

# CRITICAL THINKING ABOUT SOCIAL PROBLEMS

100% Asynchronous and Online

(Pre-recorded lecture videos on Canvas and optional individual Zoom meetings)



**Instructor:** Thien-Huong Ninh, Ph.D.

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

**Canvas Inbox:** the best method to contact me

**Email:** thien-huong.ninh@reedleycollege.edu

**Response time:** Usually between 24-48 hours but not during non-working hours, including weekends & holidays. Please contact me again if I do not respond within 72 hours.

**Office Hours:** Tues/Thurs 7-7:30 am (use Zoom link on Canvas)

## Course Description

This course will discuss contemporary social problems in society. The course reviews various

explanation of causes, consequences and possible solutions for contemporary sociological issues

using theoretical perspectives. The course applies critical thinking skills using inductive and

deductive reasoning to analyze and discuss the issues while

strengthening social awareness.

ADVISORIES: Sociology 1A and English 1A or 1AH. (A, CSU) (C-ID SOCI 115)

## Course Learning Objectives

- *Demonstrate an understanding of the major social problems concerning the United States.*
- *Place local, regional, and national social problems in a global context.*
- *Identify and distinguish between causes and consequences of social problems.*
- *Analyze social problems using sociological approaches and concepts.*
- *Analyze and interpret qualitative and quantitative information about social problems.*
- *Identify and evaluate policies that address social problems and assess the policies' impact on society.*

## Course Student Learning Outcomes

- SOC-1B SLO1: Identify, define and apply the elements of critical thinking.
- SOC-1B SLO2: Evaluate social problems from both a macrosociological and a microsociological perspective, and discuss which perspective is most useful under different conditions.
- SOC-1B SLO3: Support a position regarding a social problem using a logical argument and evidence.

## **Required Materials**

- **Free (woohoo!!!) ebook:** *Social Problems: Continuity and Change*: <http://open.lib.umn.edu/socialproblems/>
- Another optional (not required), printed textbook for purchase: James M. Henslin, 2014 (11/E), *Social Problems* (New York: Pearson).
- Additional materials on CANVAS
- **Wifi-Connected Computer Access:** It is utmost important that you check Canvas and your college emails **regularly — at least 1-3 times per week** — for announcements, updates, and course assignments. (Make sure that you receive alerts or messages from Canvas by setting this up in your Canvas profile.) Your computer should be able to access the following applications & software:
  - Current browser with flash
  - Microsoft Office suite
  - PDF reader
  - Media player

## **Canvas and Online Learning Technology:**

This course uses a Web-based Learning Management System Canvas as the method to disseminate information. The course is completely online using Canvas; all coursework (discussions, assignments, quizzes) is submitted online. There are no face-to-face meetings although Zoom is used for optional video meetings.

### **Need Tech Help? Support for Canvas and online learning technology:**

#### **1. Technology Help**

- Information is on this website:  
<https://www.reedleycollege.edu/campus-life/technology-help.html>

#### **2. Canvas Student Guides**

- Instructure, the developer of Canvas, has created a wonderful guide that will help students learn to navigate within the learning management system.

#### **3. Additional Learning Resources**

○ If you're new to Canvas or need some additional learning resources on how to work with Canvas, please consider enrolling in the [Online Learning: Self Assessment Course](#). This course is designed for novices and includes the self-assessment tool and an introductory tutorial. It ends with the link to the second course, which is for students interested in [learning how to become better online learners](#), whether they are new or experienced.

### **Assessment**

The following course requirements are designed to achieve the learning objectives of the class:

Weekly Assignments	11 weeks x 1-2 assignments per week x 30-60 points per assignments (assignments may be different formats, such as quizzes, discussions, etc.)	420
Exam 1	20 questions (each worth 3 points). Covers everything since the first day of class.	60
Exam 2	20 questions (each worth 3 points). Covers everything since Exam 1.	60
Exam 3	20 questions (each worth 3 points). Covers everything since Exam 2.	60
Exam 4	20 questions (each worth 3 points). Cumulative.	60
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>650</b>

#### **Extra Credit:**

- **Student Lounge** (up to 30 points)

### **Grading Scale**

<i>A</i>	100 %	to 90.0%
<i>B</i>	< 90.0 %	to 80.0%
<i>C</i>	< 80.0 %	to 70.0%
<i>D</i>	< 70.0 %	to 60.0%
<i>F</i>	< 60.0 %	to 0.0%

## **Teaching Philosophy**

### ***Critical Thinking & Active Learning***

Please participate often and regularly in the class. In addition to the required readings, there will be in-depth discussions and class activities throughout our class. We will engage with our course materials critically and constructively. There will be many debates and intellectual discussions, but petty arguments and discriminatory or derogatory remarks will not be tolerated.

### ***Rights & Responsibilities***

This is a college course, and I treat you as an adult. Please be respectful of the instructor and your classmates.

Our course will discuss a number of issues which may be controversial and sensitive to some. It is also my utmost priority to ensure that you are comfortable and feel safe in expressing, sharing, and relating your ideas and opinions to others - inside and outside of the classroom. At the same time, I expect you to treat other students and myself courteously and professionally, even if you do not share similar perspectives.

If you have specific pronouns that you prefer to be called by (he, she, they, them, etc.), please let me know.

Engaging in discussions about potentially sensitive subjects in a professional manner is an important life and career skill, and we will learn and practice it in our class. Remember, humility, empathy, respect, and opening yourself to the possibility of being changed are essential for lifelong learning and teaching.

If you ever feel uncomfortable or have any concerns, please contact me as soon as possible.

## **Special Accommodations**

Reedley College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all individuals with disabilities. The syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request.

Students requiring accommodations for a certified disability that may affect class performance are requested to schedule an appointment with me during the first week of the semester. You can also meet with a staff member at Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) so those appropriate arrangements can be made. DSPS can be reached:

REGULARLY SCHEDULED HOURS: Monday – Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm

CONTACT:

Phone: 559-494-3032

Fax: 800-624-1499 TTY: 559-638-0382

Location: DSP&S Building Campus Map Reedley College

Attn: DSP&S

995 N. Reed Ave Reedley, CA 93654

## **Course Policies**

**1. Adding/Dropping/Withdrawing:** I may drop you from the course if you do not complete Week 1 due item(s). I may drop you if you are at risk of failing the class.

In general, you are responsible for adding/dropping/withdrawing yourself from the course. Please reference the registrar's calendar for deadlines.

**2. Identity Authentication and Academic Honesty:** Authenticating student identity will be conducted through the use of the Learning Management System, CANVAS. CANVAS requires each student to log into the program using a secure login and password to access.

You are responsible for submitting your own work. Cheating and plagiarism are **not** tolerated. Engaging in academic dishonesty will result in failure in the course and possibly additional penalties, including expulsion. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the College's Academic Policies.

**3. Assignments and Deadlines.** Please reference assignments on Canvas for details about deadlines for each assignment.

The deadlines for all assignments are **firm**.

Assignment make-ups and extensions are only considered under extenuating circumstances with supporting documentation (e.g. doctor's notes). Please contact me within 3 days of missing the assignment.

### **4. Grades and Regrading.**

If you would like me to re-grade any of your assignments, please send me a message via Canvas Inbox within 7 days (1 week) in which the grades are posted on Canvas. Regrading requests after this 7-day window may not be considered.

**5. Proof of Submission.** For all graded work, it is your responsibility to keep proof of submission (e.g. an image capture of your submitted work). If you submitted an assignment on the online course site, it is your responsibility to make sure that it was appropriately and successfully submitted (you can do this by taking a screenshot of confirmation of submission, check to make sure that the submitted file is openable in PDF and/or Word, etc.). Please do not ask me about it.

*You can also immediately email yourself the assignment after you submitted it online so that you have another proof of submission and it is time stamped.*

Absolutely no credit for an "attempt" of submission without actual submission of the assignment (e.g. the submitted file cannot be opened, the wrong file was uploaded, you tried to submit the assignment but your computer crashed, etc.). ***If I cannot open your assignment on CANVAS, you will receive a zero (0) — no exceptions.***

### **6. Regular Effective Instructor Contact**

Regular and Effective Instructor Contact will be met through instructor initiated threaded discussion forums; weekly announcements to students; timely and effective feedback on student assignments; email, phone or messaging to individuals; and office hours.

Before contacting instructor about your questions, please make sure to do the following:

- check the course syllabus
- check online course announcements & emails from the instructor
- ask a classmate

### **7. Netiquette and Online Participation**

1. We will use respectful and appropriate language in all discussions and communications. We do not use texting abbreviations and we use complete sentences. We use a person's name when we reply to their posts.
1. Emoticons are an acceptable way to show emotion.
2. We avoid CAPS as they come across like YOU'RE YELLING (unless you're using them to highlight something or as subheadings)
3. We read all Discussion posts.
4. We respond to the appropriate number of Discussion posts with thoughtful comments.
5. We understand our messages are public and comment accordingly.

**8. No Recordings without My Permission.** This includes no photography, video, and audio recordings of any kind of our class, whether online or in our face-to-face meetings. This is to ensure that our classroom, online and in-person, is safe for productive learning and discussions.

*The course syllabus and schedule are subject to change based on the needs of the class. If there were to be any changes to the course syllabus or schedule due to unforeseen circumstances, they are **only** made and confirmed after they've been announced on Canvas or sent out by emails to all students in the course. Please take responsibility for any changes made.*