

SOCI 1033 CIN5: Social Problems

[Dashboard](#) / [Courses](#) / [SOCI 1033 CIN5 Home](#) / [SOCI 1033](#) / [Syllabus - web page](#)

Syllabus - web page

Course Description

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 North American 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 also be reviewed.

Instructor

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 teaching a variety of subjects which reflect my personal experience. Prior to this, I worked extensively in the community focusing on populations struggling with social problems such as the homeless, single parents and their children, immigrants and refugee families, those involved in the justice system, 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. I have worked in a number of branches of the justice system and 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.



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Course Overview

The course will focus on two general classes of social problems: norm violations in social context and problems of social inequality. Specific issues include crime and criminal justice, alcohol and other drugs, gender inequality, problems of family, racial and ethnic relations, and poverty and wealth. 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 and a final examination.

Course Materials

Text: Henslin, James M. Social Problems: A Down-To-Earth Approach. 12th Edition, Pearson: New York: 2018, ISBN 13: 978-0-13-452180-0

Supplemental Materials: Additional readings or course material may be found in certain lessons.

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

You will find information on accessing Library resources from off-campus here - <http://library.acadiau.ca/distance-education/access.html>.

Evaluation

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.

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 any supplementary materials provided. They 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 on sensitive issues in particular as it a good ethical practice and also it is not necessary to complete your work.

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. Try to be analytical with the information you relay. 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.

When submitting assignments please use **Word format** on any work requiring you to upload a document. This allows me to put feedback and make corrections in the body of your work. As well, you will need to include the question you are answering before each answer. You may omit the preamble if there is any. This will also help to focus your answers on the specific points. You will also need to number each question as it appears in the assignment.

References should be included with each assignment. If 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. Explore issues in-depth with these kinds of questions.

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.

Exams are booked by Open Acadia. Before permission is granted to book the exam I am required to verify that you are ready. For me, that generally means you are finished all your assignments or very close.

Final Exam

The final exam in SOCI 1033 will:

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

The lessons need to be done in numerical order. You must finish one and have it graded before you can submit your next.

Lesson Activities	70%
Final Examination	30%

The assignments are delivered to the instructor via assignment drop-boxes. Please remember to put your name, student number, course number, and assignment number on the assignment and keep a copy in the event the original is lost.

The last assignment should be received at least 4 weeks prior to the date you wish to write the exam. This will allow adequate processing time for the request, and for setting the exam.

Note files must be readable by Excel 2007 or Word 2007.

Exam

How to apply: Complete the Application for Examination (<https://openacadiaexams.acadiau.ca>)

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

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 (<https://courseware.acadiau.ca/openacadia/studenthandbook.html>), contact:

Open Acadia

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

Academic Integrity

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.

Course Schedule

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 as sometimes there are many people trying to finish in a hurry.

Please do not leave all of your course work until a few weeks before your completion date or ask to submit a number of assignments at once. 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. You can expect assignments to be returned within 7 business days.

Recommended Schedule

Week	Lesson	Textbook Reading	Assignment
Week 1-3	Lesson 1: Thinking About Social Problems	Chapter 1	Assignment 1
Week 4-6	Lesson 2: Alcohol & Other Drugs	Chapter 4	Assignment 2
Week 7-9	Lesson 3: Crime & Criminal Justice	Chapter 6	Assignment 3
Week 10-11	Lesson 4: The Changing Family	Chapter 11	Assignment 4
Week 12-13	Lesson 5: Racial-Ethnic Relations	Chapter 8	Assignment 5
Week 14-16	Lesson 6: Gender Inequality	Chapter 9	Assignment 6
Week 17-19	Lesson 7: Economic Problems: Poverty and Wealth	Chapter 10	Assignment 7
			Final Examination

[Click here to return to the Module](#)

◀ Course Introduction - video (hidden)

Jump to...

Announcements ▶

 Moodle Docs for this page

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SOCI 1033 CIN5 Home

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