

Unit 1 Overview



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This week we start by getting connected with each other in this class.

We ground ourselves in the field of social problems. We will learn to describe ourselves by our roles and by our social locations and find out why that matters. We'll create our own agreements around the kind of classroom culture that is important to us. We'll also discuss how we will prepare, engage, and reflect on our social problems topics with readings, videos, and assignments.

We'll look at civil rights, sexual violence, climate change, and the Echo Mountain Fire to define what social problems are and learn more about the processes with which they

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are created. We'll also sort out how individuals and groups take action, looking at why social problems must be solved interdependently.

I'm looking forward to taking this wild ride with you!

Focusing Questions

We'll begin to answer these four questions together:

1. What is a social problem?
2. How are social problems created and resolved?
3. Why does the interdependent nature of social problems require both individual agency and collective action to support social justice?
4. How do social identity and social location impact the experience of a social problem?
5. What practices can we use to create interdependent community in our classroom and the wider world?

Unit 1 To Do

For this class, the opening questions and the getting ready quizzes are due on Monday. All reflection assignments are due on Fridays. Most assignments have a one week grace period. You can turn things in up to a week past the due date, without getting a lower grade.

Because we are just starting in Week 1, we have one exception:

The technology and syllabus quiz is due by Thursday, April 4, at 5 pm, because it is part of how I record your attendance during the first week of class.

- [Unit 1 Course Materials](#)
- [Unit 1 Technology and Syllabus Quiz](#)

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- [Unit 1 Opening Question](#)
- [Unit 1 Getting Ready Quiz](#)
- [Unit 1 Reflection Assignment](#)

Unit Objectives we are working toward this week:

- Explain a current social issue using the five characteristics of a social problem (CO1, CO2)
- Describe the process by which social problems are created (CO1, CO2)
- Explain why the interdependent nature of social problems requires both individual agency and collective action to create social justice (CO3, CO4, CO6)
- Explain why the interdependent nature of social problems requires both individual agency and collective action. (CO6)
- List practices we use to create interdependent community in our classroom and the wider world. (CO6)