

Introduction to Social Problems

SOC -002 Section 7598

Course Outline Spring 2015

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Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to social problems in our society at the micro and macro level. The objective of the course is to expose the social problems and its effects to an over changing world and individuals.

Course Objectives:

- Compare and contrast various authors' perspectives about the causes and solutions of major social problems.
- 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.
- Describe and analyze the differential impact of social problems and social institutions on racial and ethnic minorities.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- At the end of the course the successful student will be able to explain different approaches to the solution of specific social problems.
- Evaluate the strength of arguments presented in a wide range of essays and articles.
- Describe how social problems have differential impacts on racial and ethnic minorities.

- Interpret numerical data and abstract models as presented in tables, graphs, charts, and diagrams.

Ultimately, the goal of the class is to foster the student's own sociological imagination in linking his or her own private experiences with public issues at local and global levels of society. *If there are special accommodations that you require to be successful in this course, please request assistance from the professor. To receive accommodations for a special need or disability, students must register with the Office of Disabled Student Program and Services. Please contact the DSPS Director at (310) 287 4450 for information and assistance. Location: Student Services Building, 3rd floor, room SSB 320.*

Course Requirements:

- 1) TEXT BOOK "Understanding Social Problems" fifth edition. *Authors: Linda Mooney, David Knox and Caroline Schacht.*
- 2) Attendance and participation is required; students are expected to complete their weekly reading assignments before coming to class and to present an oral summary of the chapter. More than (2) absences will impact your grade and you will be excluded from the course. Syllabus is subject to change
- 3) EXAMS- there are two exams; a Midterm and Final; each worth 50 points.

Midterm Exam	50
Final Exam	50
1 Term Paper	30
Presentation	20
Attendance/Participation	10
4 Quizzes	10 points each total of 40 points
Total Points =	200
159 or below = F, 160-169=D, 170-179=C, 180-189=B, 190-200=A	

Class Expectations:

You are expected to conduct yourself with the highest order and decorum in this class. Arriving late and/or leaving early from this class is disruptive and unacceptable behavior. There will be no cell phone use, iPod's, lap top computer or any type of electronic devices.

Term Paper:

The term paper will be based on a social issue from a journal article. Think of a social issue that you would like to write about but see me first for approval. The paper has to be 3 pages long use 12 font and double space, MLA format and with a cited page and cover page. **Do not submit the paper electronically late work will not be accepted.** ***You will receive a scoring rubric for your term paper explaining the point's criteria.***

Plagiarism

I will uphold the West Los Angeles Community College policy on Academic Integrity. You may access this policy through the institutional catalog. Please note that I reserve the right to ask you to submit your work in electronic form.

Group Presentation

Power Point group presentation about a social issue. You will be assigned in a group by me. You will receive a scoring rubric for your group presentation.

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted, no makeup for Quizzes or Tests.

NOTE: SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Feb 10th and 12th Chapter 1- Thinking About Social Problems

Feb 17th and 19th Chapter 3- Alcohol and Other Drugs

Feb 24th and 26th Chapter 4- Crime and Social Control **(Quiz)**

Mar 3rd and 5th Chapter 5- Family Problems

Mar 10th and 12th Chapter 6- Poverty and Economic Inequality **(Quiz)**

Mar 17th and 19th Chapter 8- Problems in Education **(Paper Due) Midterm Review**

Mar 24th and 26th Chapter 9- Race, Ethnicity and Immigration
*****End of the week MIDTERM*****

Mar 31st Cesar **Chavez Holiday NO CLASS**

April 2nd Chapter 10- Gender Inequality

Apr 7th - 9th *****Spring Break*****

Apr 14th and 16th Chapter 12- Problems of Youth and Aging **(Quiz)**

Apr 21st and 23rd Chapter 13- Population Growth and Urbanization

April 28th and 30th Chapter 14- Environmental Problems

May 5th and 7th Chapter 15– Science and Technology **(Quiz)**

May 12th and 14nd Chapter –Conflict, War and Terrorism

May 19th and 21st Extra Credit Opportunity

May 25th Memorial Day NO CLASS

May 26th - 28th Final Review

June 3rd *****Final Examination*****

