**Sociology 1020**  
**Course Syllabus**

### Course Information

| Course Description: | SOCI 1020—Social Problems - 3 semester hours.  
This course is a study of the contemporary social problems in American society. Emphasis is on crime, drugs, mental health, healthcare, poverty, gender, minority issues and education.  
3 hours lecture. RODP Equivalent Course - SOCI 1020 |
|---|---|

### Learning Outcomes:

**Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:**

- Recognize, describe and explain how social institutions in a diverse society influence social problems and their impact on individuals, families, and societies.
- Think critically about how individuals and society are influenced by political, geographical, economic, cultural, media, governments, and family institutions.
- Explore the relationship between the individual and society as it affects the personal behavior, social development, and quality of life.
- Examine the impact of behavioral and social scientific research on defining contemporary social issues and social problems.
- Use the most appropriate principles, methods and technologies perceptively and objectively gather, analyze, and present social and behavioral science research data, draw logical conclusions from social scientific research, and apply those conclusions to one’s life and society.
- Analyze and communicate the values and processes that are used to formulate theories in regard to social problems.
- Identify and explain the 8 assertions that constitute a social problem.

### Prerequisites:

Writing competencies 1 and 2: Reading competencies 1 and 2

### Course Topics:

The course defines what makes issues social problems and then explores them in depth and uses the sociological theories to make application of them.

Key areas addressed are: poverty, racial and ethnic inequality, gender inequality, crime, alcohol and drugs, physical and mental health, family life, and education.

Team debates will be over decriminalization of illegal drugs; socialized medicine; and public school choice.

### Specific Course Requirements:

Material is presented through the required reading from the textbook, power point presentations, topic debates, videos, and a paper on a social problem which provides an opportunity to apply text and course material and learning.

Students will be required to research a social problem and write a paper on that topic.

APA format is required.

Students are required to participate in class discussions and the debates, as well as do a presentation to the class on a social problem.

A computer with internet access is necessary. Computers with internet access are available for use in the Learning Resource Center (LRC) to all DSCC students.

### Textbooks, Supplementary Materials, Hardware and Software Requirements

## Supplementary Materials:

**Electronic Text and Resources:**
With the purchase of a new text, you will have access to Course-Mate which provides resources to assist in your learning and success in the course.

## Software Requirements:

**Microsoft Office** to have access to WORD to type papers and Power Point to develop and utilize power point slides.
Access to a computer program to make a table/chart(s) for data within your research paper.
Internet access for YouTube links.
Sufficient computer memory to access and utilize the Desire To Learn (D2L) course shell.

## Instructor Information

**Instructor Name:** Julie L. Griggs, M.S.

**Instructor Contact Information:** It is best to contact me by email via D2L course shell. If for some reason the system in not working, I may also be reached at griggs@dsc.edu Phone number is (731) 855-1419.

To access your instructor’s information online:
Visit [www.dssc.edu](http://www.dssc.edu)
1. Click Current Students on the top navigation bar.
2. Click Faculty Profile link located on the left-hand navigation bar.
3. Choose your instructor’s name from the drop-down list.
4. Click the Submit button.

**Office Hours/Virtual Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays. 9 -10 a.m. and 1 – 3 p.m.
Additional office hours by appointment.

To access your instructor’s information online:
Visit [www.dssc.edu](http://www.dssc.edu)
1. Click Current Students on the top navigation bar.
2. Click Faculty Profile link located on the left-hand navigation bar.
3. Choose your instructor’s name from the drop-down list.
4. Click the Submit button.

**Instructor Response Time:** I will make every attempt to respond to course email within 24 or 36 hours during the work week, though it may not be possible in all cases. I will notify you when I will not be able to meet the stated response time.

## Assessment and Grading

**Testing Procedures:** Exams may include multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and/or essay questions.

**Grading Procedures:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three (3) exams – each worth 100 points</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Research Paper is worth 100 points</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Power Point social research project presentation</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Issue Debates</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance (5 points/class attendance)</td>
<td>125</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total points</strong></td>
<td>625</td>
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Extra credit options may also become available as well.
### Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>562 - 625</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>500 - 561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>437 - 499</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>375 - 436</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 375 points</td>
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### Assignments and Participation

Students are responsible for reading each chapter and reviewing each power point presentation in the content section of this course. Not all chapters will be covered in class in their entirety; however students are responsible for obtaining the information via chapter readings and power points. Instructor is always available for any clarification needed.

Details regarding social research paper, individual social research presentations, and social issue debates will also be provided in the content section of this course.

ALWAYS feel free and you are highly encouraged to contact your instructor with any questions, concerns, and/or suggestions.

### Assignments and Projects:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Chapters</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Chapter 1: Sociological perspective and research process</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Chapter 2: Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Chapter 3: Socialization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Chapter 4: Social structure and interaction in everyday life</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Exam I</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Chapter 5: Groups and organizations</td>
</tr>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Chapter 6: Deviance and Crime</td>
</tr>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Chapter 7: Class and stratification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Chapter 9: Race and ethnicity</td>
</tr>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Chapter 10: Sex and gender</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Exam II</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Chapter 11: Families</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td><strong>SOCIAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE!!!!!</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Chapter 12: Education</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Individual Social Research Power Point Presentations</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Chapter 13: Religion</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Individual Social Research Power Point Presentations</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Chapter 14: Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Exam III</td>
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**Punctuality:**
Students are expected to be on time and remain in class the entire class period.

**Attendance Policy:**
View the DSCC Attendance Policy at [http://www.dscc.edu/attendance_policy/](http://www.dscc.edu/attendance_policy/).

**Class Participation:**
Students are expected to ACTIVELY participate in class discussions, debates, etc. Questions and clarifications are always welcome and encouraged.

**Course Ground Rules**

**General:**
1. Participation is required
2. Communication with other students will be respectful and professional.
3. Learn how to navigate within the course management system
4. Keep abreast of course announcements
5. Use the assigned college email address as opposed to a personal email address
6. Address technical problems immediately
7. Observe proper and professional etiquette when addressing fellow students and instructor(s).

**Email:**
1. Always include a subject line.
2. Remember that without facial expressions some comments may be taken the wrong way. Be careful in wording your emails. Use of emoticons might be helpful in some cases.
3. Use standard fonts.
4. Do not send large attachments without permission.
5. Special formatting such as centering, audio messages, tables, html, etc., should be avoided unless necessary to complete an assignment or other communication.
6. Respect the privacy of other class members.

**Web Resources:**
*Course mate will have an entire list of resources for research.*

**Other Important Information**

**Library Resources**
For the DSCC library or help desk visit [www.dscc.edu/lrc](http://www.dscc.edu/lrc).

To ask a question about books, interlibrary loans or other LRC information, call the LRC at 731-286-3361.

For the Tennessee Virtual Library go to [www.tn.regentsdegrees.org](http://www.tn.regentsdegrees.org) and click on TBR Virtual Library.

**Reporting Fraud, Waste, or Abuse**
| **Technical Assistance/Help Desk:** | For technical assistance, contact the DSCC Help Desk. 
Dyersburg Campus - (731) 288-7780  
Jimmy Naifeh Center (JNC) - (901) 475-3177  
Gibson County Center (GCC) - (731) 855-1419  
Visit the Help Desk on the web at [www.dssc.edu/helpdesk](http://www.dssc.edu/helpdesk) for tutorials and other how to guides.  
You may also contact the Help Desk by email at [helpdesk@dssc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@dssc.edu). |
| **Students With Disabilities:** | Dyersburg State Community College is committed to providing a discrimination free environment for all students. Students with disabilities are encouraged to inform the College of any assistance they may need. Please notify the ADA Coordinator at (731) 286-3242. |
| **Syllabus Changes:** | From time to time during the semester, it may be necessary to make changes to the material in the course syllabus. Any necessary changes to the course syllabus will be sent to you by email and posted within the online course material. |
| **Server Outage Disclaimer:** | The server on which DSCC’s web supported/online courses are hosted will be occasionally unavailable due to upgrades and/or maintenance. Regularly scheduled outages will occur during the early morning hours of the second Sunday and third Tuesday of each month. There may also be unplanned downtime due to failures of one kind or another. Because the server is not located at DSCC, the College cannot directly correct these situations. You will need to contact your instructor(s) directly to make accommodations should an unplanned outage prevent you from submitting an assignment. |
| **Safety / Security** | Dyersburg State makes crime statistic information available to the public through the Annual Security Report. This report can be found at [www.dssc.edu/security](http://www.dssc.edu/security).  
DSCC has an emergency preparedness plan and periodically conducts tests of this plan. To sign up for emergency notifications, Login to Rave at [https://www.getrave.com/login/DSCC](https://www.getrave.com/login/DSCC) and add your contact information. Notice: Standard carrier message and data rates may apply. |
| **Implementation date approved by Instructional Council:** | Fall 2012 |