

Section 1832 `AMERICAN SOCIAL PROBLEMS – SOCIOLOGY 2 – Spring 2015

Professor Norma E. Barragan      Office: GC-380E  
Office hours: 8:45-9:15am M,T,W,TH  
1:00-1:45pm Wed & Th

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Student Learning Outcomes:  
Students will be able to:

**Critical Thinking:**

Compare and contrast various authors' perspectives about the causes and solutions of major social problems.

**Communication:**

Express clearly and concisely the main points of the essays or articles we read and evaluate the strength of the arguments brought forth in the essays.

**Cultural Diversity:**

Describe and analyze the differential impact of social problems and social institutions on racial and ethnic minorities.

1. The required texts, *Crisis in American Institutions, 14<sup>th</sup> edition, by Currie and Skolnick*, must be purchased or rented **immediately**. You need the text in time to read the first articles and write the practice essays due at the end of the second week of class. A copy of the text is in the Reserve section on the second floor of the library. But, you cannot rely on the library copy because it is often checked out when you need it. It can only be used for a limited time and is only available during limited library hours of service.

You are also required to purchase or rent "So Rich, So Poor: Why It's So Hard to End Poverty in America" by Peter Edelman

2. Notebook: 10 points. You need a "*notebook*" to store your completed assignments, to record your grades and attendance and for your lecture notes. It should also contain your *syllabus* and a copy of the *course schedule*. This notebook is worth up to 10 *points* and will be handed in on the day of the final examination. No late notebooks will be accepted.

3. Bring your text (Currie & Skolnick), notebook, pens or pencils to every class meeting. **Turn off cell phones** and any other electronic equipment and put them away **out of sight**.

4. Attend class regularly, arrive on time and stay the full class period. If you miss more than 4 class meetings you may be dropped from the course. It is each student's responsibility to officially drop from any course when he/she stops attending.

**5. Before class** on Tuesdays read every word in the assigned chapter ("Part") and take notes on each of the articles. Our text calls chapters "Parts" and each "Part" is made up of 3 to 5 essays

by different authors. You will need to read very carefully and take notes on each essay separately in order to write your weekly essay assignment. Be prepared to discuss the assigned essays during class.

**6. Disclaimer:** Students in this class may be exposed to material which the student may find offensive. This may include visual, verbal or text material or representations related to subjects such as sex, profane language and diverse religious, political and economic ideas.

#### 7. WEEKLY CLASS ACTIVITIES

Tuesdays we will have a class activity, which could be a lecture, video, group project, guest speaker, oral reports or other activities which reinforce the material we are studying that week. We will discuss the assigned reading and related issues in a civil and productive manner.

#### 8. WEEKLY ESSAYS-200 points (20 points possible for each weekly essay)

Every Thursday, unless otherwise noted on your schedule, you will turn in typed or carefully hand written (skip a line) summaries of the articles assigned for reading. This usually works out to about 3 paragraphs for each article, a total of 2 or 3 typed, double-spaced pages.

\*Late essays will not be accepted.

\*Your 2 lowest essays will be dropped at the end of the semester

#### 9. "So Rich, So Poor" by Peter Edelman: 50 points possible

You will respond in writing to assigned questions about the book and will also write personal reflections on the material presented by the author. (3 pages minimum to 4 pages maximum)

#### 10. MIDTERM EXAMINATION: 50 points

Essay questions: study questions will be given to you in advance.

#### 11. FINAL EXAMINATION- 50 points

Essay examination for which study questions be given in advance

#### 12. Grading scale: 88%=A, 78%=B, 68%=C, 58%=D, Below 58%=F

Save all of your graded work so that you have an accurate record of your points and can calculate or estimate your grade at any point during the semester.

13. Students with disabilities who need any assistance or accommodations should contact the instructor. Students should also contact the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) located in the Student Services Building in Room 320 or call 310 287-4420. [dsps@wlac.edu](mailto:dsps@wlac.edu)