

SOCIOLOGY 2 - American Social Problems, Fall 2012

Tuesdays 6:50-10pm

Section 3304

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Drop In Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays 10AM-12:30PM, Tuesdays 6:25PM-6:55PM

Office Location: INST- Faculty Office 30

Required Textbook: Social Problems- Henslin, James M., 10th edition. Available ONLY at the Mission College bookstore at www.lamission.edu/bookstore.

www.lamc.mylabsplus.com

Catalog Course Description:

Prerequisite: None/3 units

Sociological concepts and theories are used to describe and explain social problems in the United States such as gender roles, race/ethnicity, urbanization, immigration, drugs, marriage, populations, aging, crime, violence, poverty, and the health care system.

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. Analyze social problems in the context of their family of origin and its continued impact.
3. Apply sociological theories and practices to evaluate and find solutions for social problems.

Course Requirements:

1) Participation and Attendance: (45 points)

Since Sociology is the study of people and their behavior, your participation is not only welcomed, but required. I will allow one absence for the semester, then will deduct 15 points from your total points in the class every time you are absent for a total of 45 points. Students with excessive absences (3 or more) will not earn attendance points and can be excluded from the class. You are responsible for dropping the class through the Admissions Office. 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. During group work in the classroom, you will be earning points for participation. In-class projects will be another way that attendance will be taken and also count towards participation.

2) News Article Presentation: (15 points)

We will begin each class with a conversation about some current social problem. Each student will be asked to bring in one current, relevant newspaper article dealing with a social problem and its relation to a major social institution to discuss with the rest of the class. Students will be assigned class dates on which they are to bring in their articles. Each student will lead a short discussion (3-5 minutes) about his/her topic. Sources for such articles might include (but are not limited to) The Los Angeles Times (www.latimes.com), The New York Times, New York Daily News, Los Angeles Daily

News. A one page paper is due with the article on the date of your presentation. Detailed instructions attached.

- 3) Gender Project: (25 points) Due 11/6
You will be assigned a project on advertisement in America that you will present to the class. Don't worry, it's fun and pain free. Hand-out and instructions are attached.
- 4) Social Problems Paper (30 points) Due 12/4
You will receive up to 30 points for writing a 2-3 page, typed, double-spaced, social problems paper about your family. Instructions attached.
- 5) Midterm and Final: (120 points total)
Both the midterm and the final will be two hour, 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. The midterm covers Chapters 1-6 and is worth 60 points. The final exam covers Chapters 7-12 and is worth 60 points.

Topics and Assignments:

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

Week 1: 8/28	Syllabus, Introductions, Chapter 1 (How Sociologists View Social Problems)
Week 2: 9/4	Chapter 2 (Aging and Theory)
Week 3: 9/11	Chapter 3 (Sexual Behavior)
Week 4: 9/18	Chapter 4 (Alcohol and Other Drugs)
Week 5: 9/25	Chapter 5 (Violence in Society)
Week 6: 10/2	Chapter 6 (Crime and Criminal Justice)
Week 7: 10/9	MIDTERM (covering Chapters 1-6)
Week 8: 10/16	Chapter 7 (Poverty and Wealth)
Week 9: 10/23	Chapter 9 (Inequalities of Gender)
Week 10: 10/30	Chapter 9 (Inequalities of Gender continued)
Week 11: 11/6	<u>Gender Presentations/Gender Project Due</u>
Week 12: 11/13	Chapter 8 (Race-Ethnic Relations)
Week 13: 11/20	Chapter 10 (Medical Care)
Week 14: 11/27	Chapter 11 (Family)
Week 15: 12/4	Chapter 12 (Urbanization and Population), Final Review and <u>Social Problems Paper Due</u>
Week 16: 12/11	<u>FINAL EXAM, 8-10PM (covering Chapters 7-12)</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.

Update Email and emergency contact information:

To update your email address and home phone number, please login to the District Student Information System at this link: <https://eweb3.laccd.edu/WebStudent/signon.asp>. 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.

Instructions to login to our class website for MYLABSPLUS/ECOLLEGE:

Step 1:

Purchase book from LA Mission Bookstore, comes with MYLABSPPLUS access code
Step 2:

Go to www.lamc.mylabsplus.com (also known as ECOLLEGE Login page)

1. Your log in name is your school id 88----- (no spaces or dashes)
2. Then your password is "PASSWORD" all CAPITALS
3. The you will see our class " Sociology 2, Sec. 3304, Fall 2012, Prof.Biondo"
4. You will then be asked to enter your enter PIN code which comes with your textbook.
5. Click on "access course." You will only need to do this once.
6. For security reasons its best if you CHANGE the password as soon as possible by clicking on "my account."
7. After in-putting you PIN code, you will only need your 88# and your password to login.

If you have any questions, please email me at jillb9191@yahoo.com.

For IT assistance, please email helpdesk@lamc.mylabsplus.com or call (888) 883-1299.

Keep up with your grades on class website under "GRADEBOOK"

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 _____

NEWS ARTICLE ASSIGNMENT

(15 points)

Each student will be required to make a brief (2-3 minute) presentation about their article to the class. Days of presentation to be determined.

Your book defines social institutions as "enduring features of social life" (Henslin, Social Problems, page 361). As you know, this includes a myriad of things – from family, religion, government and the economy to the mass media, hospitals, business corporations, the police, and even day care. "All societies create social institutions – relatively enduring clusters of values, norms, social statuses, roles and groups that address fundamental social needs." (Thompson, Society in Focus, page 122).

This assignment requires you to:

- 1) Find one current, relevant article dealing with some social problem and its relation to a major social institution. You will need to cut and paste the article into a Word document (be

sure to include bibliographic data – article’s title, author’s name, date and name of publication as well as web address where it was found) and submit it with your paper.

(2) Write a one page paper about your topic and how it relates to what we’re learning in class. (I don’t simply want a synopsis of the article, although a quick, one paragraph synopsis is fine. The rest of the paper must be about how the topic relates to the class.)

The questions you need to answer are (please answer in ESSAY FORMAT): What is the social institution identified in this article? What is the social problem? How does the social institution relate to the social problem? Does it help solve the social problem or does it contribute to it? In what ways does it solve or contribute to it? If it helps solve it, what are some ways it could go even further? If it contributes to the social problem, what could be done to change it?

Some guidelines:

Find your article from a “popular” periodical (but from reliable news sources) – not blogs, not Wikipedia, not ask.com, etc. Basically, the articles should be from newspapers or reputable news magazines and reputable news websites (Vogue Magazine, for instance, is not a news magazine). If you’re not sure, contact me.

Here is a list of acceptable sources:

Newsweek Magazine
US News and World Report
Time Magazine
New York Times
Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles Daily News
Chicago Tribune
msn.com
cnn.com
npr.org
foxnews.com

GENDER PROJECT (25 points)

The purpose of this project is to learn different techniques of doing research, so we will focus on content analysis. Using the definitions discussed in class, you will need to use at least 2 different gender magazines and analyze their advertisements.

1. Review each magazine and look for ads that represent either traditional gender roles, or any of the observations made by Goffman.
2. Cut up all the ads and look for patterns. If you choose, you may look at a magazine from a different decade and do a comparison to today’s ads (for example, look at ads from a magazine printed the 1950’s vs. one published recently), or compare only magazine ads from today.
3. Organize your ads for presentation to the class (glue, tape on solid paper).
4. Write up the following information.
 - A. What patterns did you discover in your set of advertisements?
 - B. How many ads represented Goffman’s observations? Give examples relating to your ads.

- C. Overall conclusions on each magazine's advertisements.
- D. Overall opinion about the research project.

FORMAT:

- 1. Project should be a minimum of one page (double spaced, spell-checked, typed).
- 2. You will present your ads to the class (informally) and give your overall conclusions.
- 3. Grade will be based on the presentation in class (10 points) and the written part of the project 15 points. (Both must be done for credit)

SOCIAL PROBLEMS PAPER
(30 points)

You will receive up to 30 points for writing a 2-3 page, typed, double-spaced, social problems paper about your family.

Please review the first chapter and make sure that the issue you have in mind is indeed a social problem. Examples are as follows: issues of addiction to alcohol or drugs, poverty, children out of wedlock, abuse, early marriages/childbearing and domestic violence.

Answer the following questions in an essay format:

Stay focused on social problems rather than just ONE person's problem. You may want to make a list and decide what you will focus on since there are many social problems that your family may be facing.

- 1. Looking back at your own family, do you see a social problem that has taken place in at least one generation and seems to continue. Discuss this social problem in detail.
- 2. Next, discuss how you think it can be fixed long term for the individuals involved and to eliminate it all together for the next generation (if possible).
- 3. Review the textbook's information about the "culture of poverty" and think about what problems may still arise even if you gave a lot of money to the people who are in "trouble." Would money solve their social problem? If yes, how? If no, why not?
- 4. Discuss how money, power and personal responsibility play a role in the social problems of America and how that relates to your family.

This essay is to be in your own words. Any information obtained from another source is to be listed in a bibliography. With the exception of the material found in your text, there is nothing to research about your own family.

Don't forget to use SPELLCHECK and check your grammar. You will be graded down for gross grammatical errors and misspellings.