



**DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION**

**COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2016**

**SO 1020 (A2/VC) – SOCIAL PROBLEMS 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hrs.**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Andriko Lozowy, Ph.D      **PHONE:** 780.539.2011  
**OFFICE:** C410      **E-MAIL:** alozowy@gprc.ab.ca

**OFFICE HOURS:** 11:30-1pm Tuesday and Thursday; by appointment; drop-ins welcome

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE(S):** Sociology 1000

**REQUIRED TEXT(S)/RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

2016. Chun, Wendy H.K. *Updating to Remain the Same*. MIT Press, Massachusetts.

2014. Crawford, Matthew B. *The World Beyond Your Head: On Becoming an Individual in an Age of Distraction*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, N.Y.

Supplemental materials to be delivered in class.

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** *Social Problems* analyzes the construction and creation of social problems. The analysis looks at concepts, assumptions, ideologies, politics, and perceptions of social problems.

**CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS:** 3 credits / 3 hours per week

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** lectures, class discussion, group work, class presentations, written tests, written projects

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Acquire a critical sociological understanding of how social problems become perceived as such, or how they cease to be understood as problematic. Become critically familiar with social practices in society. Become conceptually familiar with sociological theories that attempt

to explain the construction of reality. Learn the meanings of ideology, social cohesion, conflict, discourse, social stratification, hegemony, and other concepts that help us consider *social problems*.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Utilize different sociological interpretations of a range of social experience. Develop thinking, talking and writing on particular theories used by sociologists to explain social problems.

**TRANSFERABILITY:** UA, UC, AU, UL, AF, CU, CUC, GMU, KU

**Grade** of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions.

**GRADING CRITERIA:** Please note that Universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**. This means **DO NOT GET LESS THAN “C-” IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO TRANSFER TO UNIVERSITY.**

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE			
GRADING CONVERSION CHART			
Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A <sup>+</sup>	4.0	95 – 100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	85 – 94	
A <sup>-</sup>	3.7	80 – 84	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B <sup>+</sup>	3.3	76 – 79	
B	3.0	73 – 75	GOOD
B <sup>-</sup>	2.7	70 – 72	
C <sup>+</sup>	2.3	67 – 69	SATISFACTORY
C	2.0	63 – 66	
C <sup>-</sup>	1.7	60 – 62	
D <sup>+</sup>	1.3	55 – 59	MINIMAL PASS
D	1.0	50 – 54	
F	0.0	0 – 49	FAIL
WF	0.0	0	FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline

## **EVALUATIONS:**

- 10% Lead class discussion and engage in conversations
- 30% 1SecondEveryday or written notes, or a writing project over time. (Your Choice + 1000 Critical Analysis of what you learned about the process)
- 30% Midterm Written Exam
- 30% Final Exam - Written

Early in the semester you will sign up to be a discussion leader for a topic of your interest. You will prepare at least three thought-provoking questions that we can use for class discussion. The quality of our class discussions will depend on your discussion points that nicely summarize and reflect the assigned readings (as well as previous readings, class lectures and class discussions).

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

### **ATTENDANCE AND EXAM POLICIES:**

Attendance at lectures is strongly encouraged, as is your participation in class discussions.

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a student's learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating to the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). *Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course.*

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes by asking fellow students for the material covered, and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and / or notes that may be due.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

A missed exam or course component won't be accommodated *unless* the situation is an unexpected personal or family emergency, and unless you can provide documentation.

### **STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:**

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Admission Guide at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at [www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/\\*\\*](http://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/**)

\*\*Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE - Fall 2016:**

Week 1 – Aug 29 –  
Week 2 – Sep 5 – (Sept 5, Labour Day, No Class)  
Week 3 – Sep 12 –  
Week 4 – Sep 19 -  
Week 5 – Sep 26 –  
Week 6 – Oct 3 -  
Week 7 – Oct 10 – (Oct 10, Thanksgiving, No Class)  
Week 8 – Oct 17 –  
Week 9 – Oct 24 –  
Week 10 – Oct 31 –  
Week 11 – Nov 7 – (Nov 10 & 11, No Class)  
Week 12 – Nov 14 –  
Week 13 – Nov 21 –  
Week 14 – Nov 28 –  
Week 15 – Dec 5 – (Dec 5, Last Day of Class)

### **Please Note:**

Date and time allotted to each topic is subject to change. It is your responsibility as a student to contact the Office of the Registrar to complete the forms for Withdrawal or Change of Registration, and any other forms. Please refer to the list of important dates as noted in the Academic Schedule in the GPRC Credit Calendar.

### **Performance Requirements**

#### *Grade Description & Notification:*

All efforts will be made to return graded assignments promptly. Final papers/projects/exams will not be returned and will be kept by the University Studies. If you complete an assignment (i.e., present, hand in a paper), you cannot—after the fact—claim that extenuating circumstances affected your work and request a grade adjustment. If you are having difficulty with an assignment or there are serious extenuating circumstances affecting your work, please speak with me as soon as possible. You may not come and ask me to raise your grade because you need a certain GPA for a certain program, or any other such reason. If you would like me to re-consider a grade, during the term only, you must present me with logical, carefully thought out reasons for this re-consideration. I reserve the right to lower grades if I am asked to re-mark something. Once the term is over, you must go through the correct appeals procedure. This is listed online in the College Calendar.

At the end of the term, I reserve the right to raise the final grade of a student whose overall performance in the class merits more than the numerical calculations suggest. I will only reconsider grades if you present a logical and coherent argument. If you come to me and just ask for a higher grade, I reserve the right to lower your grade. Here are some examples of “arguments” that will result in a grade reduction:

1. The statement: “I think my paper deserves a better grade” without accompanying logical justification.

2. Because you need to get into an MBA program, or graduate school, or medicine, or you need to maintain a scholarship. Or, quite simply, you have to graduate. If any of these things apply, then you should be thinking about them from the first week of class, and working appropriately.
3. Because you think you worked harder than your classmate, whose grade was better than yours.
4. "My grade is just half a point away from the next grade point..."

## **Academic Misconduct**

Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person's work as one's own
- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating)
- Collusion or the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work
- The deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications
- The willful distortion of results or data
- Substitution in an examination by another person
- Handing in the same unchanged work as submitted for another assignment
- Breach of confidentiality.

The consequences for academic misconduct range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from the College. More specific descriptions and details are found in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct section of the GPRC credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct Policies.

## **Specialized Supports**

### **Counselling and Disability Services**

Counselling Services provides a wide range of specialized counselling services to prospective and registered students, including personal, career and academic counselling.

### **Students with Disabilities**

It is the College's goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on a disability, please let your instructor know immediately so options can be discussed. You are also welcome to contact Accessibility Services to establish reasonable accommodations. <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/services/accessibility/>

### **Learning Support Centre**

The Learning Support Centre is accessible through the Library at the Main campus of GPRC, where students can gather to share ideas, collaborate on projects and get new perspectives on learning from our tutorial staff.

The Learning Support Centre, through a variety of delivery methods, provides assistance in skill development to GPRC students. Assistance is provided by instructors, staff and student tutors. Individuals wishing to improve their mathematics, writing, grammar, study, or other skills, can take advantage of this unique service.

### **Submission & Late Policies:**

It is very important to complete your assignments on time. Late and/or incomplete assignments will receive a grade of 0%, unless you have a valid reason supported with appropriate documentation (i.e., medical note from an M.D.) and you discuss it with me. If you have the flu and can't get the assignment done, don't wait until a week after the paper is due to tell me you need an extension.

*A grade of C- is required for progression or transfer.*

***For written and take home assignments – you will be penalized -20%/day up to the maximum of -100% = a ZERO. No Exceptions.***

### **Email**

Please be considerate when using email to communicate with your instructor.

- Questions are best addressed in person – following class, or during office hours.
- Email is a poor substitute for actual instructor/student conversations.
- If you are implored to send an email you need to include the course number and your full name (as you are known by the college) in the subject heading. ***If you do not include the course number and your name in the subject line I will not respond.***

### **Professional Conduct**

- Please be aware that I respect that everyone's time is precious and valuable, please afford me the same courtesy.
- Instead of preoccupying your mind with the question – “how do I get an ‘A’?” Instead, ask yourself how can I work to expand my knowledge, perspective and outlook on the world?