SOC 8 - SENSE AND NONSENSE IN SOCIAL ISSUES AND RESEARCH

INSTRUCTOR: D. Welkley

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Students will be provided the opportunity to learn how to think critically about printed statements on social problems and social issues written by journalists, sociologists, scholars and writers, members of vested interest groups, and the general public. Given the nature of our society, throughout one’s lifetime s/he will encounter both written and verbal statements and claims about social problems and social issues. This course will aid students in their responsibility to participate as an informed citizen as well as one who will consider and assess the positions taken on various social problems and issues. This course is designed to help the student think critically about one aspect of social issues and social problems—written claims that are made about them by journalists, social scientists and other informed and concerned writers. Students will have the opportunity to learn and demonstrate their skills concerning how to think about social problems and social issues, not what to think about them.


METHOD OF EVALUATION: Attendance and participation points are worth 30% of the final course grade.

Eight “out of class” and four “in class” assignments will be collected for grading; they are worth a total of 50% of the final grade.

Two short quizzes will contribute a total 20% to the final course grade.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To expose students to a conceptual thinking frame for use when critically analyzing and understanding social problems and social issues.
2. To practice learning of the thinking frame while understanding and considering various societal problems and issues.
3. To enable students to identify important steps concerning how to think and analyze information presented in everyday life regarding social problems and issues.