

Social Problems (SOC 1020-80)

Winter Session 2018-2019

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Who or what started social problems?

The Book of Genesis According to St. Miguelito:

<http://allpoetry.com/poem/8582915->

[The Book of Genesis According to St. Miguelito-by-Miguel Pinero](#)

We Didn't Start the Fire:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2a2SS0zqmzk&feature=related>

Identify and analyze the following social problems and issues.

Gun Control

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6uYZdpLF1U>

Global Warming and the Environment

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pouYRrk-gyI>

Terrorism

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdgGj7wON10>

Oleanna

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMTbQ1g6vI8>

Precious

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L26bnfsPb2A>

When the Levees Broke

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pD1aVJaRsM&feature=fvw>

Trading Schools

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kpfMD9gWNf8>

Legalizing Syringe and Needle Exchange Programs
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpTKQAaC-Yw>

Pariah
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNRdxsTmV1U>

The Unequal Opportunity Race
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBb5TgOXgNY>

Body Projects
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTImho_RovY
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xaB5K-PvnSY>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9Ctt7FGFBo>

We will explore the social problems in these video clips along with many other contemporary issues including crime, juvenile delinquency, bullying, family responsibilities, and how the human body is problematized in society. We will explore the complexity of social problems and see how they are interrelated.

Course Description:

This course presents fundamental sociological concepts and analyzes major problems of contemporary society including micro and macro social causes. We will examine the individual and structural components of society that contextualize behavior while exploring topics such as but not limited to: the social construction and dissemination of power; poverty; racism; ethnic conflict; gendered inequalities; the environment; suburban and urban life; drugs and crime; social deviance; health and body-related issues; the family; and, educational inequality. In addition, we will examine “facts”, theories, and methods sociologists use in the study of social problems. Last, we will also consider how other nations address problems that are familiar in the United States.

Course Prerequisites: None

Course Objectives:

To enable students to understand and utilize:

- a. Their “Sociological Imaginations”;
- b. Basic sociological research methods in the study of social problems;
- c. Sociological theories to understand how prevalent social problems are conceptualized within the American value system;
- d. Primary sociological interpretations toward the analysis and resolution of social problems for societal betterment;

- e. The role of social institutions in shaping and transforming society;
- f. The variation in what individuals and groups define as social problems and how a society solves its problems;
- g. Contemporary U.S. and global perspectives when examining major social issues and behaviors identified as social problems and.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- a. Demonstrate knowledge of how past, present and future social events and problems are inextricably linked;
- b. Formulate strategies and methods to locate, research, evaluate and apply information through mini research projects;
- c. Utilize sociological theories to study, ask meaningful questions about, and address complex social problems;
- d. Analyze social policies and recommend solutions to resolve social problems and conflicts for the betterment of society;
- e. Demonstrate knowledge of the role of social institutions in creating and solving social problems;
- f. Demonstrate knowledge of how social problems are defined and contextualized by a definition of a situation and how society solves problems;
- g. Display an understanding of how contemporary U.S. and global perspectives are utilized to define social problems

Required Textbook:

Social Problems, 13th Edition by Eitzen, Zinn and Eitzen-Smith

Here is the ISBN: 0205949185

Here is the link to the book:

<http://www.mypearsonstore.com/bookstore/social-problems-plus-new-mysoclab-with-etext-access-0205949185>

All information about the textbook should be addressed directly with the publisher and or WP Bookstore. You do not need the “MyLab Sociology.”

Topical Outline and Course Content:

Module (1) (Defining and Analyzing Social Problems, and Conflict Resolution)

Module (2) (Social Inequality, Deviance, Drugs, and Crime)

Module (3) (Race, Gender, Marriage and Family, and Education)

The assignment due dates will be listed in Blackboard when the course starts along with explanations and requirements for all assignments.

Method of Instruction and Student Learning Activities:

This is an online course, which means all lessons/lectures, discussions, writing and the Final Exam will be transmitted via the computer. Discussion Board, mini-writing assignments, which will include individual responses to the weekly readings along with a traditional essay Final Exam will be a part of this online course.

Method of Evaluation/Assessment – Grading:

1) Discussion Board Original Responses to Assignments =	30%
2) Responding Back to Other Students' Original Responses =	30%
3) Reaction Papers	20%
5) Final Exam =	20%
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Total =	100%
