

**Sociology 282H1F**  
**Introduction to Social Problems**  
**Fall 2021**  
**Wednesdays 10-12**

**Course Syllabus**

**SCOPE AND AIMS**

This course provides a general introduction to the study of social problems (sometimes called “social issues.”) When you hear the phrase **social problem** do you think of juvenile delinquents? Drug addicts? Homeless people? Sex workers? Or do you think about insider trading? Tax fraud? Arms sales? The mass marketing of junk food? How about witchcraft? Devil worship? Interplanetary abduction? Celebrity sex scandals? The secret lives of powerful people? The label *social problem* has been applied to all of these topics and many more. In this course, we will look at the causes (and responses to) crime, addiction, ill health, poverty, unemployment, family violence, population pressure, and environmental degradation.

By the end of this course, you’ll have a better idea of how the world works today, and what you may be able to do about it. In particular, we will focus on social problems in Canada. To do so, we will consider how well Canada is managing to solve its social problems, compared to 16 other similar countries.

**PREREQUISITE**

SOC101Y1 or SOC102H1 or SOC100H1. Students without this requirement will be removed at any time discovered and without notice.

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Professor Lorne Tepperman teaches this course. Office hours are after class on Wednesdays or by appointment. His e-mail address is [lorne.tepperman@utoronto.ca](mailto:lorne.tepperman@utoronto.ca). You may use office hours as an opportunity to explore ideas related to the course material, discuss plans for future studies in Sociology, or discuss other related matters.

Otherwise, questions about the course should be sent via email to Professor Tepperman or your TA. In most cases you will receive a reply within 48 hours. If the TA is unable to answer your question, they will forward your email to Professor Tepperman, who will reply within 48 hours of receiving your query.

For the first two weeks of classes, in response to a request by the Dean, course lectures will be available in a taped PowerPoint version, downloadable from the course website.

**READINGS**

The assigned readings, listed below, are available at the U of T Bookstore and Robarts Library.

**METHOD OF DELIVERY**

This course is delivered entirely in person; also, online in the first two weeks.

### COURSE FORMAT

The course begins September 15 and ends December 8. Students will receive 30 percent of their course grade before the drop date of November 8.

### Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments\*, by date

Sept	15	What are social problems?	SP1; CP Preface, ch1
	22	Class and economic inequality	SP 2; CP 2
	29	Gender inequality	SP 4; CP 3
Oct	6	Racial inequality	SP 3
		<b>13 Test #1</b>	
	20	Crime and violence	SP 6; CP 4
	27	Health and Addictions	SP 7; CP 5
Nov	3	Family issues	SP 9
		<b>10 No class – reading week</b>	CP 6
	17	Work and the Economy	SP 12; CP 8
		<b>24 Test #2</b>	
Dec	1	Population and Environment	SP 13; CP 7
	8	Social problems of the future	SP 14; CP 9

### \*Assigned readings:

1. Tepperman, Lorne, Josh Curtis, and Rachel La Touche **SOCIAL PROBLEMS**, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2020 (SP)
2. Tepperman, Lorne and Maria Finnsdottir, **CANADA’S PLACE: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE**, Toronto: Rocks Mills Place, 2021 (CP)
  - ISBN for the print book is 9781772442304.
  - ISBN for the e-book is 9781772442311.
  - Both are available through the U of T Bookstore, Amazon, and Rocks Mills Press.

*Lectures.* There will be a two-hour lecture during class time each week.

*Required readings.* You will be assigned one or two book chapters to read every week and these assigned readings are compulsory. You are urged to read them for the first time in the week they are assigned, before the class meeting, and to take notes on them. They are all available in digital format as well as paper format.

### ASSESSMENTS

Test 1 ..... 30 percent

Test 2 .....	30 percent
Term Paper.....	30 percent
Participation Grade.....	10 percent

*Participation Grade.* Students will be required to email the TA two *interesting and insightful* discussion questions about the week’s course readings by noon on the Tuesday before that week’s class. No later submissions will be accepted. Your participation grade is based on your submission of weekly discussion questions. Each student can use one “free pass” for participation: that is, one opportunity to not submit discussion questions. In other words, even if you miss one participation opportunity, you can still achieve a perfect participation mark of 10 percent.

*Term Tests* There will be two term tests, each worth 30 percent of your final grade. They will be held during class time, on designated dates. Each will contain 100 multiple choice questions to be answered in 100 minutes. Questions are will be based on the 4 lectures and sets of readings preceding the test. Students are permitted to use a paper foreign language to English dictionary, if necessary.

*Essay Assignment* This assignment will be worth 30% of your grade and it is due by noon on the day of the last scheduled class. You have the entire semester to work on this assignment, so you should get the assignment in on time. The instructions for preparing your term paper can be found below.

### **Instructions for Preparing the Essay Assignment**

1. Read George Orwell, “Politics and the English language,” on course website. Follow his instructions when you write your essay.
2. Select one of the social problems we discuss in this course. Then, discuss how well Canada is doing with the solution of this problem, what still needs to be done, and what strategies are proving successful in other specified countries.
3. Students will have the option of submitting a **Project Proposal** no later than October 20. In this proposal, students can list 10-15 potential resources (i.e., published research papers) and write 1-2 paragraphs describing their project idea. This proposal will give students an opportunity to get feedback on their ideas before submitting the term paper. This Project Proposal is optional and will not be graded.
4. The total length of your final paper is to be 3000-3500 words, plus references. Please correct any errors in spelling and grammar before submitting the paper.
5. Use and cite a minimum of 15 **peer-reviewed** journal articles in preparing your paper. Additional sources (e.g., newspapers, magazines, online websites) may also be used and referenced, but may not substitute for peer-reviewed articles. Do NOT reference your textbook.

6. Your paper should use in-text referencing, as used in your course textbook. That is, in the text, cite an article as (Jones, 2016: 143), meaning the quote is from page 143 of an article by Jones. Give the full reference in your end-of-essay bibliography, as follows:  
Jones, Sally (2016), "The reason people buy candy," Canadian Journal of Sociology, volume 23, May, pages 135-150
7. All references should be from the year 2011 or later; earlier references should be justified for their inclusion.
8. Direct quotations must be enclosed in quotation marks and a specific reference cited. Paraphrases of published material do not require quotation marks but must indicate a reference source. Do NOT reference or cite your textbooks.
9. Assignment submitted through Quercus will be scanned by Turnitin. Assignments flagged for plagiarism through Turnitin will receive a grade of zero (0%) **unless a student instead provides, along with their paper**, sufficient secondary material (e.g., reading notes, outlines of the paper, rough drafts of the final draft, etc.) to establish that the paper they submitted is truly their own.

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to *Turnitin.com* for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the *Turnitin.com* service are described on the *Turnitin.com* web site.

This paper is due by the end of our last scheduled class. There will be no extensions except for documented medical reasons. Penalties of **10% per day of lateness** will be applied for papers handed in after the deadline.

### **IF YOU MISS EITHER OF THE MIDTERMS**

If you miss a mid-term test due to **illness or injury**, you must immediately email Professor Tepperman **and** declare your absence on ACORN. If you miss a mid-term test due to a **family emergency or other personal reason**, you must immediately contact your College Registrar, who will inform Professor Tepperman. Makeup tests will be held one week after the original test, during class time. If, for any justified reason, you miss both the mid-term test and the makeup test, then the value of the missed test will be added to the value of your term paper. The term paper, normally worth 30 percent of your final grade, will then be worth 60 percent. A second missed test will be counted as a zero.

### **PLAGIARISM**

Cheating and misrepresentation will not be tolerated. Students who commit an academic offence face serious penalties. Avoid plagiarism by citing properly: practices acceptable in high school may prove unacceptable in university. Know where you stand by reading the "Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters" in the Calendar of the Faculty of Arts and

Science.

Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the U of T degree that you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

Familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>). It is the rule book for academic behaviour at the U of T, and you are expected to know the rules. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the *Code*. The consequences for academic misconduct can be severe, including a failure in the course and a notation on your transcript. If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact the professor or TA's. If you have questions about appropriate research and citation methods, seek out additional information from us, or from other available campus resources like the [U of T Writing Website](#). If you are experiencing personal challenges that are having an impact on your academic work, please seek the advice of your college registrar.

Students agree that by taking this course, all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to *Turnitin.com* for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the *Turnitin.com* reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. The terms that apply to the University's use of the *Turnitin.com* service are described on the *Turnitin.com* web site.

#### **ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATION**

If you have accessibility concerns, please visit <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/accessibility-services/Links> to an external site. as soon as possible. If you require accommodation for writing quizzes, the midterm test or the final examination you MUST register with Accommodated Testing Services as soon as possible at <https://www.ace.utoronto.ca/ats/Links>. Make sure to submit the required paperwork to Professor Tepperman BEFORE assignment due dates and test dates.

#### **IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS**

Please contact the TA if you have questions about your grade or any other aspect of the course. Expect a reply within 48 hours. If the TA can't answer your question, she/he will forward it to Professor Tepperman.

#### **HELP FROM YOUR TEACHING ASSISTANT**

Your TA will hold scheduled office hours and respond to your emails. Please be judicious in your use of email. Use it only for questions that are brief and specific. Before sending a question by email, be sure to check the course outline to see if an answer is already

available. Expect to receive a response from your T.A. within three working days. For more in-depth discussions of the lectures, readings, tests and position papers, please make use of your T.A.'s office hours.