



## SOC 230- Social Problems in the Modern World – Spring 2025

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Instructor	Dr. Mari Plikuhn (she/her)
E-mail	mp168@evansville.edu
Course Meeting Days and Time	Monday and Wednesday, 2.00-3.15
Office Hours and Location	Tuesdays 4.00-5.00 & by appointment; Visiting Faculty Office

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### Catalog Description:

This course focuses on major social, economic, political, and environmental issues confronting the modern world, both globally and in the US. (3 credits)

*This course meets the General Education requirements for:*

*Outcome 9: Understanding the core concept of society, human behaviour and civic understanding.*

### Credit Hour Policy Statement:

“This class meets the federal credit hour policy of 1 hour of class with an expected 2 hours of additional student work outside of class each week for approximately 15 weeks for each hour of credit, or a total of 45-75 total hours for each credit.”

### Course Learning Objectives:

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

### Mode and Methods of Instruction:

Course meets in-person with extensive, detailed, interactive lectures and frequent, engaged discussion

### Textbook and Required Materials:

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

### Non-Discrimination Statement:

The University of Evansville expects all members of its community to treat each other with respect and civility. Harassing behaviors directed towards any member of our community will not be tolerated. As part of its commitment to non-discrimination, the University specifically prohibits harassment based on any other characteristics set forth in its nondiscrimination statement as follows: including race, color, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, creed or religion, national origin, age, disability, veteran status and all federally protected groups/classes. Any form of harassment undermines the mission of the University and negatively impacts the University community as a whole.

# HARLAXTON



**Course Schedule:**

Class	Topic and Assigned Readings	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		<b>Homelessness Paper</b>
W 12 Feb	<b>TEST 1 - Chapters 1, 6, 7, and 2</b>	
M 17 Feb	Chapter 3: Alcohol and Other Drugs	
W 19 Feb		
M 24 Feb	Chapter 5: Family Problems	
W 26 Feb		
28 Feb-9 Mar	<i>Midterm Break- No Class</i>	
M 10 Mar	Chapter 10: Gender Inequality	
W 12 Mar		
M 17 Mar	Chapter 11: Sexual Orientation & Struggle for Equality	Quiz 8
W 19 Mar		
M 24 Mar	<b>TEST 2 - Chapters 3, 5, 10, and 11</b>	
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	<b>SOCIAL PROBLEMS GROUP PRESENTATIONS</b>	<b>Social Problems Paper</b>
M 21 Apr	<b>SOCIAL PROBLEMS GROUP PRESENTATIONS</b>	
W 23 Apr	<b>TEST 3 - Chapters 9, 8, and 14 TBD</b>	

**Grading Information:**

Reading Quizzes: There will be 12 reading quizzes throughout the semester, one for each chapter we cover. You should read each chapter prior to the class we begin that chapter. Quizzes will be at the start of class on the first day of each chapter; quiz dates are listed on the course outline. Each quiz will consist of 10 multiple-choice and short-answer questions over the chapter and will be worth 10 points total. If



you do not attend a class that has a reading quiz, you will not be allowed to make it up. Your three lowest reading quiz scores will be dropped for your final grade. Quizzes are worth 90 points total, or 18% of your final grade.

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.

Grading:

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		

### Extra Credit, Incompletes, and Withdrawal:

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. 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. This date is readily available on the University of Evansville academic calendar.

### Withdrawal and Attendance Policies:

Harlaxton College expects regular class attendance by all students. Students are considered sufficiently mature to appreciate the necessity of regular and punctual attendance, to accept this personal responsibility and to accept the consequences of failure to attend. When absences occur due to emergency or medical reasons, students are expected to notify their instructors of the absence prior to class or to seek the assistance of the College nurse or a member of the Student Experience Team for help in notifying instructors.

Instructors have the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons upon review of appropriate documentation and professional recommendation supporting such a request. In the event of long-term illness, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow a student to complete a course. In these cases, the Dean will need to approve the long term nature of the accommodation.

The Dean of Harlaxton College has the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons.

Each instructor is expected to maintain an attendance policy in keeping with the nature of the Harlaxton program and may consider it in evaluating performance in their courses.

### Policy Governing Unexcused Absences:

Harlaxton College operates an attendance policy that is binding on all faculty and students. The number of unexcused absences that are allowed before incurring a penalty is related to the number of times a class meets each week. For courses meeting twice a week two such absences are permitted. Additional unexcused absences will attract a grade penalty of a full-letter grade deduction (A to B).

### Policy Governing Excused Absences.

- Excused absences are not given to facilitate student travel independent of College-sponsored travel.
- Students may be permitted to miss class because of participation in academic field trips.
- Instructors must co-ordinate and confirm academic fieldtrips with the Dean, prior to the commencement of the Semester to ensure their inclusion in the Semester timetable.
- Where authorization for an academic fieldtrip is requested after the commencement of the semester, the request must be submitted to the Dean.



If approval is granted:

- Instructors affected will be notified at least one week prior to the class period during which absence is anticipated, or as soon as possible.
- Missed class time due to student participation is to be considered an excused absence.
- The grade of a student may not be lowered in any class due to excused absences.
- It is the student's responsibility - to take the initiative by consulting with their instructors before the absence occurs, and - to do what is required by the instructor to make up all missed assignments and/or examinations.
- Instructors are required to assist students in these occasional situations of excused absences.

### Honor Code:

Academic dishonesty of any sort will not be tolerated. This includes: working together on reading response papers, projects, 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.

Work generated by such tools without proper attribution is plagiarism and, thereby, a breach of the University's Plagiarism and Academic Honesty policy.

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 at Harlaxton and your home campus. Please be aware: there are several resources 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."**



### **Readings and Course Content:**

You will be responsible for reading each chapter. The chapters are approximately 30-40 pages; the average amount of time a college student needs to spend on reading assignments of this length for true understanding is 3-4 hours *per chapter*. You may find it helpful to make an outline of the chapter, write down key concepts and definitions, and flag or highlight any important theories, people, or themes to make test-taking more effective. The content needed for quizzes, discussions, and the exams will all come from these chapters, so it is in your best interest to know the text well and to keep up-to-date on the reading assignments.

### **Disability Policy:**

It is the policy and practice of the University of Evansville to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Students should contact Disability Services within the Office of Counseling Services by calling 812-488-2663 to seek services or accommodations for disabilities. Written notification to faculty from Disability Services is required for academic accommodations.

The University of Evansville Disability Services office will share the request for academic accommodations with the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College. Staff members at Harlaxton will meet individually with students to discuss needs and provide additional information related to examinations or other assessments. Students from partner institutions should provide the appropriate letter of accommodation from their institution to the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College.



### **Institutional Equity and Title IX:**

The University of Evansville is committed to fostering an atmosphere free from harassment and discrimination. This commitment includes identifying problems that may lead to sexual harassment and misconduct, as well as other forms of harassment and discrimination, by creating an atmosphere in which the entire University community is sensitive to preventing prohibited conduct. Additionally, the University is committed to providing support and resources to individuals who have experienced prohibited conduct. This commitment includes effectively responding when a student, visitor, guest or program participant is the victim of prohibited conduct.

All campus employees, students, and guests are required to abide by the Title IX and Other Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy, the Harassment and Discrimination Policy, and the Consensual Sexual or Romantic Relationships Between Employees and Students Policy. Violation of these policies could result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion for students and termination for employees.

Faculty members at the University of Evansville are considered “Responsible Employees” under the applicable federal guidelines and the University’s policies. This means that I am unable to offer you confidentiality if you report any incidence of prohibited conduct to me as defined by Title IX statute. If I am made aware of a violation, I am required to report any known information to the Office of Institutional Equity.

You may choose to report the violation yourself the following ways:

Email: · Annie Sills, Assistant Director of Institutional Equity and Title IX Coordinator:

[cs175@evansville.edu](mailto:cs175@evansville.edu) ·

Keith Gehlhausen, Executive Director of HR and Institutional Equity: [kg77@evansville.edu](mailto:kg77@evansville.edu) ·

Title IX: [titleix@evansville.edu](mailto:titleix@evansville.edu)

Phone: 812-288-5261

Online: <https://www.evansville.edu/safety/report.cfm>

You may also choose to speak with a Confidential Resource. Confidential Resources are required to maintain confidentiality and cannot report violations to the Office of Institutional Equity:

### **University of Evansville**

- Counseling Services: [counselingservices@evansville.edu](mailto:counselingservices@evansville.edu), 812-488-2633
- Health Center Professionals: [healthcenter@evansville.edu](mailto:healthcenter@evansville.edu), 812-488-2033
- University Chaplain: [chaplain@evansville.edu](mailto:chaplain@evansville.edu), 812-488-5262

### **Harlaxton College**

- College Nurse: Lesley Selby, RGN, +44 01476 403027, [l.selby@harlaxton.ac.uk](mailto:l.selby@harlaxton.ac.uk)
- Counselling Services: [counselling@harlaxton.ac.uk](mailto:counselling@harlaxton.ac.uk)