Welcome to Social Problems (SOC 102-81 – 100% online)

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Who or what started social problems?

The Book of Genesis According to St. Miguelito:
http://oldpoetry.com/opoem/37169-Miguel-Pinero-The-Book-of-Genesis-According-to-St--Miguelito

We Didn't Start the Fire:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2a2SS0zqmzk&feature=related
Identify and analyze the following social problems.

Oleanna
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMTbQ1g6vl8

Precious
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LpU8rJ_ZwOs

When the Levees Broke
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pD1aVJaRsM&feature=fvw

Course Description:
This course examines contemporary social problems and modes of conflict resolution.
This requires, at a minimum, accepting two fundamental assumptions: (1) Individuals are
products of their social environments. Who they are, what they believe, what they strive
for, and how they feel about themselves are all dependent on others and the society in
which they live. We will examine the individual and structural components of society
that contextualize behavior while exploring topics such as; the social construction and
dissemination of power, poverty, racism, drugs and crime, social deviance, health and
body-related issues, and educational inequality. (2) We will be adopting, in essence, a
critical stance toward social forms. We will attempt to demystify myths, stereotypes, and
official dogma. We will examine "facts", theories, and methods Sociologists use in the
study of social problems. We will also consider how other Nations address problems that
are familiar in the United States.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Social Problems, 12th Edition, by D. Stanley Eitzen and Maxine Baca Zinn.

Boston and New York: Pearson/Allyn & Bacon. It is packaged with MySocKit.

The ISBN for this book that includes the new 12th edition bundled with access to MySocLab is **0205058442**.

www.pearsonhighered.com

See the link above. It will tell you how to order the book. It can be delivered overnight. The WPU bookstore should also have copies of this book.

What Equipment/Software Do You Need?

Contact IRT and see the Blackboard student help pages as well for what you will need to do this course in terms of computer capacity.

1. a Pentium or MAC comparable with a connection speed of 28.8 kbps, or 56kbps would be even better

2. a Windows 95/98, NT or MAC operating system

3. a 256 color (16+ bit) display

4. an account with your own Internet service provider (ISP), with a browser and e-mail

5. MS Office (Word) or Corel WordPerfect (6 or higher)

6. Please note the following if you have trouble opening some documents in this course. (.docx) is the file extension for Word 2007 or 2008 regardless of the operating system you are using. Instructors and students who have Office 2007 or higher on their computer will be able to open a file with a .docx extension. Instructors and students who don't have Office 2007 or higher can download free compatibility software at:

http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/products/HA101686761033.aspx

This is really important and a MUST!!!!

What Should You Know How To Do Before Taking This Course:

1. you should be able to use one of the following word processing software: Microsoft Word or Corel WordPerfect

2. you should be able to web browse and use e-mail

How Do You Get to the Online Course?:

1. Get online and point your web browser to http://bb.wpunj.edu

2. Log in using your university username and password

3. Blackboard Home: http://bb.wpunj.edu

4. The WPUNJ Bb Support Center page: https://liberty.wpunj.edu/bb/support-center/

I look forward to this class. As you take this course and experience online learning/instruction ask yourself a social problems-related question, does technology increase and improve the routinization and efficiency of the finished product and service called learning and instruction? Does the technology of online instruction enhance, diminish, or impede the finished product called learning in a social science/behavioral science such as sociology? Does online instruction desensitize students to social problems and threaten the awareness and call to action of every-day citizens in our democracy?

[See] you soon,

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