

SOCIOLOGY 2 - American Social Problems, Fall 2013

Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:35am – 12:00pm
Section 0442, Inst. 1002

Instructor: Jill Biondo, M.A.

Voicemail/Phone: (818) 833-3411

EMAIL: biondojk@lamission.edu

Drop In Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays 9:30 – 10:30AM, 1:45 – 2:45PM, Tuesdays 12:00 – 1:30PM

Office Location: INST- Faculty Office 30

Required Textbook: Social Problems- Henslin, James M., 10th edition. ISBN-10: 0205004164

Class Website: <http://etudes.org/gateway/login-lamc.html>

Prerequisite: None/3 units

Student Learning Outcomes(SLO):

Upon successful completion of Sociology 2, the student will be able to:

1. Differentiate between social problems and in which ways they differ from individual problems, and the impact these differences can have on finding solutions.
2. Students will identify and evaluate social problems related to inequality based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age or income.
3. Students will be able to compare and contrast the approaches taken by the three major sociological perspectives (i.e., functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism) in their explanation of various social problems.

Teaching Philosophy:

My goal is for you to be successful in this class while strengthening your skills as a life-long learner. If you run into trouble, fear you're falling behind or simply do not understand something, you should never hesitate to come see me during my office hours. Asking questions during class is, of course, welcomed as well. However, I understand some people may be too shy to ask a question in front of other students. So if you have a question but are too shy to ask during class, contact me, and we'll figure out the answers together.

Course Requirements:

- 1) Participation and Attendance: (30 points)

Since Sociology is the study of people and their behavior, your participation is not only welcomed, but required. Attendance is mandatory in this class and points can be earned for students with two absences or less. I will allow two absences for the semester, then will deduct 10 points from your total points in the class every time you are absent for a total of 30 points. Students with excessive absences will not earn attendance points and students with three or more absences can be excluded from the class. You are responsible for dropping the class through the Admissions Office Online. Please be disciplined about your education and attend consistently. Enrolled students who are absent on the first day of class are subject to being dropped by the instructor.

Please be on time and plan to stay for the entire class. A late arrival or early departure--10 minutes or more -- is the equivalent of one absence. No walking in and out of class.

2) 65+ Person Interview: (40 points) Due 9/16

You will complete an unstructured interview with someone 65 years or older. You will write a 3 page paper in which you will describe and discuss your understanding of the person's life using examples from your notes to illustrate the general finding or themes (covered in class or in your text). You will then present (briefly) to the class.

3) News Article: (20 points) Due 10/9

Each student will be asked to find one current, relevant newspaper article dealing with a social problem and write a 1-2 page paper about how it relates to what we're learning in class and/or the book.

4) Gender Project: (40 points) Due 12/2

You will be complete a content analysis project on magazine advertisements that you will present to the class. This will include a 2 page paper, advertisement visual display, and a short class presentation.

5) 2 Midterms and Final: (120 points total)

Both the midterms and the final will be in class exams which will focus on the general issues covered in class and the reading. Please note that not all material covered in the reading will be covered in class and vice versa. Thus, you are responsible for both reading and in-class material. The exams will consist of multiple choice questions. Midterm Exam 1 is worth 40 points. Midterm Exam 2 is worth 40 points and the Final Exam is worth 40 points.

All papers must be typed, using fonts no bigger than 12 with margins no larger than one inch. Please use spell check.

Grade Scale:

225 points – 250 points = A

200-224 = B

175-199 = C

150-174 = D

149 or below = F

90% - 100% = A

80% – 89% = B

70% - 79% = C

60% - 69% = D

59% and below = F

Topics and Assignments:

Note: Reading assignments should be done prior to coming to class.

Week 1:	8/26	Syllabus, Introductions, Chapter 1 (How Sociologists View Social Problems)
	8/28	Chapter 1, continued
Week 2:	9/2	Campus Closed; No Class
	9/4	Chapter 2 (Aging and Theory)
Week 3:	9/9	Chapter 3 (Sexual Behavior)
	9/11	Chapter 3, continued

Week 4:	9/16	<u>65+ Person Interview Due and Presentations</u>
	9/18	Chapter 4 (Alcohol and Other Drugs)
Week 5:	9/23	Chapter 4, continued
	9/25	<u>Midterm Exam 1</u> (covering Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4)
Week 6:	9/30	Chapter 5 (Violence in Society)
	10/2	Chapter 5, continued
Week 7:	10/7	Chapter 6 (Crime and Criminal Justice)
	10/9	Chapter 6, continued; <u>News Article Assignment Due</u>
Week 8:	10/14	Chapter 9 (Inequalities of Gender)
	10/16	Chapter 9, continued
Week 9:	10/21	Chapter 11, Family
	10/23	Chapter 11, continued
Week 10:	10/28	Valley Trauma Center
	10/30	<u>Midterm Exam 2</u> (covering Chapters 5, 6, 9, 11)
Week 11:	11/4	Chapter 7 (Poverty and Wealth)
	11/6	Chapter 7, continued
Week 12:	11/11	Campus Closed; No Class
	11/13	Chapter 8 (Race-Ethnic Relations)
Week 13:	11/18	Chapter 8, continued
	11/20	Chapter 10 (Medical Care)
Week 14:	11/25	Chapter 10, continued
	11/27	Chapter 12 (Urbanization and Population)
Week 15:	12/2	<u>Gender Paper Due and Presentations</u>
	12/4	Chapter 12, continued
Week 16:	12/11	<u>Final Exam, 10AM – 12PM (covering Chapters 7, 8, 10, 12)</u>

General Policies:

Cheating- unauthorized material used during an examination (including electronic devices), changing answers after work has been graded, taking an exam for another student, forging or altering attendance sheets or other documents in the course, looking at another student's paper/scantron/essay/computer or exam with or without their approval is considered cheating.

Plagiarism- Plagiarism is defined as the act of using ideas, words, or work of another person or persons as if they were one's own, without giving proper credit to the original sources. This includes definitions found online on Wikipedia, materials from blogs, twitter, or other similar electronic resources. Whether the material be a paragraph, a sentence, or a part thereof, you will receive a zero for the first offence for the assignment or test in question. Any further offenses may result in expulsion from the class, or more as determined by the disciplinary action of Student Services.

Recording devices in the classroom - Section 78907 of the California Education Code prohibits the use of any electronic audio or video recording devices, without prior consent of the instructor (including cell phones, laptops, MP3 players, and more).

Classroom Etiquette: Studying Sociology involves discussing topics that may be uncomfortable pertaining to religion, race, gender, age, pornography, sexual orientation and other topics will be discussed. Every student will be expected to show the proper respect for fellow students, the instructor and the facilities in which the class is held. All college policies and regulations relating to student conduct will be observed. In general, disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. This includes repeated tardiness, inappropriate language, surfing the web, texting, sleeping in class, arriving late, leaving early or walking in and out of classroom for calls, food, etc. Disruptive students can be suspended for up to 2 class sessions at the professor's discretion. We meet for 1 hr. and 25 minutes. Please take care of all personal business before or after class.

NO WALKING IN AND OUT OF CLASSROOM.

As a courtesy to all, please turn off cell phones or place on vibrations. If you are late please minimize disruption to the class. Lap tops can be used to type notes, but not for using the internet. If you have a special situation, please don't hesitate to talk to me about it.

ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED during EXAMS.

Emergency Contact Information:

To update or add your cell phone number to the BBC system, please login to LAMC Student Portal at this link: <https://mymission.lamission.edu/studentlogin.aspx>. This number will be used only for emergency.

Reasonable Accommodation- If you are a student with a disability and require accommodations, please send me a private email. The sooner I am aware of your eligibility for accommodations, the quicker I will be able to assist the DSP&S Office in providing them. For students requiring accommodations, the DSP&S Office at Mission College provides special assistance in areas like: registering for courses, specialized tutoring, note-taking, mobility assistance, special instruction, testing assistance, special equipment, special materials, instructor liaisons, community referrals and job placement. If you have not done so already, you may also wish to contact the DSP&S Office in Instructional Building 1018 (phone 818/364-7732 TTD 818/364-7861) and bring a letter stating the accommodations that are needed.

Medical Conditions- If you have any conditions that I need to know about, please notify me immediately by email and provide me with an emergency phone number.

This syllabus is a guide to use throughout this course and is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Please do not hesitate to ask for assistance, it is my goal that you succeed in this class.

PLEASE PROGRAM CAMPUS SHERIFF NUMBER IN YOUR CELL PHONE (818) 364-7843

Obtain at least one student's information in case you're ever absent:

NAME _____ Email _____

Phone _____