- Modules will close on Saturdays at 11:59pm and must be completed in order. They will only be available for the week listed on the syllabus. Modules will not be made available early.

B) Grade Calculation

14 Quizzes (lowest dropped)	20 points each	= 260 points
14 Discussion Posts	10 points each	= 140 points
10 Assignments (lowest dropped)	20 points each	= 180 points
1 Final Exam	50 points	= 50 points
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Total Points Possible		= 630 points

There will be NO extra credit available in this class. The total number of points earned will determine the final letter grade according to the grading scale below.

C) Grading Scale

<i>Total Points</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Total Points</i>	<i>Grade</i>
567-630	A	378-459	D
523-566	B	Less than 378	F
460-522	C		

D) Quizzes - Due Wednesdays

There will be one quiz per module, each worth 20 points. You will have 30 minutes to complete 10 multiple choice questions. Quizzes will cover the assigned readings for the week (usually one chapter from the textbook and any other information covered in the module). Quizzes are due on Wednesdays (even if there is a holiday on Monday) and can only be taken once. Quizzes completed after the due date/time will receive a non-negotiable 5-point deduction for being late and cannot be taken after 24 hours past the due date. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

E) Discussion Posts - Original post due Wednesdays, Responses due Fridays

Each module will have a discussion question, worth 10 points each. You will be given a prompt and will need to respond to the question with an original post (minimum 200 words). Usually, discussion questions will ask for your personal reaction, a critique, or an example of a particular concept. In order to facilitate discussion among our class, you will also need to post a shorter response to one of your classmates' posts (minimum 50 words). Detailed directions about the format of your responses will be available with each question (general guidelines, along with the grading rubric for discussion posts, are available on the course homepage). Original posts are due Wednesdays and responses are due Fridays.

E) Assignments - Due Fridays

There will be a total of 10 assignments, each worth 20 points. Assignments will focus on the application of the sociological concepts we are learning. These assignments will help you develop your research and analytical skills; you will often need to use outside sources. Each assignment will have detailed directions and they will always have a **minimum word count requirement of 500 words. Include a word count in the paper heading.** The lowest assignment grade will be dropped. You will be given a text box, I suggest you write your assignment in another program and then copy and paste into the box. Your formatting will not be retained after you copy and paste – do not worry about double spacing or indents, just make sure it is clear where your paragraphs end. Assignments will not be accepted via email. Late assignments will receive a non-negotiable 10-point deduction and will not be accepted after 24 hours past the deadline.

F) Final Exam

Final Exam Opens: Monday, May 6 at 8:00am
Final Exam Due: Monday, May 6 by 11:59pm

The final exam will contain 50 multiple choice questions and be worth a total of 50 points. It will contain a mix of new material and comprehensive questions. The exam must be completed **BEFORE** the date and time listed above. Make-up tests will **ONLY** be available to students with emergency excused absences.

University Policies

Accessibility/Accommodations

Concord University is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please inform your instructor at the beginning of the class semester if you have a disability and are requesting accommodations. It is your responsibility to self-disclose that you are requesting accommodations. The University and instructor will provide you with a reasonable accommodation. You should register with CU's Disability Services Office, located in the Athens campus Jerry and Jean Beasley Student Center, Bottom Floor, across from the Campus Post Office. The

Disability Services Office phone is 304-384-6086 or you can email the Director, Nancy Ellison, at nellison@concord.edu for assistance.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is morally unacceptable as well as destructive to the learning and teaching atmosphere. Academic dishonesty includes the giving or receiving of improper help on examinations or assignments, falsifying documents, and plagiarism (the act of stealing and using, as one's own, the ideas or the expression of the ideas of another). Such dishonesty can lead to a variety of penalties — including but not limited to failure of assignment, failure of course, loss of institutional privileges, or dismissal from the University. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

Concord University Honor Code

A Concord University Honor Code was approved by students, staff, faculty, administration, and the CU Board of Governors. The Code states:

"As a member of the Concord University Community I will act with honesty and integrity in accordance with our fundamental principles and I will respect myself and others while challenging them to do the same."

The Honor Code is intended to unite the Concord community behind a culture of honesty, integrity, and civility.

Class/Online Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is part of a student's academic obligation at Concord. Irregular attendance may affect academic performance adversely and is detrimental to the atmosphere of a class. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

Emergency Alert System

In an effort to increase safety and security on our campus, Concord University encourages everyone to register for instant text message alerts. Alerts will only be used for security and safety notices. All students, faculty, and staff are eligible to receive text message alerts on their cell phones or email alerts. Please contact the IT Help Desk for further assistance (304-384-5291).

Emergency Information

Emergency/courtesy telephones are located at the main entrance of each residence hall and at various other locations on campus. Emergency telephones can be identified by the flashing blue light and will provide the user with a direct link to Public Safety at the press of a button. To report an on-campus emergency, call 304-384-5357 or 911. The Office of Public Safety is located on the bottom floor of the Rahall Technology Center. For further emergency information go to:

<http://www.concord.edu/administration/office-public-safety>.

Inclement Weather Policy

As a general policy, the University will remain in normal operations during adverse weather conditions. In the event of severe weather conditions, the following may occur:

University Closure

No students or employees are to report.

Classes Cancelled

Students do NOT report BUT employees are expected to report to work at their normal time.

Operating on an Inclement Weather Delay

Under this schedule, all 8 a.m. classes will start at 10 a.m. Students and faculty will follow the Inclement Weather Schedule. (See <http://www.concord.edu/emergency-alerts> for Athens/Beckley Inclement Weather Schedules.)

**Announcements invoking the late schedule or other options referenced above are aired on area radio and television stations and are sent as text and email messages to those enrolled for this service.*

Student Conduct

In classrooms, online, laboratories, and during any activities that are part of course requirements, students are expected to observe reasonable rules of conduct.

Sexual Harassment & Assault

Federal law, Title IX, and Concord University policy prohibits discrimination, harassment, and violence based on sex and gender (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, and retaliation). If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can receive confidential counseling support through the Concord University Counseling Center (304-384-5290). Alleged Violations can be reported non-confidentially to the Concord University Title IX Coordinator at 304-384-6327 or titleix@concord.edu. Reports to Campus Security can be made at (304-384-5357). As an employee at Concord University, I am a mandatory reporter which means I must report any sexual misconduct I am made aware of. This includes verbal or written (such as in an assignment) disclosures of sexual harassment or sexual assault.

Technology Services

Contact the CU Help Desk at extension 5291 from campus or 304-384-5291 off campus. You may also e-mail cuhelpdesk@concord.edu.

Syllabus Disclaimer

This syllabus represents our current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.

Tentative Course Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Module Topic/Reading</u>	<u>Assignments(Due)</u>	<u>Assessments(Due)</u>
Jan 14-Jan18	Ch.1 - Sociology and Social Problems Introduction to Course		Quiz 1(Fri) Discussion 1(Fri)
Jan 22-Jan25 (Jan 21 No Classes – All due dates remain the same)	Ch.2 - Poverty and Class Inequality	Assignment 1(Fri)	Quiz 2(Wed) Discussion 2(Fri)
Jan 28-Feb 1	Ch. 3 - Race and Ethnicity	Assignment 2(Fri)	Quiz 3(Wed) Discussion 3(Fri)
Feb 4-Feb 8	Ch. 4 - Gender	Assignment 3(Fri)	Quiz 4(Wed) Discussion 4(Fri)
Feb 11-Feb 15	Ch. 5 - Sexualities	Assignment 4(Fri)	Quiz 5(Wed) Discussion 5(Fri)
Feb 18-Feb 22	Ch. 6 - Aging	Assignment 5(Fri)	Quiz 6(Wed) Discussion 6(Fri)
Feb 25-Mar 1	Ch. 7 - Education		Quiz 7(Wed) Discussion 7(Fri)
Mar 4-Mar 8	Ch. 8 - Media	Assignment 6(Fri)	Quiz 8(Wed) Discussion 8(Fri)
Mar 11-Mar 15	--Spring Break - Nothing Due--		
Mar 18-Mar 22	Ch. 10 - Work and the Economy	Assignment 7(Fri)	Quiz 9(Wed) Discussion 9(Fri)
Mar 25-Mar 29	Ch. 11 - Crime	Assignment 8(Fri)	Quiz 10(Wed) Discussion 10(Fri)
Apr 1-Apr 5	Ch. 12 - Drugs	Assignment 9(Fri)	Quiz 11(Wed) Discussion 11(Fri)
Apr 8-Apr 12	Ch. 13 - Health	Assignment 10(Fri)	Quiz 12(Wed) Discussion 12(Fri)
Apr 15-Apr 19	Ch. 17 - The Environment		Quiz 13(Wed) Discussion 13(Fri)
Apr 22-Apr 26	Ch. 18 - Science and Technology		Quiz 14(Wed) Discussion 14(Fri)
Apr 29-May 3	Study Time/Reading Days		
May 6	Final Exam		