Welcome Statement & About Your Professor
Welcome to Intro to Social Problems! I am Dr. Kirk (previously Dr. Hunt) and I'll be your professor this term. I have been at UWG for seven years and have taught this course countless times in the past 14 years at a number of different universities. I am originally from Ohio. I earned my Ph.D. at Kent State University, and I have lived in several different cities throughout the state.

Office Hours
I will hold online (virtual) office hours on Google Chat and Blackboard Messenger from 10am-12pm Tuesdays and Thursdays during this term. I will also hold face-to-face hours (see above). Download Blackboard Instant Messenger here: http://tinyurl.com/mpkadyf

Course Description
An overview of sociological approaches to the study of recent, and more enduring, social problems. Topics include an analysis on global inequality, the environment, race, class, gender, and generational antagonisms, with a focus on crises experienced in economic, family, community, political, educational, criminal, health/mental health care and delivery systems and institutional areas.

Course Objectives
Upon completing this course, students will be able to recognize and interpret key social problem concepts, theories, and research programs; demonstrate their ability to communicate how sociology contributes to their understanding of social reality; and apply social problem/inequality principles to aspects of their own and others’ lives.
In addition, it is my hope that all students will walk away from this course with a better understanding of their own views on the topics we cover, many of which are "important" insofar as what we think about these topics and, more importantly, what we do about them has real consequences for people’s lives, including our own. Along these lines, students should be able to critically evaluate their own views, defend their positions with strong arguments, and express their views, positions, and arguments to the class in the spirit of healthy, respectful debate.

Learning Outcomes
The student objectives listed above contribute to this learning outcome:

• Understand the reciprocal relationship between the individual and society

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**Course Requirements**

(1) You must purchase the book and do all assigned readings. If you do not purchase the book, or you purchase the wrong edition, you may not perform as well as if you had otherwise. You must also purchase an iClicker2. This is the only clicker that will be accepted in this course. iClickerGo is not an option.


You must register for MySocLab by going to http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com

Use Class ID hunt82967, provide your my.westga.edu email address and the access code you received when you bought your textbook.

Also, you may have additional readings that I will post on WebCT in PDF format. You are responsible for downloading and reading them before you come to class.

The University’s Bookstore’s Website URL -- http://www.bookstore.westga.edu/

(2) Performance Points:
When you attend a class period and I ask iClicker questions, you will receive 1 point if you attempt to answer all of the questions. If you are late or you leave early and miss a question, you will not receive the 1 point given for that day. No exceptions.

THE FIRST LECTURE: SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH TO SOCIAL PROBLEM DOES NOT COUNT (DUE TO PERIOD OF DROP/ADD. PERFORMANCE POINTS AND ICLICKER POINTS WILL BEGIN 9/4/2014

For each powerpoint lecture I present (typically one per chapter we cover), there will be a minimum of three (3) iClicker questions. Each iClicker question is worth 1 point. These
questions will appear at random times during the lecture. If you are not in the classroom or not paying attention, you will miss the opportunity to earn these points.

As lectures will span one, two, or three class periods, all three clicker questions may not be asked all in one day. Therefore, if you attend on a Tuesday when a new lecture is given when I ask two clicker questions, but you’re absent the next class period when I finish that lecture and ask the third clicker question, you only receive points for the first two (that’s if you answered correctly). There are no chances to make-up these points. Do not ask.

**Performance Points Summary:** You have the potential of receiving 39 points by answering iClicker questions correctly (3 points per lecture X 13 lectures = 39). In addition, you have the potential of earning 22 performance points by attending class every class period, paying attention when a question is asked, not being tardy or leaving early, and attempting to answer ALL of the iClicker questions. If you are absent (for any reason, even if “excused”), late, or leave early, you forfeit your performance point for that day. No exceptions.

**Clicking someone in/using someone’s iClicker to answer questions for them is considered the same as cheating and you will be failed from the course if you do so. No exceptions.**

(3) **Doing Sociology Activities:** 7 @ 10 points each. Throughout the semester, you will complete seven (7) writing activities. They are posted in CourseDen (D2L) under both the “dropbox” menu and in the chapter module under which they fall with regard to topic. Please see course schedule and plan accordingly to work on these assignments.

(4) **Exams:** There are three (3) exams in this course each worth 50 points (150 points total). They are to be taken in the “quizzes” option of CourseDen (D2L) and their due dates are listed on the syllabus and course schedule. Each exam will become available for you to take one week prior to their due date. Within CourseDen, however, once you start the exam, you have only 90 minutes to submit it. After that, your exam will be late and graded with a zero (0).

(5) **Syllabus Quiz** (19 points total). Questions on the syllabus. See the “Start Here” module in D2L (CourseDen). DUE 9/4/14 by 11:59pm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Syllabus Quiz (19 points)</th>
<th>19 points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 lectures, 3 iClicker questions @ 1 point each =</td>
<td>39 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 performance point per class period when iClicker is used X 22 periods =</td>
<td>22 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Exams @ 50 points each =</td>
<td>150 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Doing Sociology Activities @ 10 points each =</td>
<td>70 points</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points Available in Course</strong></td>
<td><strong>300 points</strong></td>
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**Grading Scale:** 300-270 = A; 269-240 = B; 239-210 = C; 209-180 = D; 179-0 = F
Course Policies

The following misconduct is subject to removal from my classroom and possible grade reductions:

• Utilizing electronic communication devices such as laptops, tablets, and cell phones
• Each time I see your cell phone out, 10 points will be deducted from your final grade and you will be required to leave the classroom
• Disrupting the class in any way (this includes talking during lecture, passing notes, leaving class)
• Approaching me directly before class; if you need to speak with me, you may see me during my office hours or make an appointment

Continued violation of these rules will result in a failing grade.

Communication: As I reserve the right to change the schedule, assignments, or requirements, I will announce changes on D2L “News” or via D2L e-mail. It is your responsibility to regularly check both the “News” on D2L and your D2L e-mail regularly. A note regarding correspondence: I will not communicate with you through an alternative e-mail address. The only way to communicate with me during the summer semester is via your D2L email or your my.westga.edu email. In order to be successful in this course, you must actively participate while conducting yourself in a professional manner (includes, but is not limited to being respectful to me and the other students).

Late/Make Up Assignments: Scheduled assignments will not be accepted late, but they will be accepted early. All of your learning modules and assignments are available to you as of the first day of the semester. You may submit/completely assignments anytime until the due date/time. As unexpected events sometimes interrupt our life plans, you should do your work earlier rather than later. Unexpected events could range from an old friend coming to town for a surprise visit for only one day to an illness that keeps you in bed for a week or the death of a loved one. Since you know now when all the assignments are due, your lack of time management will not result in an extension. So, do not ask. You know what the answer will be.

Protecting Your Work: I highly recommend that you make at least one electronic copy of everything you submit for the course, but two copies (in two separate locations - e.g., hard drive, jump drive, cloud drive) is preferable. Do not, under any circumstance, share your work with others. Sharing your work is equivalent to cheating under the Honor Code, and will result in a failing grade for the course.

Course Web Site, Technology Policy & Requirements
You need to know how to use the following technology in order to take this course: the internet, browsers, iClicker, CourseDen (D2L), Respondus Lockdown Browser. If you have questions about this, please contact Distance Education at 678.839.6248 or online@westga.edu
Distance Education has a 24-Hour Help: 1-855-772-0423 or search [http://D2Lhelp.view.usg.edu](http://D2Lhelp.view.usg.edu)

You will also need to become accustomed to MySocLab. Access to this comes with the textbook you purchased. Register for it now.

Login by visiting [http://www.westga.view.usg.edu](http://www.westga.view.usg.edu)

1. You are 100% responsible for both properly working technology and knowing how to use CourseDen (D2L) as well as the technology and software required for this course.
2. Personal technology malfunctions while taking quizzes or submitting assignments is not a sufficient reason for an extension or a second attempt.
3. In the case of a CourseDen malfunction (must be proven by a note from Distance Education written to me electronically), you will be granted an extension or a second attempt. You must contact Distance Education if this happens. I cannot help you.
4. I am a sociologist. Feel free to ask me sociology questions. In an online class, asking me about your computer issues is akin to asking me about how to fix your car in a face-to-face class on campus. In this class, technology/software is your vehicle to class. If you have a computer, software, or CourseDen question, contact the computer, software, CourseDen experts: distance education. I cannot help with this. See information below on how to connect with Distance Education.

### Course Schedule

Dates and topics subject to change at professor’s discretion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>V = Video</th>
<th>A= Audio</th>
<th>R = Reading</th>
<th>Assignment(s) Due on CourseDen (D2L) by 11:59 p.m.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/26</td>
<td>Introduction to Course</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8/28</td>
<td>Sociological Approach to Social Problems</td>
<td>R = Ch. 1</td>
<td>R = The Sociological</td>
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**IMPORTANT REGISTRAR DATES:**

Open drop/add: August 25-September 2
Last day to withdraw with a W: October 17
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 9/2  | Sociological Approach to Social Problems (continued) | Imagination
R = Hegemony |
| 9/4  | Wealth & Power | V = The Corporation
R = The Power Elite
R = Ch. 2 |
| 9/9  | Wealth & Power (continued) | Syllabus Quiz
A = NPR |
| 9/11 | World Population | Doing Sociology Exercise 1
R = Ch. 3 |
| 9/16 | Global Inequality | Doing Sociology Exercise 2: Writing to Kenya
R = 16 Impacts of Population Growth |
| 9/18 | The Environment | Doing Sociology Exercise 2: Writing to Kenya
R = Ch. 4
R = Dumping in Dixie
V = Poisoned Waters |
| 9/23 | Problems of Place: Urban, Rural, & Suburban | Exam 1
R = Ch. 6 |
| 9/25 | Poverty | Doing Sociology Exercise 3: Budget
R = Ch. 7 |
| 9/30 | Poverty (continued) | Doing Sociology Exercise 3: Budget
R = Poverty in the U.S.
R = End of Welfare |
| 10/2 | Racial Inequality | Doing Sociology Exercise 4: Battle for Whiteclay
R = Ch. 8 |
| 10/7 | Racial Inequality (continued) | Doing Sociology Exercise 4: Battle for Whiteclay
R = Names, Logos, and Mascots
V = Battle for Whiteclay |
| 10/9 | In-Class Film: Understanding Race | Doing Sociology Activity 5: Consequences
R = Racism and Privilege |
| 10/14 | Gender Inequality | Doing Sociology Activity 5: Consequences
R = Ch. 9 |
| 10/16 | In-Class Film: Tough Guise | Doing Sociology Activity 5: Consequences
R = Masculinity as Homophobia |
| 10/21 | Sexual Orientation | Exam 2
R = Ch. 10 |
| 10/23 | In-Class Film: Grass | Exam 2 |
| 10/28 | Crime & Justice | Exam 2
R = Ch. 12
A = How Louisiana Became The World’s ‘Prison Capital’ |
| 10/30 | Crime & Justice | Exam 2
R = Poor Land in Jail as Companies Add Huge Fees for |
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/4</td>
<td>The Economy &amp; Work</td>
<td>R = Ch. 14</td>
<td>Doing Sociology Activity 6: Prison For-Profit</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/6</td>
<td>The Economy &amp; Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/11</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11/13</td>
<td>Education (continued)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/18</td>
<td>The Healthcare System</td>
<td>R = Ch. 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/20</td>
<td>The Healthcare System (cont’d)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/2</td>
<td>Solutions to Social Problems</td>
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<td>Doing Sociology Activity 7: Write Your</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(continued)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/4</td>
<td>Solutions to Social Problems</td>
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**EXAM 3 DUE BY 11:59 PM ON TUESDAY DECEMBER 9, 2014**

**Additional Information**

**Information about University Email & the University Honor Code**
http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

**Students with Disabilities**
If you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, you should contact me at the beginning of the semester or when you are given an assignment for which an accommodation is required. Student with disabilities must verify their eligibility through Accessibility Services which is located in the Student Development Center, 272 Parker Hall, 678-839-6428. http://www.westga.edu/studentDev/index_8884.php

**Writing Center**
I encourage you to utilize the Writing Center on campus. This resource is very valuable. They provide on-site tutoring with an appointment, workshops on specific topics, CourseDen courses to assist you in passing the Regents exam, and a chat session for quick questions. Their website is also a great resource where you can learn how to properly cite research, requirements for the Regents exam, and how to avoid plagiarism pitfalls. The center is located in TLC 1201. Phone: 678-839-6513, http://www.westga.edu/~writing

**Statement on Academic Dishonesty**
IN EVERY INCIDENT OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY, I WILL FAIL THE STUDENT FOR THE COURSE.
Plagiarism is defined in your student handbook (under the Honor Code, page 84) as “representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own. Direct quotations must be indicated and ideas of another must be appropriately acknowledged.” There are also
specific definitions of cheating and fabrication. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: copying from another’s paper or allowing another to copy from one’s own paper and unpermitted collaboration. Writing collaboration is NOT permitted and students should be careful not to work directly from another classmate’s notes. Fabrication includes falsifying or unauthorized citations (an example might include using information from a website and passing it as one’s own thoughts/ideas). If any of this is unclear, please ask well before an assignment is due. Also, please consult the Honor Code and Appendix A of the UWG Connection and Student Handbook as I stand firmly by it. Breach of this code will result in a report to the Vice President of Academic Affairs AND a failing grade for the course, no exceptions.

Specifically, examinations and papers, which are in part or in full inadequately cited or copied from other students, books, or the Internet, will receive a grade of “F” (no credit) and you will fail the class regardless of point accumulation before the incident. Please note that using an iClicker for someone else who is not in attendance has the same point earning effect as knowingly allowing someone to copy your work and it will be treated the same way. Points lost due to academic dishonesty may not be replaced through extra credit.

Students should familiarize themselves with the University’s policies on academic integrity:
http://www.westga.edu/handbook/59.php