**SOCY 2031: Social Problems**

**Monday through Friday 9:15 a.m.-10:50 a.m. Economics (ECON) 119**

**Summer A 2016 Course Syllabus**

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**Office Hours**: Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and by appointment

Welcome to Sociology 2031, Social Problems! Our summer version of this course will fly by *very* quickly, but along the way we are going to learn a great deal about the social construction of “social problems” and have a lot of fun while doing so. Like most other classes, the main keys to success will be attending class every day, completing all of the assigned readings, and coming in with an open mind that is prepared to learn.

**Required Texts/Materials:**

Best, Joel. 2012. *Social Problems. 2nd edition.* W.W. Norton Publishers. ISBN: 0393918637.

**Available for rental on Amazon and from the CU bookstore. You MUST use the most recent, 2nd edition of the text.**

**Desire2Learn (D2L):**

We will be using D2L for nearly all aspects of this class. I will use D2L on a frequent basis to post announcements, documents, and important information, thus all students will be expected to check our course site on a daily basis to remain informed and aware of this content. For access, go to https://learn.colorado.edu/. You should automatically be granted access to the D2L component of the class if you are officially enrolled in the course. If you have problems with D2L, please see: http://oit.colorado.edu/d2l and/or contact Information Technology Services (ITS) at (303) 735-HELP or help@colorado.edu.

You can find news posts, announcements, readings, project information, daily reading quizzes, and an electronic copy of the syllabus on D2L. I will also use D2L to post all written feedback. Unless otherwise indicated, and you will need to turn in all class assignments via D2L’s Dropbox.

***\*All assignment files uploaded to D2L MUST be in a compatible .doc or .pdf file extension. Please be aware that other file types (e.g., .pages files created on Macs) tend to be incompatible with D2L and I will not accept late work based on submitting an incompatible file type.***

**Readings:**

The vast majority of the class readings will come from our required textbook, *Social Problems, Second Edition.* Any reading listed in the schedule that is not from the textbook can be found in the D2L content browser in .pdf format or via an internet link. **Each day’s readings must be completed prior to class, which means you will actually be doing the readings for each class the day before they are listed on the syllabus.** Unless, of course, you wake up at 5 a.m. each morning to complete the reading.

For example Chapter 2 (pgs. 48-63) in the textbook is listed under Friday, June 3. We will be discussing the topics from these readings in class that day. Therefore, you will need to read pgs. 48-63 on Thursday, June 2 so that you can come to class that Friday ready to discuss the material presented in the second half of Chapter 2.

**Grading and Assessment:** Your overall grade will be based on daily attendance and participation, short daily reading quizzes, several individual projects, and two exams, (see below for more detail):

***Exams: 30% of final grade***

***D2L Reading Quizzes: 25% of final grade***

***Projects: 25% of final grade***

***Daily Attendance: 10% of final grade***

***Participation: 10% of final grade***

***Two Exams: 30% (15% each)***

Two exams will be given in-class during the semester; one on Wed. June 15, and the second on Fri. July 1. The first exam will cover the first half of the course materials, and the second exam will cover only the second half of the course materials. Each exam will pose approximately 50 multiple choice and true/false questions, and you will be given 75 minutes during the class period to complete the exam. More detailed information about these exams will be made available prior to the exam date.

***D2L Reading Quizzes: 25%***

On most days prior to class, you will be required to take a short reading quiz on D2L that will cover general reading comprehension from previous days’ readings, with approximately 8-12 true/false or multiple choice questions. All reading quizzes must be completed prior to 9:00 a.m. on the day they are due, with NO EXCEPTION. ***YOU ONLY HAVE TO COMPLETE 8 OF THE 10 QUIZZES FOR FULL CREDIT, i.e. YOUR TWO LOWEST QUIZ GRADES WILL BE DROPPED.***

***Projects: 25%***

Throughout the semester, each student will conduct several small projects related to the course materials and readings. Most of the projects will require a written component, and the satisfactory completion and submission of these written components will be worth one quarter of your final grade. **Most of these projects will be completed in-class on Fridays, and thus you will be required to bring your computer to class on Fridays.** More detailed information and instructions for each project will be made available in class and in the D2L Content Browser under the title “Project Guidelines and Instructions”.

***Daily Attendance: 10%***

Due to the relatively small size of our class, I feel strongly that consistent attendance by each of us will be integral to the learning environment that is created in our classroom. **Class attendance will be taken daily. Each student will be permitted to miss two classes without incurring a penalty.** The two allowed misses may account for things like appointments, meetings, sleeping in too late, etc. Otherwise, an excused absence must relate to one of the following circumstances: A) major health emergencies with official documentation; B) jury duty, court appearances, or other documented legal proceedings; or C) university-sanctioned events for which students are excused at the institutional level (such as NCAA-sanctioned athletic competitions). After the two allowed absences, you will incur a deduction worth 20% of the value of your participation grade, equal to 2% of your overall final grade. For example, if you miss five or more days beyond the two that are not penalized, your overall final grade will incur a 10 point overall deduction.

***Participation: 10%***

Each day, we will conduct conversations as a class and in small groups, view films and/or presentations, and conduct online research and activities. Your participation in all of our classroom activities is mandatory and your satisfactory compliance with this requirement is worth ten percent of your final grade. Students will be penalized in their participation grade for such infractions such as sleeping in class, using cell phones for unofficial reasons, arriving late to class, and failing to consistently engage in the class in a participatory manner.

**Classroom Expectations/ Learning Environment**

* ***Laptops/tablets/web-enabled mobile devices are not permitted to be used unless specifically being used for a project***. That said, please make sure that you bring such a device every day and have it handy for when we conduct in-class research or projects that will necessitate internet access. IF I OBSERVE YOU USING YOUR CELL PHONE IN CLASS FOR AN UNOFFICIAL PURPOSE, I WILL DOCK YOUR DAILY PARTICIPATION GRADE.
* ***There will be NO EXCEPTIONS for late work unless you have a gravely serious, valid reason such as ending up in the hospital or being abducted by aliens. Because we only have less than five weeks to complete this course, I will not be able to bend this rule unless your circumstances are extreme, according to my judgement.***
* You are expected to bring your copy of the text to class each day.
* We will begin class on time each day and use the entire class period to discuss material, review lecture slides, and participate in activities. Arriving late or leaving early affects the learning environment of the class as a whole and doing so will be reflected in your participation grade. If you consistently show up late to class, please do not come to me with protestations at the end of the term when your participation grade is lower than you expected.
* Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated on any level. ***Please know that a plagiarism detection tool will be used to review all of your written assignments for originality*.**  For definitions and University regulations regarding academic dishonesty, familiarize yourself with—and adhere to—the University Honor Code: [www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode](http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode) and the University’s Policy on Classroom Behavior: [www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html).

**Discrimination and Harassment**

The University of Colorado policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment within the university setting based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the OIEC, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at http://hr.colorado.edu/dh/Pages/default.aspx

The CU-Boulder Office of Victim Assistance (OVA) offers free confidential information, support, advocacy, and short-term counseling to students at CU, including their significant others.  OVA is a separate office, not connected to the police department.  The OVA primarily focuses on situations involvingtraumatic events, including, but not limited to physical assault and hazing, bias motivated incidents, death, discrimination and harassment including sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, serious accidents, sexual assault, and stalking. If you are experiencing trauma or psychological/emotional difficulty of any type, I highly recommend reaching out to the OVA at 303-492-8855, or visit them in person at C4C S440 on the fourth floor. Their website can be found at <http://cuvictimassistance.com>

**Disabilities/Accommodations**

If you qualify for accommodations due to disability, please let me know during the first two days of class. It is your responsibility to contact Disability Services and obtain documentation. The Disability Services Office is in Willard 322 and can be contacted at (303) 492-8671 or through http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices.

**Daily Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Assignments**

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| **Day** | **Topic and Readings/Projects** | **Assignments Due** |
| **Tuesday May 31**  **Introduction** | 1. N/A |  |
| **Wednesday June 1** | **The Social Problems Process**   1. Chapter 1 (pgs. 3-28) |  |
| **Thursday June 2** | **Claims**   1. Chapter 2 (pgs. 29-47) | **Reading Quiz 1 due by 9:00 a.m. on D2L** |
| **Friday June 3** | **Claims**   1. Chapter 2 (pgs. 48-63) | **In-Class Project 1** |
| **Monday June 6** | **Activists as Claimsmakers**   1. Chapter 3 (pgs. 64-80; read to “Opportunity Structures) | **Reading Quiz 2 due by 9:00 a.m. on D2L** |
| **Tuesday June 7** | **Activists as Claimsmakers**   1. Chapter 3 (pgs. 80-95) 2. In-Class Activities online |  |
| **Wednesday June 8** | **Experts as Claimsmakers**   1. Chapter 4 (pgs. 96-112; read to “Evidence, Interests, and Advocacy) 2. In-Class Activities Online | **Reading Quiz 3 due by 9:00 a.m.** |
| **Thursday June 9** | **Experts as Claimsmakers**   1. Chapter 4 (pgs. 112-126) |  |
| **Friday June 10** | **Claimsmaking Review**   1. Luker, “Babies Having Babies” **\*** 2. Best, “Random Violence”**\*** | **1. Reading Quiz 4 due by 9:00 a.m.**  **2. In-Class Project 2** |
| **Monday June 13**  **\*\*NO CLASS MEETING THIS DAY\*\*** | **The Media and Claims**   1. Chapter 5 (pgs. 127-144; read to “The Dominance of Landmark Narratives”) | **Reading Quiz 5 due by 9:00 a.m.** |
| **Tuesday June 14** | **The Media and Claims**   1. Chapter 5 (144-159) |  |
| **Wednesday June 15** | **EXAM 1 IN-CLASS** | **Reading Quiz 6 due by 9:00 a.m.** |
| **Thursday June 16** | **Public Reaction**   1. Chapter 6 (all pages) |  |
| **Friday June 17** | **Policymaking**   1. Chapter 7 (all pages) | 1. **Reading Quiz 7 due by 9:00 a.m.** 2. **In-Class Project 3** |
| **Monday June 20** | **Social Problems Work**   1. Chapter 8 (all pages) | **Reading Quiz 8 due by 9:00 a.m.** |
| **Tuesday June 21** | **Policy Outcomes**   1. Chapter 9 (all pages) |  |
| **Wednesday June 22** | **Claims across Space and Time**   1. Chapter 10 (all pages) | **Reading Quiz 9 due by 9:00 a.m.** |
| **Thursday June 23** | **The Uses of the Constructionist Stance**   1. Chapter 11 (all pages) |  |
| **Friday June 24** | **Review Day** | 1. **Reading Quiz 10 due by 9:00 a.m.** 2. **In-Class Project 4** |
| **Monday June 27** | **In-Depth Case Study: Immigration**   1. Pew Hispanic Center Chapter 1 2. Pew Hispanic Center Chapter 4 |  |
| **Tuesday June 28** | **In-Depth Case Study: Immigration**   1. FAIR 2. AFSC 3. Other org. of your choosing |  |
| **Wednesday June 29** | **In-Depth Case Study: Transgender Rights**   1. Time Magazine May 2015 2. #KeepNCSafe 3. EqualityNC.org 4. Other org. of your choosing |  |
| **Thursday June 30** | **In-Depth Case Study: Cannabis in Colorado**   1. NORML Colorado 2. Drug Policy Alliance 3. Other org. of your choosing |  |
| **Friday July 1** | **EXAM 2 IN-CLASS** |  |

**\*I reserve the right to modify the above syllabus and schedule during our course, so it is each student’s responsibility to remain aware of any announcements in class, on Twitter, and/or posted on D2L regarding changes.**

**CLASSMATES’ CONTACT INFO:**

**NAME EMAIL/PHONE**

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