Introduction to Social Problems (SOC 218)

Fall 2026

3 credits CRN 62427

About Windward Community College

Mission Statement

ʻO keia ka wā kūpono e hoʻonui ai ka ʻike me ka hoʻomaopopo i kō Hawaiʻi mau hoʻoilina waiwai. Aia nō hoʻi ma ke Kulanui Kaiāulu o ke Koʻolau nā papahana hou o nā ʻike ʻake akamai a me nā hana noʻeau. Me ke kuleana koʻikoʻi e hoʻohiki ke Kulanui e kākoʻo a e hoʻokumu i ala e hiki kē kōkua i ka hoʻonui ʻike a nā kānaka maoli. Na mākou nō e hoʻolako, kākoʻo a paipai i nā Koʻolau a kō Oʻahu aʻe me nā hana noʻeau ākea, ka hoʻonaʻauao ʻoihana a me ka hoʻonui ʻike ma ke kaiāulu— hōʻaʻano a e hoʻoulu i nā haumāna i ka poʻokela.

Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai'i and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide the Koʻolau region of Oʻahu and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment — inspiring students to excellence.

ʻĀina

Windward Community College is located in the ahupuaʻa of Kāneʻohe and Heʻeʻia in the moku of Koʻolaupoko on the island of Oʻahu. Both ahupuaʻa are directly connected to the moʻo ʻōlelo of Pāpa and Wākea, who are seen as the ancestors of the Hawaiian nation. The campus sits beneath the puʻu of Keahiakahoe, which is also connected to many moʻo ʻōlelo of this ʻāina. Because wind names and rain names are associated with specific ʻāina, the rain name of Kāneʻohe is known as the ʻĀpuakea and the rain name of Heʻeʻia is the Ulumano.

Instructor Information

How to Contact Your Instructor

Kathleen French, Professor of *Sociology* and *Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies*; Social Sciences Department

- Office Hours (by appointment): TTHs 1:30-3:30PM
- Email: kfrench@hawaii.edu

Alternate Contact Information

If you are unable to contact the instructor, have questions that your instructor cannot answer, or for any other issues, please contact the Academic Affairs Office:

- Location: Alakaʻi 121
- Phone: (808) 235-7422

Contingency Plan

If there is an outage, weather situation, or family emergency on my end, I will do my best to find a way to communicate an update as soon as possible about my return to the course. Mahalo in advance for your understanding and I hope you will do the same.

Course Format & Structure

Please note that our course schedule is provided in the course calendar located on our Lamaku page.

- Content release: The entire course is opened beginning on the first day of class, which means that you can always work ahead.
- We interact with each other through our discussions, the Gradebook, and email.
- All of the reading material is provided free of charge. There are also films and videos provided on our calendar to help enhance the course material.

Regular Substantive Interaction (RSI)

Online courses at Windward Community College follow the college's RSI Definition for ensuring quality instruction. You can expect me to communicate with you frequently (and in a timely fashion) about our coursework in the following ways during our class:

- *Announcements:* After the papers have been submitted, I will offer a summary and a sociological perspective of the particular topic. Please check Lamaku and your email for announcements.
- *Assignments:* Discussion papers will be graded using the rubric provided on Lamaku. Please look for the feedback after the discussion has been graded, which is usually the next day after the due date.
    - *Drafts:* Please submit drafts at least 4 days before the due date, and send me an email to let me know you'd like feedback.

All course activity due dates are listed in Lamakū on the Calendar. Please check your UH email often and set your Lamakū Notifications (both email and D2L Brightspace Pulse App) to receive course notices, such as grading updates, announcements, and activity reminders. I will keep our Lamakū course Grades as current as possible.

Participation Verification

Campuses are required by federal regulations to verify the participation of students in their classes. In accordance with Executive Policy 7.209, all students in the University of Hawai'i system are required to establish "participation" to ensure that they are not dropped from their class(es). Effective Fall 2021, students who fail to participate by the late registration period for a class will be administratively dropped from that class. Students may also be dropped from dependent prerequisite and/or corequisite classes if both courses do not establish participation.

Course Information

Catalog Description

SOC 218 is a theoretical and substantive survey of the nature and causes of social problems; selected topics may vary from semester to semester. (WCC: WI; S-Focus; DS)

Writing Intensive (WI)

Writing Intensive (WI) Courses are part of a University of Hawai'i system wide movement to incorporate more writing in courses from all disciplines. A WI course is a discipline-specific course in which writing plays a major integrated role. Students in course sections designated as a "WI" (preceding the course title in the Schedule of Classes) learn to understand course content through writing and to write in ways appropriate to that discipline.
Passing English 100 with a "C" or better is a prerequisite before students take the two required WI courses for the Associate in Arts degree. Students transferring to some bachelor's degree campuses in the UH system may bring two or three WI courses with them to count for the bachelor's degree.

The hallmarks of a writing intensive course are:

1. The class uses writing to promote the learning of course materials.
2. The class provides interaction between the instructor and students while students do assigned writing. At least one student-teacher conference on a writing assignment is required in writing intensive courses.
3. Written assignments contribute significantly to each student's course grade.
4. The class requires students to do a substantial amount of writing—a minimum of 4,000 words, or about 16 pages.
5. To allow for meaningful professor-student interaction on each student's writing, the class is restricted to 20 students.

The course has been designed to allow students to find meaning in what they write, which makes learning more fun. Enjoy!

Student Learning Outcomes

Students can expect to attain the following outcomes as a result of taking this course:

1. Identify and utilize sociological perspectives to analyze social problems in society.
2. Use critical thinking skills to evaluate the causes of social problems.
3. Evaluate proposed solutions to social problems.

Sustainability Focused (SF)

Following three years of intense negotiations, world leaders adopted on September 25 2015 the new Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. This universal agenda is a call to action for low, middle and high-income countries alike. It lays out a set of comprehensive goals that focus on people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership for the next 15 years. It integrates the vision of "leaving no one behind" which can likely be accomplished through expanded partnerships for both traditional and nontraditional actors such as Governments, Civil Society, private sector, and the United Nations system.

As you'll see when you explore the various topics shown on our class calendar, the Introduction to Social Problems (SOC 218) course explores some of the important social issues in society and considers possible solutions to those social problems. In this way, the aim is to contribute to "... a more equitable and sustainable future for all".

Course Materials

Required

- All readings are provided FREE to students, linked at the top of the homepage, and also within each section of our course calendar on the homepage.
- Students are required to use the readings and videos linked from the course calendar, *and nothing outside of that*.
    - Windward offers free laptop and WiFi hotspot check-out to students (first-come, first-served), as well as software and other tech discounts; see Ka Piko Student Tech Support for information.
    - UH Online provides an online learning Readiness Activity and an Orientation to Online Learning that Windward CC students may take to see if online learning is a good fit.

- D2L Brightspace Pulse App (free download from app stores)

Lamakū Learning Management System (https://lamaku.hawaii.edu/d2l/home)

Learn about the Hawaiian meaning of the word "lamakū": Lamakū Pronunciation, Meaning, and Importance.

- UHCC Lamakū Student Resources (how-to videos)
    - Contact UH ITS for 24/7 Lamakū assistance.
- Keeping Accessibility and UDL in Mind
    - If you find any course content that needs remediation and/or updating, please kindly share and I will immediately work to make the content accessible.
- Lamakū automatically logs you out *if it does not detect activity for three hours*. A warning message will appear, notifying you of the lack of activity. Activity is defined as clicking a button in Lamakū, such as "Save Draft" or "Next" (in a test), clicking on a course tab, or taking an action that sends information to the server.

Other Technology

D2L Brightspace, the parent company of Lamakū, recommends users choose the latest versions of Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Microsoft Edge, or Apple Safari as their internet browser.

We recommend that students update their internet browser at the start of each term, search how to allow pop-up windows, adjust their cookies, and clear device history. Also, fully restart your computer and/or device from time-to-time to optimize performance.

Grading Policy

Grading Scale

Course Activity	Points/Percentage of Final Grade
Discussion Papers (1,000 points)	100%
TOTAL (1,000 points)	100%

Course Grading

Discussion Papers (100% of Grade)

Instructions and Grading Criteria

- The **Discussions instructions** and **Course Calendar** include all instructions, word-count requirements, grading rubrics, and five discussion topics.
- Discussions are **formal written assignments.** Drafts may be submitted for feedback (see the Course Calendar for deadlines).
- Each discussion is based on **assigned readings and films.** Complete all assigned materials before writing.
- **Effort matters:** Thoughtful, well-written posts earn higher scores. Brief or vague submissions earn fewer points.

Writing and Replies

Original Posts

- Plan and organize your ideas before writing.
- Reference specific details from the assigned readings and films.
- Example posts showing how to cite and connect to the readings are available in the course site.

Replies to Peers

- Engage meaningfully by expanding on ideas, asking thoughtful questions, or offering additional insight.
- Make connections to the assigned readings and films.
- Avoid simply praising another post—let the instructor do that!
- A model of a strong reply is available on the Discussion page.

Submission Guidelines

- Discussions are **graded after replies** are submitted for each topic. See the **Course Calendar** for deadlines (do not rely on the Gradebook).
- **Early submissions** (4+ days before deadline) may receive feedback—email the instructor to request review.
- Verify that your post appears on the Discussion page. **Emailed submissions are not accepted.**

Grading and Policies

- Each discussion **= 200 points** (+100 for the post + 100 for the reply).

- There are **5 discussions total** (1000 points possible).
- **Late work: 50% deduction per late item (-50 points for a late post and -50 points for a late reply). No exceptions.**
- Posts or replies edited after the due date are also considered late.
- **Extra Credit:** 10 points each for the *Introduction* and *Final Goodbye* posts.
- Check the **Gradebook** after each discussion for feedback to improve future work.

Let's Discuss!

Discussions are your chance to explore sociology, share insight, and learn from each other. Posting on time keeps the conversation lively and meaningful—so stay on schedule and join in!

Academic Integrity

Work submitted by a student must be the student's own work. The work of others should be explicitly marked, such as through the use of quotes or summarizing with reference to the original author.

In this class, students who commit academic dishonesty, cheating, or plagiarism will have the following consequence(s):

- Students will receive a failing grade for plagiarized assignments.
- All cases of academic dishonesty are referred to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Windward CC Student Conduct Information

UH System Student Conduct Policy EO 7.208

The assignments in this class are designed to focus on your unique perspective and critical thinking, not on finding a "right" or "wrong" answer. Each discussion paper asks what YOU think and requires you to support your response with evidence from the assigned readings and films.

While AI tools may seem tempting to use, they are not suited for these assignments. Here's why:

1. **Authenticity:** The assignments are about your thoughts and experiences, which AI cannot provide.
2. **Accuracy:** In past instances where students used AI, the information generated was often incorrect, with claims that were unrelated to the assigned materials. Even when AI tools referenced the readings, the information was fabricated.
3. **Engagement:** Papers written by AI often lack personal insight, assuming there is a "correct" answer and leaving out the human connection that makes sociology so meaningful.

The most rewarding part of these assignments is exploring ideas that matter to you and discovering how sociology helps us see our lives in new and fascinating ways. That's the purpose of

these papers—to give you the opportunity to reflect on your experiences through the lens of sociology.

Take this chance to engage with the material in your own voice. The process is not just about earning points but about finding joy in the exploration and learning. Let your work reflect your individuality—something no AI tool can replicate!

Student Kuleana

- Please review our Hawai'i-Style Netiquette, which blends the values of ALOHA with approaches to how we should consider treating each other online.
- Windward CC has Grievance Procedures in place, but I encourage us to try to work together first to see if we can work through any troubles. Mahalo!

Academic and Technical Support

Academic Support

- Windward Community College Library
- Ka Piko Writing Lab
- Ka Piko Speech Lab
- Ka Piko Math Lab
- Online Learning at Windward Community College
- STAR Balance

Technical Support

- UH ITS Help Desk: email help@hawaii.edu or call (808) 956-8883 (or 1-800-558-2669) for Lamakū and most technology support. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays.
- Student Tech Support: email winhelp@hawaii.edu, call (808) 235-7437, or stop by in person at Hale La'akea 228. Available Monday–Friday from 8:00 am–4:00 pm.
- Lamakū: Click on the Lamakū Help link in the menu bar at the top of the Lamakū homepage to fill out and submit a question and get your answer via email.
- Information Security for Students

College Policies & Support Services

Basic Needs

Basic needs include food and housing, childcare, mental health, financial resources, and transportation. Student basic needs security is critical for ensuring strong academic performance, persistence and graduation, and overall student well-being. If you or someone you know is experiencing basic needs insecurity, please see the UH System Basic Needs.

Disabilities Accommodations Statement

Windward Community College's Disability Student Services Office (WCC-DSSO) is committed to providing equal access to qualified students with disabilities.

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to participate fully in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor, Roy Inouye, to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. The Disabilities Counselor can be reached at (808) 235-7448, wccdsso@hawaii.edu, or stop by the office (Hale Kakoʻo 106) for more information.

Please note that any special accommodations for the class will begin once the instructor is contacted by the Disability Specialist Counselor and will include the assignments from that point forward, as deemed reasonable and appropriate.

Financial Aid

If you are receiving financial aid and are contemplating not completing the course it is highly recommended that you contact the Financial Aid Office at (808) 934-2712 or email them at wccfao@hawaii.edu ***BEFORE*** you withdraw to discuss the impact this decision may have on your financial aid eligibility.

LGBTQ+

The University of Hawaiʻi system and Windward Community College are committed to building an inclusive community that supports and advocates for all students, staff, and faculty. We welcome all members of our campus community to our campuses: transgender, māhū, and people of all gender identities. All members of our campus community deserve a work and educational environment free from harassment or bullying based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression. For more information, see the University of Hawaiʻi Commission on LGBTQ+ Equality. Windward Community College Commissioner: Scott Sutherland, scottjks@hawaii.edu

Mental Health Counseling

Mental Health and Wellness at Windward Community College provides counseling services and activities on campus to support students' life goals as well as their academic goals. Information about services can be found at WCC Mental Health & Wellness.

Student Conduct Code

Windward Community College follows the University of Hawai'i Code of Student Conduct which defines expected conduct for students and specifies those acts subject to University sanctions. Students should familiarize themselves with the Code of Student Conduct since, upon enrollment at Windward Community College, they have placed themselves under the policies and regulations of the University and its duly constituted bodies. The disciplinary authority is exercised through the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Copies of the Student Conduct Code are available at the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

TRiO Program

The Federal TRiO Programs are educational opportunity outreach programs designed to motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds. TRiO includes six outreach and support programs targeted to serve and assist low-income, first-generation college students and students with disabilities in progressing through the academic pipeline from middle school to post-baccalaureate programs. Information about services can be found at Windward CC TRiO.

Title IX - Sex Discrimination And Gender-Based Violence Resources

Windward Community College is committed to providing a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these, WCC has staff and resources to support and assist you. To report an incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence, as well as receive information and support, please contact one of the following:

Desrae Kahale, UH System Confidential Advocate
Phone: (808) 235-7393
Email: advocate@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale Kākoʻo 101

Desrae Kahale, Mental Health Counselor & Confidential Resource
Phone: (808) 235-7393
Email: dkahale3@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale Kākoʻo 101

Mykie E. Menor Ozoa-Aglugub, J.D., Title IX Coordinator
Phone: (808) 235-7468
Email: mozoa@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale Kākoʻo 109

Karen Cho, Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Phone: (808) 235-7404
Email: kcho@hawaii.edu

Office: Hale ʻAlakaʻi 120

As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator. Although the Title IX Coordinator and I cannot guarantee confidentiality, you will still have options about how your case will be handled. My goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources and support you need.

For more information regarding sex discrimination and gender-based violence, refer to the University's Title IX resources, and the University's Policy, EP 1.204.

UH Alerts

The UH Alert emergency notification system alerts the university community in the event of a natural, health or civil emergency. The information you provide will only be used in the event of an emergency that impacts the health and safety of the UH community or the closure of whole campuses. It will not be shared with others or used for routine UH communications or announcements. To sign up, visit UH Alerts for more information.