

# SOCI 1033 N4: Social Problems

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## Syllabus

### Course Description

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**SOCI 1033 Introductory Sociology: Social Problems** is designed to help you understand the nature of social problems and issues that confront contemporary society. With a particular focus on Canadian society, you will enhance your ability to analyze complex social issues affecting daily living. You will become familiar with how social problems are defined, created and maintained and how they impact on individuals, social groups, and society as a whole. Possible solutions to solve the issues of our time will be reviewed.

### Instructor

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**Welcome** to *SOCI 1033*! My name is Michelle Coleman and I will be your instructor for this course. Let me tell you a little about myself.

My career at Acadia began in 2002 and has included a variety of subjects which reflect my personal experience. Prior to this, I worked extensively in the community focusing on populations such as the homeless, single parents and their children, refugee families, individuals in conflict with the law, survivors of violence and those living in poverty.

I am passionate about the field of criminology, having conducted research on male intimate partner killings in Atlantic Canada, as well as on the history and evolution of the Canadian parole system. As well, I have consulted on rehabilitation programs as they pertain to violent offenders. In addition, I have researched homelessness and have worked with community organizations to improve their capacity and sustainability in serving this population. Research studies to which I have contributed include policing, youth educational and occupational plans and attainments, community wellness, family violence, and the status of women. As a community volunteer and professional, I have sought to "make a difference" through personal involvement.



Contact Information:

Department of Sociology

Acadia University

Wolfville, Nova Scotia

CANADA B4P 2R6

Phone: (902) 585-1863

E-mail: [michelle.coleman@acadiau.ca](mailto:michelle.coleman@acadiau.ca)

### Course Overview

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The course will focus on three general classes of social problems: problems of well-being, problems of human diversity, and problems of inequality and power. Specific issues include crime and violence, alcohol and other drugs, gender inequality, the young and the old, the haves and the have-nots, and family problems. You will explore aspects of social problems that relate to your own lives.

This course also entails an examination of theoretical perspectives that offer explanations for social problems.

The overall course **objectives in SOCI 1033** are:

- To introduce the discipline of sociology and some of its theoretical perspectives used to understand social problems.
- To become acquainted with contemporary social problems facing society and how they affect oneself, social groups and society as a whole.
- To develop analytical skills for critically thinking about social problems from a sociological perspective.

The course objectives will be achieved through a combination of readings, assignments, discussion activities, and a final examination.

## Course Materials

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**Text:**

Holmes, Morgan M. Linda A. Mooney, David Knox, and Caroline Schacht. Understanding Social Problems, 5th Canadian edition, Nelson: Toronto: 2016, ISBN 13: 978-0 17-657524-0

See the [student handbook](#) for ordering information.

**Supplemental Materials:**

Additional readings may be found in certain lessons.

To access Library Articles and Journals from off-campus use [VPN](#) web service link for direct access.

## Evaluation

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**Readings**

Lessons in **SOCI 1033** consist of required readings and an assignment. Lessons are designed to enhance student understanding of key issues and concepts pertaining to social problems. Some of these social problems will be framed within the context of real life people who struggle with social problems.

Upon completing lesson 1, you may do the remaining lessons in any order.

The readings in the course frame contemporary social problems within a distinctly Canadian experience.

Lesson Activities	60%
Final Examination	40%

## Course Schedule

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Click to download the suggested schedule for this course: [SOCI 1033 N4 - Suggested Schedule](#)

Fill in your start date and use the recommended timeline to plan out when you will do readings and assignments. This is a tool to help you time manage this course. If you get off-track, make sure to revisit your schedule and re-evaluate the dates you've set for yourself. This course can be completed quicker or slower than the 19 weeks outlined in the schedule, depending on the amount of time you devote to it.

You have 6 months to complete this course. You may set your own schedule, but you are strongly encouraged to complete an assignment every 3 weeks or so. If you intend to complete the course in less than 3 months, you should let me know. Sometimes students request to do the course in a shorter period of time. This may not be possible. Please do not leave all of your course work until a few weeks before your completion date. Although I will make every effort to accommodate your schedule within reason, I need time to grade assignments and mark exams, and may not be able to do so on short notice.

**Quick Overview: Recommended Schedule**

Week	Lesson	Textbook Reading	Assignment
1-3	Lesson 1: Thinking About Social Problems	Chapter 1	Assignment 1
<b>Lessons 2-7 may be done in any order. You are responsible for all of the lessons.</b>			
4-6	Lesson 2: Alcohol & Other Drugs	Chapter 3	Assignment 2
7-9	Lesson 3: Crime & Violence	Chapter 4	Assignment 3
10-12	Lesson 4: Family Problems	Chapter 5	Assignment 4
11-13	Lesson 5: Youth and Aging	Chapter 6	Assignment 5
14-16	Lesson 6: Gender Inequality	Chapter 7	Assignment 6
17-19	Lesson 7: Poverty: National and International Issues	Chapter 10	Assignment 7
<b>Final Examination</b>			

## Assignments

NOTE: Course work should be submitted on a regular basis. Given the high volume of assignments received at certain points in the year, students are limited to submitting one assignment at a time. This will also help you produce better work as you receive feedback before completing your next assignment.

The assignments entail answering questions based on information contained within the chapters, and may also require observation or reflection on your social world. Answers may include personal responses or experiences. All answers are confidential but it is recommended that you avoid identifying people as this is not necessary to complete work. You will also engage in exercises which encourage critical examination of particular social problems.

Assignments are evaluated based on demonstrated understanding and presentation of work. It should be clear from your work that you understand the concepts, theories, key points and issues that are relevant to each lesson. Answers should reflect knowledge of points made in the reading. The Department of Sociology has come up with some guidelines for marking of assignments which I have included in the introductory section of this course. You may refer to them for more information on grading.

Assignments should range from 2-3 single-spaced pages. If you find you only have one page or less you need to go back to the lesson and add more depth to your answers. If you are writing 4-5 pages you are likely providing more depth than necessary and need to work more on summarizing your points. The exception to this is if you are providing additional material such as images, lyrics or other supplementary material as requested.

When submitting assignments, you will need to include the question you are answering before each answer. You may omit the preamble if there is any. You will also need to number each question as it appears in the assignment. This will also help to focus your answers on the specific points.

References should be included with each assignment. If you using direct quotes or statistics from the text or other sources, be sure to cite the source, including the page number, directly in the body of your work. You may use a format of your choice for citing references but be sure to include complete information so that the source may be located if desired.

Some lessons may require additional information to be submitted or completed. This will be identified in the assignment. With questions that don't pertain directly to the text, keep in mind that these are intended to give you an opportunity to explore issues in more depth. When there is a choice, be careful to make a selection that allows you to make good use of this opportunity. If you choose something you do not know much about or cannot say much about it then this will affect your ability to do well.

I would prefer that you submit assignments electronically via the assignment sections of the course. There will be a box to check off which will notify me when you upload an assignment for grading. Assignments may also be mailed or e-mailed as attachments. For the quickest return of your work, you are encouraged to submit assignments using ACORN or to e-mail them as attachments. Assignments will typically be marked and returned within 7 business days.

Exams are booked by Open Acadia. Before permission is granted to book the exam I am required to verify that all coursework has been submitted.

## Online Discussions

You have the option to participate in an online discussion with others enrolled in the course in Lesson 3. In addition to posting your opinion, you should respond to at least one other participant. If you choose the question with the online discussion, you will need to do additional reading to inform your opinion.

Some important things to remember are to not use insulting or offensive language and to not make personal attacks on others. As well, it is good to show that you have consulted a variety of sources and used them to inform your opinion.

## Final Exam

The final exam in SOCI 1033 will:

- Cover all of the course content.
- Consist of multiple choice questions.
- Be a proctored examination.

## Exam

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How to apply: Complete the [Application for Examination](#)

### Proctored at Acadia

- The final exam in an online course must be passed to successfully pass the course unless otherwise stated in the assessment section of the course syllabus. There are no rewrites or supplemental examinations at Acadia University.
- Examination requests must be received one month prior to the date you wish to write your examination.
- Course requirements must be completed to the satisfaction of your instructor.
- ***Graduating Students Note:*** If you are graduating in Spring Convocation you must write by April 15th. If you are graduating in the Fall you must write by September 15th.

### Proctored at Another Location

If it isn't practical to take your exam at Acadia, off-campus exams can be written at another university or college. Arrangements for an examination may be made through the Registrar's Office or the Continuing Education office of most universities and colleges. If it is not possible to write your exam at an approved institution, please contact us for assistance.

- ***All fees associated with examinations written at other locations are your responsibility.***
- Some courses may require specific software or internet accessibility at the off-campus examination location.

## Student Handbook

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You are responsible for becoming familiar with the contents of the Student Handbook. It contains important information about scheduling examinations (if applicable), applying for extensions, withdrawing from your course, ordering books, and computer and library services available to you. If you have questions about the policies outlined in the [handbook](#), contact:

Open Acadia  
21 University Avenue (Rhodes Hall)  
Wolfville, NS B4P 2R6  
Phone: 1-800-565-6568  
Fax: 902-585-1068  
Email: [openacadia@acadiau.ca](mailto:openacadia@acadiau.ca)

## Academic Integrity

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Academic integrity demands responsible use of the work of other scholars. It is compromised by academic dishonesty such as cheating and plagiarism. A student who is uncertain whether or not a course of action might constitute cheating or plagiarism should seek in advance the advice of the instructor involved.

- Cheating is copying or the use of unauthorized aids or the intentional falsification or invention of information in any academic exercise
- Plagiarism is the act of presenting the ideas or words of another as one's own. Students are required to acknowledge and document the sources of ideas that they use in their written work.
- Self plagiarism is also a form of plagiarism. It is the presentation of the same work in more than one course without the permission of the instructors involved.
- A student who knowingly helps another to commit an act of academic dishonesty is equally guilty.
- Penalties are levied in relation to the degree of the relevant infraction. They range from requiring the student to re-do the piece of work, through failure on that piece of work, to failure in the course, and to dismissal from the university.

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Last modified: Thursday, 22 August 2019, 9:31 PM

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