Textbook and/or Resource Material
There are no required textbooks for this course. All readings will be made available on Blackboard for no additional cost.

We will be using the iClicker student response system in class this term. Be sure to bring your iClicker each day. The iClicker will be used for daily quizzes, polls, and review questions.

You should purchase the following model:
Title: iClicker2 student remote
Author: iClicker
Copyright: 2018
ISBN: 978148603041
Cost to buy: $53.99; rental options available
This is NOT an open educational resource

The mobile application, REEF Polling by iClicker will not be allowed. You must use the iClicker remote.

How to register:
To receive credit for the responses you submit with iClicker, you must register your iClicker. You must do so by September 5. Students who register after this time will not receive credit for previous quizzes.

Special instructions for Polling by iClicker
To create a REEF Polling by iClicker account, visit app.reef-education.com or download the app for iOS. Creating an account automatically starts a free 14-day trial subscription. You can add your iClicker to your REEF account by following the prompt on your screen.

Be sure to select UTRGV and the appropriate course and appropriate section.

Once you create your REEF Polling account, be sure that you've added your Student ID to your profile to complete the registration process.

Cheating
I consider bringing a fellow student’s iClicker to class to be cheating and an act of scholastic dishonesty. If you are caught with a remote other than your own or have votes in a class that you did not attend, you will forfeit all clicker points and may face additional disciplinary action (see page 5 of the syllabus).

Classroom Laptop Policy
The use of laptops or other electronic devices, with the exception of your iClicker remote, is not permitted unless otherwise stated by the professor.

Course Description and Prerequisites
This course surveys different approaches to the study of social problems and social trends in contemporary American society. The course features a comparative analysis of social problems across historical periods, nations, and social groups by gender, race/ethnicity, social class, and culture. The course emphasizes research issues and
findings, especially how and to what degree the understanding of social problems is a direct result of the inductive processes used to define social problems and the research methods and procedures used to investigate them.

**Learning Objectives/Outcomes for the Course**
The general objective of the course is to give students a broad overview of contemporary American social problems. More specifically, the course is designed to give students some understanding of how social problems come to be defined in the larger society and how sociologists and related social scientists conceptualize and study social problems; to provide students with an overview of the latest knowledge of the extent, causes, consequences and responses to social problems sufficient for a better understanding of current events as described daily and weekly in the print and electronic media; and to give students some appreciation of the life cycle of public attention to social problems.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Program Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Standards</th>
<th>Major Course Requirement/Major Assignment/Examination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Understanding how social scientists study social problems</td>
<td>Better understanding of society</td>
<td>Participation and accuracy of answers</td>
<td>iClicker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding of current events in the print and electronic media</td>
<td>Better understanding of current events</td>
<td>Accurate summary; thoughtful interpretation</td>
<td>Term Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding of the subjective understanding and life cycle of a social problem</td>
<td>Possession of sociological theories and methods</td>
<td>Correct/Incorrect</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of causes, extent, and consequences of social problems</td>
<td>Critical engagement with the social world</td>
<td>Correct/Incorrect</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Learning Objectives for Core Curriculum Requirements**
This course is not part of the Core Curriculum.

**Grading Policies**
iClicker (40%)
Final Paper (20%)
Midterm (20%)
Final (20%)

iClicker
Each class will start with a short quiz that you will take with your iClicker. Be sure you arrive on time. The quizzes will cover material from previous lectures or the readings to be discussed that day. No notes will be permitted during this time.

Throughout the class, you will also use your iClicker remote to respond to poll questions, opinion questions, and review questions.

You must be physically present in the room to answer iClicker questions.

The points are a running total, and I will drop the lowest 10% of your responses. Students will receive one additional point per class if 100% of questions are answered.

There are no makeups for missed iClicker questions.
Final Paper
Detailed instructions will be distributed in October. Students will be expected to compare a peer-reviewed journal article with an article from a popular news magazine on their choice of course topics.

Exams
There will be both a midterm and final exam. The final will be given in class during the university designated time. The questions will be a combination of defining/understanding terms, short answer and essay questions.

The exam will be closed book and a computer is not permitted. There are no make-up exams. If you are absent, this absence must be officially excused and communicated as soon as possible.

Any form of cheating or communication with other students during an exam will result in a 0 on the exam for everyone involved.

Calendar of Activities

Course Schedule (*Subject to change*)

I. Introduction

August 27: Introductions

August 29/September 3: What is a Social Problem?

II. Problems of Deviant Behavior

September 5/10: Alcohol & Other Drugs

September 12/17: Mental Illness

September 19/24/26: Crime & Violence

October 1/3: Sexuality

Final paper assignment distributed

October 8: Catchup/Review

October 10: MIDTERM

III. Problems of Social Inequality and Conflict

October 15/17: Poverty & Affluence

October 22/24: Gender Inequality

October 29: Race & Ethnicity (pt. 1)

October 31: Spooky Sociology-Gender & the Media

November 5: Race & Ethnicity (pt. 2)

IV. Problems of Human Progress & Social Change

November 7/12: Family
November 7: Deadline to get final paper materials approved

November 14/19: Aging

November 21/26: Education

FINAL PAPER DUE November 26

December 3: Catchup and Review (Last day!)

EXAM: December 12 @ 10:15am

The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at https://my.utrgv.edu/home at the bottom of the screen, prior to login. Some important dates for Fall 2019 include:

- August 26: First day of classes
- August 29: Last day to add a course or register for Fall 2019
- September 2: Labor Day Holiday – NO classes
- November 13: Last day to drop a course; will count toward the 6-drop rule
- November 28 - 29: Thanksgiving Holiday – NO classes
- December 5: Study Day – NO classes
- December 6 - 12: Final Exams
- December 13 - 14: Commencement Exercises

Other Course Information

Participation
Every student will be expected to participate in class. This includes active participation in class discussion, in-class writing assignments, regular attendance and professional behavior. Each student will be granted one warning, but further acts of unprofessional behavior will result in a lower overall grade in the course, losing one point for each infraction.

Unprofessional behaviors include:
- showing up to class late or leaving early
- violating classroom laptop policy
- submitting non-original work as your own
- texting or other phone use in class
- disrespecting others (not paying attention, sleeping, interrupting others)
- missing deadlines or coming to class unprepared
- using email inappropriately (see http://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor for tips on how to avoid common errors students make when emailing professors). Read emails before you send them, check the syllabus for policies first, and email me regarding regrading.
- Engaging in other similar unprofessional behavior

Late work: I will not accept late work. Therefore, you need to be certain that you turn in your work on time.

UTRGV’s grading policy is to use straight letter grades (A, B, C, D, or F).

Extra Credit
You will also receive a 2-point bonus to your midterm exam grade for uploading a profile picture to Blackboard by September 10th. This should be a clear picture of your face with no one else included in the picture, similar to your university ID card picture.

Personal Identities
Gender is central to the lives of many students, and not all students go by their legal name or find that the information in the University system does not accurately portray their identity. Please send me an email and let me
know what your preferred name and pronouns are. For example, I prefer to be called Professor Bostic or Dr. Bostic, and my preferred pronouns are her & she.

UTRGV Policy Statements

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time but are not retroactive. Students who experience a broken bone, severe injury, or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services.

Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services for additional information and to request accommodations.

Student Accessibility Services:
Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 1.107 in the Music and Learning Center building (BMSLC) and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center (EUCTR) and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available on or about:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module 1</th>
<th>October 2nd – 8th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module 2</td>
<td>November 27th – December 3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Fall Semester</td>
<td>November 14th – December 4th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ATTENDANCE:
Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:
As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to Student Rights and Responsibilities.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT and MANDATORY REPORTING:
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report to the Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity (oie@utrgv.edu) any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, stalking,
dating violence, domestic violence, and sexual harassment, about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at [www.utrgv.edu/equity](http://www.utrgv.edu/equity), including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct, discrimination, and all forms of violence. If students, faculty, or staff would like confidential assistance, or have questions, they can contact OVAVP (Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention) at 665-8287, 882-8282, or [OVAVP@utrgv.edu](mailto:OVAVP@utrgv.edu).

**COURSE DROPS:**
According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

**STUDENT SERVICES:**
Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email ([ucentral@utrgv.edu](mailto:ucentral@utrgv.edu)) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Advising Center, Career Center, Counseling Center, Learning Center, and Writing Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Center Name</th>
<th>Brownsville Campus</th>
<th>Edinburg Campus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advising Center</td>
<td>BMAIN 1.400</td>
<td>ESWKH 101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:AcademicAdvising@utrgv.edu">AcademicAdvising@utrgv.edu</a></td>
<td>(956) 665-7120</td>
<td>(956) 665-7120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Center</td>
<td>BCRTZ 129</td>
<td>ESSBL 2.101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:CareerCenter@utrgv.edu">CareerCenter@utrgv.edu</a></td>
<td>(956) 882-5627</td>
<td>(956) 665-2243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling Center</td>
<td>EUCTR 109</td>
<td>BSTUN 2.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:Counseling@utrgv.edu">Counseling@utrgv.edu</a></td>
<td>(956) 665-2574</td>
<td>(956) 882-3897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Center</td>
<td>BMSLC 2.118</td>
<td>ELCTR 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:LearningCenter@utrgv.edu">LearningCenter@utrgv.edu</a></td>
<td>(956) 882-8208</td>
<td>(956) 665-2585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Center</td>
<td>BUBLB 3.206</td>
<td>ESTAC 3.119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:WC@utrgv.edu">WC@utrgv.edu</a></td>
<td>(956) 882-7065</td>
<td>(956) 665-2538</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>