



Class time: Monday, Wednesday 2.00 – 3.15pm
Location: Culpin Room
Name of Faculty: Professor Mari Plikuhn
Contact details: plikuhn@evansville.edu

Office hours: Monday and Tuesday 5.00 – 5.30pm
and by appointment in the Visiting Faculty Office

Course Description

SOCIOLOGY 230: Social Problems in The Modern World (3)

This course focuses on major social, economic, political, and environmental issues confronting the modern world, both globally and in the US.

Credit Hour Policy Statement

This course meets the federal requirements of 15 in-class hours plus an expected 30 hours of out-of-class work per credit hour. You are expected to attend each scheduled course period for the entire assigned time; class begins on time and I do not let class out early. However, the time you spend in class is only a portion on your expected time commitment. For every hour you spend in class, it is expected that you will spend two hours outside of class in preparing for or critically examining the course material and content. This includes: readings, working on assignments, and preparing for quizzes and exams. This expectation of time is the standard for all 3-credit courses at the University of Evansville (Harlaxton College). Please consider this time commitment when budgeting your time across the semester.

General Education Objective

This course meets the General Education requirements for:
Outcome 9: Understanding the core concept of society, human behaviour and civic understanding.

Learning Objectives and Goals

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- 1) identify and describe the major social, cultural, economic, political, and environmental issues confronting the modern world
- 2) examine the foundations and contexts of these social issues
- 3) critically evaluate potential solutions to these social issues

Further Information about the Course

Class Discussion: Sociology is a discipline covering many interesting topics that can often lead to lively discussion. You do not always have to agree, but please remember to be courteous and respectful of other students and other ideas and opinions. Disrespect will not be tolerated; those unable to remain respectful will be asked to leave the discussion and will be considered absent for that class period.

Electronic Devices: Please make sure to turn off and leave in your bag all cell phones, smart phones, Bluetooth, and all other electronic or noise-making devices before entering class. They are disruptive to your fellow classmates. If your cell phone rings during class, you will be counted absent during that class period and will not receive attendance credit. Also, please refrain from bringing tablets or laptops to class.



Schedule of topics

Date	Chapter Assignment	Due
M 13 Jan	Welcome to SOC 230! Sociology and You	
W 15 Jan	Chapter 1: Thinking about Social Problems	Quiz 1
M 20 Jan		
W 22 Jan	Chapter 6: Economic Inequality, Wealth, & Poverty	Quiz 2
M 27 Jan		
W 29 Jan	Chapter 7: Work and Unemployment	Quiz 3
M 3 Feb		
W 5 Feb	Chapter 2: Physical & Mental Health & Health Care	Quiz 4
M 10 Feb		Homelessness Paper
W 12 Feb	TEST 1 - Chapters 1, 6, 7, and 2	
M 17 Feb	Chapter 3: Alcohol and Other Drugs	Quiz 5
W 19 Feb		
M 24 Feb	Chapter 5: Family Problems	Quiz 6
W 26 Feb		
28 Feb-9 Mar	<i>Midterm Break- No Class</i>	
M 10 Mar	Chapter 10: Gender Inequality	Quiz 7
W 12 Mar		
M 17 Mar	Chapter 11: Sexual Orientation & Struggle for Equality	Quiz 8
W 19 Mar		
M 24 Mar	TEST 2 - Chapters 3, 5, 10, and 11	
W 26 Mar	Chapter 9: Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration	Quiz 9
M 31 Mar		
W 2 Apr	Chapter 8: Problems in Education	Quiz 10
M 7 Apr		
W 9 Apr	Chapter 14: Science and Technology	Quiz 11
M 14 Apr		
W 16 Apr	SOCIAL PROBLEMS GROUP PRESENTATIONS	Social Problems Paper
M 21 Apr	SOCIAL PROBLEMS GROUP PRESENTATIONS	
W 23 Apr	TEST 3 - Chapters 9, 8, and 14 TBD	



Teaching Methods

Key Text:

Mooney, Linda, Molly Clever, and Marieke Van Willigen. 2022. *Understanding Social Problems*, 11th Edition. Boston, MA: Cengage. ISBN: 978-0357507421.

Other Class Materials:

1. Handouts where applicable
2. Course management website through the University of Evansville (Harlaxton College)- Blackboard

Teaching Methods:

Extensive, detailed, interactive lectures and frequent, engaged discussion

Detailed Information on and Schedule of Assignments and Examinations

Homelessness Paper: You will write a 1,000-1,200 word paper on homelessness, based on either an experiential activity we will do as a class or an independent synthesis of current research. You will be given a detailed handout explaining what is required for the paper at the start of the semester. Papers are due by the start of class **via Blackboard Turnitin**; papers submitted late will lose 10 points for each day they are late (including after the start of class on the due date). This paper is worth 40 points, or 8% of your final grade.

Social Problems Group Paper and Presentation: At the start of the semester, you will be assigned to a group based on topic preference. Together, your group will write a 1,300-1,500 word research paper on a specific social problem or issue, synthesizing current research to provide an overview of your group's chosen topic. Once your group selects a specific topic for the paper, you will have it approved, and collect and condense article abstracts under consideration for the paper. This paper will include common themes found in the research on the chosen social problem, historic trends and current directions of the social problem, and cross-cultural comparisons. You will meet with your group outside of class time to discuss the topic together, write your paper, and prepare a 9-11-minute presentation on your topic. A more detailed project handout will be given out when groups are assigned. The paper is due by the start of class **via Blackboard Turnitin**. Papers turned in late will lose 15 points for each day they are late (including after the start of class on the due date). Presentation dates are listed on the course outline and will be randomly assigned to the groups. The social problem group paper and presentation is worth 70 points, or over 14% of your final grade.

Examinations: There are three multiple-choice and short-answer exams given in this course, each of which is worth 100 points. The dates of each exam are provided on the course outline. Late exams will be given without penalty **ONLY** in the event of a documented emergency, in which case, a make-up test will be given. These tests are similar to, although not necessarily identical to, the regular exam. Make-up exams will be scheduled by appointment only for times other than the regular class period. If you miss a test, you will lose 10 points from the test score per day (including the day of the test) that the test is not taken. For example, if you take the test after our class time on the day of the test, you will lose 10 points; the day after the scheduled exam, you will lose 20 points, etc. If the missed test is not taken before the next test, the missed test will automatically receive a grade of zero. Students with tests receiving a score less than 70% (70 out of 100) will meet with me during office hours by appointment to discuss ways of improving future test scores.



Assessment and Grading Criteria

Quizzes – 9 x 10 points each	90 points
Homelessness Paper – 50 points	40 points
Social Problems Group Paper/Presentation – 70 points	70 points
<u>Exams – 3 x 100 points each</u>	<u>300 points</u>
Total Possible Points	500 points

	A	=	500 - 448		
B+	=	447 - 438		B	= 437 - 398
C+	=	397 - 388		C	= 387 - 348
D+	=	347 - 338		D	= 337 - 298
	F	=	297 or less		

Attendance Policy

Harlaxton College operates a mandatory attendance policy that is binding on all faculty and students.

Because of the amount of material covered, it is in your best interest to attend all classes. Much of the material covered in class is not found in the text but will be on the test. Attendance will daily record your presence. The number of unexcused absences that are allowed before incurring a penalty is related to the number of times a class meets during a week. This means that for this course, which meets twice a week, students are allowed a **maximum of two unexcused absences** during the semester without attracting penalty points. Additional unexcused absences will attract a grade penalty *per absence*.

A sign-in sheet will record your attendance for each class; if you forget to sign in, you will be counted absent for that class. Please make sure that you sign the attendance sheet every class.

Tardiness is unprofessional and disruptive to your fellow classmates. If you are more than 5 minutes late for class, you will be considered absent and not be allowed to sign the attendance, take your reading check, or take your exam. Leaving class early is equally disruptive, so please avoid it.

Extra Credit, Incompletes, Drop/Add, and Withdrawal Policies

There will be **no** opportunities for extra credit, regardless of your current grade. Please study accordingly to achieve the grade you desire. Incompletes will not be given except under extraordinary circumstances.

There is normally about a 10-day period at the beginning of semester what a student may drop and class and/or add a class. The deadline date is published in the Semester Guidance handbook. Drop/Add forms are available from the library and completed forms should be returned to the same place. Faculty signatures are required for all classes being added.

Students may withdraw from a class, with the exception of British Studies, for a longer period of time. It is the responsibility of the student to be aware of the final date to withdraw from the course and still receive a "W" on the transcript. Again the deadline date is published in the Semester Guidance handbook. Forms are available from the College Secretary, to whom completed forms should be returned. Forms must be signed by the faculty member of the class being withdrawn from and the Principal.

All students must register for, and be continuously enrolled in, 12 credit hours of study to be eligible to study at Harlaxton and remain in the United Kingdom.



Disability Policy

It is the policy of the University of Evansville (Harlaxton College) to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. University of Evansville students should contact the Office of Counselling and Health Education to seek help with this. Students from Partner Universities/Colleges should contact their own relevant student support office. For assistance whilst at Harlaxton students should contact the College Secretary whose office is located adjacent to the Principal's office.

Written notification to faculty from the College Secretary is required for academic accommodations to be implemented.

Honour Code

Academic dishonesty of any sort will not be tolerated. This includes: working together on reflection papers, projects, movie Q&A papers, or exams; copying another's work on exams or papers; having another student/person take your exam, write your papers/projects/responses; submitting your work that previously has been submitted for another course; plagiarism (please see the handout on our course Blackboard site "Avoiding Plagiarism" for a more detailed description of defining and avoiding plagiarism); and all other forms of cheating. If you are unsure, ask me first. Per our Academic Policies and Procedures: "Ignorance is not accepted as a valid excuse for a violation of the Academic Honor Code."

Artificial intelligence (AI) language models, such as ChatGPT, and online assignment help tools, such as Chegg®, are examples of online learning support platforms; they **cannot** be used for course assignments.

The following actions are prohibited in this course:

- Submitting all or any part of an assignment statement to any online learning support platform;
- Incorporating any part of an AI generated response in an assignment;
- Using AI to brainstorm, formulate arguments, or template ideas for assignments;
- Using AI to summarize or contextualize source materials;
- Submitting your own work for this class to an online learning support platform for iteration or improvement.

As a condition of taking this course, all papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity and AI content review to Turnitin.com. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database. Any student caught violating the Academic Honor Code in any way will be given a zero on that assignment, reflection, or exam and their actions will be reported to their Advisor(s) and the Dean of Students. If this violation is the first offense reported to the Dean of Students, you may be allowed to informally resolve the incident. If it is the second Honor Code violation reported to the Dean (from any class), your actions will result in a hearing before the Honor Council and may include greater penalties. If it is the third Honor Code violation, you will be expelled from the University. Please be aware: there are several resources on campus for help on assignments, papers, and studying for exams, including coming to office hours and talking to me! Do not fail an assignment or class because you did not utilize these resources. As in all University of Evansville courses, we will abide by, and commit to, the Academic Honor Code.

I understand that any work which I submit for course credit will imply that I have adhered to this Academic Honor Code: "I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid nor will I tolerate an environment which condones the use of unauthorized aid."

For more detailed information, please see the University of Evansville Academic Honour Code at: <https://www.evansville.edu/offices/deanstudents/downloads/honorcode.pdf>