

**Social Problems (SOC 1020-80)
Winter Session 2013-2014
12/26/13 – 01/14/14**

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Winter Session 2013-2014 Calendar and Important Links:

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

Blackboard Documentation:

<https://www.wpunj.edu/itwiki>

Technology-related support, including Blackboard:

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

Library:

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

(1) Remember to use Firefox or Chrome as your web browser when accessing and doing this course. Other browsers are known to cut off documents and give other kinds of problems.

(2) Print this syllabus out and have it near you when you do this course. Scroll and read all the way to the end.

(3) Technology Needed for this Course: Contact IRT and or see Blackboard Student Help.

Professor's Internet Address: ellism@wpunj.edu

Office Hours: *I will be online at least once a day during the run of this course.*

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=sMTbQ1g6vl8>

Precious

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

When the Levees Broke

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

Disclosure

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWhReW8xTgg>

The Invisible War (Rape in the U.S. Military)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PqaZih-7ZW8>

Trading Schools

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

Legalizing Syringe and Needle Exchange Programs

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpTKQAaC-Yw>

Pariah

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vlc0SZYnoMc>

Body Projects

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTlmho_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.

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 Texts:

Social Problems, 12th Edition, 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.

Topical Outline and Course Content:

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

12/26/13 - 01/02/14

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

01/03/14 - 01/06/14

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

01/07/14 - 01/13/14

Module #4 (Class Project Is Due, Course Wrap Up and Final Exam)

01/14/14

Method of Instruction and Student Learning Activities:

This is an online course, which means all lecture notes, discussions, written assignments, video clips, images, etc. will be transmitted via the computer. Students will interact with one another and I will be a participant in discussion board activities.

Method of Evaluation:

Students will participate in fun intellectual chat-rooms discussing ideas, theories and contemporary issues in society. These discussion boards, reaction papers, a group project where the class decides on a topic and a final exam will be a part of this course. All discussions and conversations are easily facilitated through chats in the discussion boards.

Last:

Did you know that “Shift” Happens?:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEz46yhUwuM>

“See” you soon.

Dr. Ellis

