Welcome to Social Problems!!!

I am really looking forward to getting to know you and working with you this semester. Since this class will be held online, this introductory letter is designed to help you be successful in completing the course. Please review the information below and complete the tasks during the first week of class.

Preparing for online learning: Online learning may be a new experience for you. I recommend that you participate in UCO’s Online Student Orientation. The link for the tutorial is provided here: http://www.uco.edu/cece/orientation_d2l/. It will help you prepare yourself and your computer for success in Social Problems class, as well as provide some study tips, technical assistance and help with UCO library resources.

Technology support for the course: If you encounter any technology problems with this course, contact Technology Support at 405-974-2255 for help.

Professor Credentials: Tosha Robinson is a Professor of Sociology who earned a Bachelor’s degree in Management, a Bachelor’s degree in Criminology, and a Master’s degree in Sociology from the University of Oklahoma. She has been teaching at the University of Central Oklahoma since 2008.

How to Contact Me: Beginning on the first day of class (January 14th, 2013), I will be available online every Monday from 8:00 p.m. through 8:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 8:00 p.m. through 8:30 p.m. If you have a general question, please post it in the FAQs area provided as your fellow students may have the same question that could be answered by me only one time. Please remember that this section is seen by all students (don’t post personal questions) and thus can be a helpful resource for students who may have similar questions. For questions pertaining to your personal situation, I am also available via e-mail sent through your course through D2L. I will answer all posted questions and e-mails within 48 hours of receipt. My office is located in Liberal Arts Building (Room 102K), and my office phone is 974-5513, but email is the best way to contact me as I am RARELY on campus.


Additional Information:

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me through the course email. I am looking forward to a great semester!

Sincerely,
Tosha Robinson
INSTRUCTOR: Tosha Robinson
OFFICE PHONE NUMBER: (405) 974-5513
CAMPUS E-MAIL: trobinson29@uco.edu
E-MAIL PREFERENCE: Emails to me should be sent within the course in Desire to Learn (D2L)...NOT to the campus email above. I will respond to all emails within 48 hours of receipt.
OFFICE: LAR 102K
OFFICE HOURS: Mon. 8-8:30 p.m. and Sat. 8-8:30 p.m. or by appt.

Online Student Orientation: To complete the online student orientation, please visit the following website: http://www.uco.edu/cpde/onlineorientation.html. This orientation is accessible in the orientation module on the course home page.

Are You Ready 4 Online Learning: This interactive tool allows you to assess your readiness to take online courses at the University of Central Oklahoma. This tool is also accessible in the orientation module on the course home page or by visiting the following link: http://www.uco.edu/cpde/ready/.

Course Title and Description: Social Problems: SOC 2203. According to the University of Central Oklahoma Undergraduate Catalog 2012-2013, this course is described as addressing: Some of the more important current social problems such as poverty, delinquency, criminality and migration; also a consideration of agencies for solution.

About the Instructor: B.A. in Criminology, B.B.A. in Management, and M.A. in Sociology from the University of Oklahoma. Academic interests include women and crime, gender, criminology, demography, stratification, and family. I have been teaching at the University of Central Oklahoma since 2008. I will be available online every
Monday from 8:00 p.m. through 8:30 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 p.m. through 8:30 p.m. and by appointment. For questions pertaining to your personal situation, I am also available via e-mail sent through your course through D2L. I will answer all posted questions and e-mails within 48 hours of receipt. My office is located in Liberal Arts Building (Room 102K), and my office phone is 974-5513.

**Course Objectives:** By the end of this course, students should demonstrate a thorough understanding of:

- Some of the most pressing social problems and issues in today’s society.
- Competing theoretical frameworks applied to various social problems.
- Competing recommendations for “solving” various social problems.

**Course Prerequisites:** There are no prerequisites for this course!


**Course Requirements:** There are 500 possible points for this course. Grades are based on visual essays, discussion/participation, chapter quizzes, and a final group project. The final course grade will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visual Essays (2 x 50 pts)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>A=449 points &amp; above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion/Participation</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>B=398-448 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Quizzes</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>C=348-397 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Group Project</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>D=298-347 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Points</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>F=297 points or less</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Grades are based on total points-not percentages.

**Visual Essays:** During the course of the semester, you will be assigned 2 visual essays on social problems that are important to you. These visual essays will make up a total of 100 points. Details about the format and grading criteria for each visual essay will be given prior to the due date. **Visual essays are due by 11:59 p.m. on the due date.**

*The first visual essay will be due on: Monday, February 18th at 11:59 p.m. and the*
Second visual essay will be due on: Monday, April 8th at 11:59 p.m. To be fair to the majority of the students who get their work in on time, visual essays submitted after the due date will be penalized ten points for each late day. There will be no make-up opportunities to replace this assignment. These visual essays must be created on http://www.mixbook.com/edu and must include at least six photos. There should be at least 500-700 words of text included within the visual essay. ***Note: The written/text part of your visual essay must be INCLUDED within the body of the Mixbook...I do NOT want a word document/separate attachment of your written essay!

I will have your visual essay grade posted on D2L within two weeks.

Discussion/Journal. Class participation is essential in this course, and both quality and quantity are important. Student discussion makes for a more interesting class, aids the learning process, and allows you to grow intellectually. Discussion questions are based on videos posted under the videos section on the course home page. Transcripts for each video are available on the course page. Discussion and participation account for 100 points toward the total points possible. Your grade will be measured by responses to weekly discussion questions. We will alternate between discussion board responses and journal responses to the weekly discussion question (see course schedule below). Discussion and journal postings will be assessed according to: 1) thoroughness of responses to questions and demonstration of understanding of subject matter; 2) analysis; 3) clarity; and 4) grammar, spelling, and punctuation. There will be a fixed window of time in which you can enter your discussion responses (they must be completed by the following Monday at 11:59 pm) so please pay attention to deadlines. Important: Prepare your response in Word or similar program, and then copy and paste your responses into the message submit box (because when typing in the submit box, D2L times out AND YOU WILL LOSE YOUR TEXT!)

I will have your discussion/journal grades posted on D2L within two weeks.

Chapter Quizzes

Chapter quizzes are posted under assessments in D2L. Each chapter quiz is worth 10 points each. There will be 10 chapter quizzes available. There will be a fixed window of time in which you can take the quizzes (they must be completed by the following Monday at 11:59 pm) so please pay attention! Your grades for the chapter quizzes will be available to you immediately.

Quiz Instructions: Your completion time is measured from when you click “Begin Assessment” to when you click “Finish”. Questions must be answered in the order given. Question delivery occurs one at a time – there are no revisits. Once a question has been answered or skipped, it cannot be revisited.
Final Group Project

The final group project will be worth 200 points. You will gain experience working within a group to complete this group project. You will also create a rich visual essay which displays your knowledge of the course material and applies the sociological imagination to the social problem you discuss. Finally, you will showcase your collaborative and creative ideas for solving the social problem you discuss. **The final group project is due Monday, May 6th by 11:59 pm.** The final group project MUST be turned in on time! I will not accept group projects submitted after the deadline of Monday, May 6th at 11:59 pm. The final group project must be created on [http://www.mixbook.com/edu](http://www.mixbook.com/edu) and must include at least ten photos. The written part of the project should have 1250-1500 words of text included with the visual essay. I will give you detailed instructions as we get closer to the end of the semester.

I will have your final group project grade posted on D2L within one week.

### Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Sociology and the Study of Social Problems</td>
<td>January 14-20</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td>Introduction Journal Activity, Ch. 1 Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Social Class and Poverty</td>
<td>January 21-27</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Ch. 2 Quiz, Discussion: Taxing the Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Race and Ethnicity</td>
<td>January 28-February 3</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Discussion: Attacking Affirmative Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Gender and Sexual Orientation</td>
<td>February 4-10</td>
<td>Chapter 4/Chapter 5</td>
<td>Ch. 4 Quiz, Ch. 5 Quiz, Discussion: Is Your Daughter Safe at Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Age and Aging</td>
<td>February 11-17</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>Ch. 6 Quiz, Journal: Over fifty, Overdrawn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Families</td>
<td>February 18-24</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td>Discussion: Blended Families; Visual Essay #1 Due 2/18 by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>February 25-March 3</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td>Ch. 8 Quiz, Journal: A Radical Fix for Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Work and the Economy</td>
<td>March 4-10</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
<td>Ch. 9 Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Health and Medicine</td>
<td>March 11-17</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
<td>Ch. 10 Quiz, Journal: Pre-Existing Conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>March 18-24</td>
<td>No Reading</td>
<td>No Assignments Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>The Media</td>
<td>March 25-31</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
<td>Discussion: Saving American Journalism,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Alcohol and Drug Abuse</td>
<td>April 1-7</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
<td>Ch. 12 Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Crime and Criminal Justice</td>
<td>April 8-14</td>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
<td>Discussion: Maximum Capacity Visual Essay #2 Due 4/8 by 11:59 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>The Environment</td>
<td>April 15-21</td>
<td>Chapter 15</td>
<td>Ch. 15 Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Social Problems and Social Action</td>
<td>April 22-28</td>
<td>Chapter 17</td>
<td>Ch. 17 Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 16</td>
<td>FINAL PROJECT</td>
<td>April 29-May 5</td>
<td>FINAL PROJECT</td>
<td>FINAL PROJECT Due May 6th by 11:59 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FINAL PROJECT DUE MONDAY, MAY 6TH AT 11:59 PM!!!**

**Technology Requirements:** To successfully meet the technology requirements for participation in this online course, you should be able to:
- Perform the D2L browser check by clicking on the "Click here to check your browser" link at [http://learn.uco.edu](http://learn.uco.edu).
- At a minimum, you must have easy access to a reliable internet connection. Access to a high-speed internet connection (DSL, Cable, T1) is preferred.
- Use a word processing program such as Microsoft Word, Google Docs or OpenOffice.org's Writer.
- Create visual essays and the group project in Mixbook.

**Suggested free downloads:**

In order to use the resources in this course, you may need to download one or more of the following programs:

- Adobe Reader
- Flash Player
- Real Player
- QuickTime
- Windows Media Player

**Technical Assistance.** If you have problems with technology, please contact Technology Support at 974-2255. Also, post questions in the “COURSE Q&A” section. Other students may have had similar technical issues and figured them out.

**UCO Help Desk Information:** Contact the Information Technology Help Desk

You are important to us! Please feel free to contact us by online form, e-mail, phone, or in person.

**Online:** [Click here to submit your request]

**E-mail:** support@uco.edu

**Telephone:** (405) 974-2255

**Location:** Math & Computer Science bldg, NE entrance

**Hours of Operation:** 7:00am - 6:00pm, Monday – Friday

**After-hours Support:** Emergency support is available for reporting service outages or degradations of mission-critical systems and services. To report such
The UCO Help Desk is the central focal point for most technical concerns at the University of Central Oklahoma. All inquiries handled by the Help Desk are tracked in our work order system. To ensure a timely and accurate resolution, work orders are dispatched to the appropriate support specialist or to the proper UCO department. [http://www.uco.edu/technology/support/index.asp](http://www.uco.edu/technology/support/index.asp)

**Course Policies:**

1. You are expected to behave in a courteous manner to the other students and the instructor at all times. Just because our course is online does not excuse you from being courteous and respectful to other students and the instructor.

2. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact me so that special accommodations can be made. See website below: [http://broncho2.uco.edu/disability_support/](http://broncho2.uco.edu/disability_support/)

3. I will be available to meet with you by appointment. I encourage you to meet with me should you have any concerns with the class or your performance.

4. If you are concerned about your grade you need to meet with me. If you want to know your current grades on assignments turned in, you can simply look on D2L.

5. All emails to me should be submitted within the course on D2L ([http://learn.uco.edu](http://learn.uco.edu)). I will respond to emails within 48 hours.

6. Grading response times:
   a. For response papers, grading response time is 2 weeks.
   b. For discussion/participation, grading response time is 2 weeks.
   c. For chapter quizzes, grading response time is immediate.
   d. For the final group project, grading response time is 1 week.

**Academic Misconduct:**

1. Academic misconduct is anathema to the mission, vision and academic values of the University of Central Oklahoma and, as a result, will not be tolerated.

2. Academic misconduct includes any behavior which improperly attempts or effects unearned academic credit. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to:
   a) Cheating;
   b) Plagiarism;
   c) Fabrication of any academic work;
d) Fraud in any academic work;

e) Bribery or intimidation regarding any academic work;

f) Destruction, misappropriation or unauthorized possession of academic property of the university or of any other person;

g) Assisting others in any of the above.

*For complete information on the academic appeals process, please visit:

**Plagiarism.** When a student submits any assignment for a course (written, oral, videotape, audiotape, photograph or Web Site), the student will submit entirely original work or will properly cite all sources utilized in the preparation of the assignment. Without proper citation, the student is guilty of plagiarism, which is not tolerated at UCO. UCO subscribes to the "TurnItIn" plagiarism prevention service. Students agree by taking this course that all required assignments may be subject to submission for a "TurnItIn" textual similarity review for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com restricted access reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. Use of the "TurnItIn" service is subject to the terms and conditions of use posted on the "TurnItIn" web site located at the following URL: http://turnitin.com/static/index.html?lang=en_us&pref=1.

More information concerning this policy can be found in the "UCO Code of Student Conduct" located at the following URL:

**UCO UConnect Statement.** The University of Central Oklahoma News and Networking Educational Communication Tool is a secure web site providing UCO students, faculty, and administrative staff with up-to-the minute campus communications. UConnect provides single log-on connections to check grades and schedules, add or drop classes, and access online course information. It's the official communication tool of the university, so students are expected to use their UConnect and/or D2L account regularly to remain current on campus information and activities and to receive e-mail communication from faculty and administrative offices. For additional information or help with your connection, contact Technology Support at 974-2255. In the event UConnect is down, an alternative access to D2L is available at: http://learn.uco.edu (Using the UCO username and password to login)

**ADA Statement Regarding Special Accommodations.** The University of Central Oklahoma complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must contact the assistant director of Disability Support Services (DSS) in room 309 of the Nigh University Center or by telephone at 405.974.2549. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible after the DSS
has verified the need for accommodations to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

*For complete information on special accommodations, please visit: [http://broncho2.uco.edu/disability_support/](http://broncho2.uco.edu/disability_support/)

**Final Note:** This course will cover material that is considered controversial by some. Additionally, thinking from a sociological perspective may, at times, make you feel uncomfortable because of the methodical way it forces one to question some long standing beliefs and values. The goal of the course is not to change or threaten anyone’s ideology, nor is it to present any one ideology as superior to others. The goal, rather, is to present a sociological body of knowledge. You will be responsible for learning and knowing the material presented in class. How you choose to incorporate the material into your worldview is up to you. Also, we have students from different backgrounds and perspectives in the class. Students are expected to respect opinions different from their own and allow others the same opportunity to share theirs. The key word of making this a successful classroom experience is RESPECT!!!!

*This syllabus was prepared in good faith. However, I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus-with notice!!!