

Welcome to Social Problems (SOC 1020-80 – 100% online)

Winter Session (12/27/11 – 01/15/12)

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Winter Session 2011-2012 Calendar:

<http://www.wpunj.edu/wintersession/calendar.dot>

Blackboard Support:

<https://bb.wpunj.edu/webapps/login/>

Library Resources:

<http://www.wpunj.edu/winter/>

Types of Social Problems:

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>

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.

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.

What Equipment/Software Do You Need?

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?:

Blackboard Home: <http://bb.wpunj.edu>

Required Texts:

Social Problems, 12th Edition, (2011) by D. Stanley Eitzen, Maxine Baca Zinn and Kelly Eitzen Smith. Boston and New York: Pearson/Allyn & Bacon. It is packaged with MySocLab.

The 12th edition should be bundled with MySocLab.

ISBN: 0205788084

www.pearsonhighered.com

See the link above. It will tell you how to order the book. It can be delivered overnight. Get the book. Play catch up and do the best you can when meeting deadlines. I know that this is a quick winter session and not a regular semester. Hang in there. I will be flexible.

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,

Dr. H. Mark Ellis
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