

SOCIAL PROBLEMS
SOC 003-1
Semester: Spring 2007
Time: MWF 12:00a - 12:50p TAH-1004
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to major social problems in the U.S., with an emphasis on systemic problems, such as economics, racism and sexism, Problems in major social institutions such as the family, social services, criminal justice and the environment are also addressed. 3 units.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To acquaint students with basic knowledge concerning the sociology of social problems.
To acquaint students with key perspectives and methods of researching social problems.
To provide students opportunities to demonstrate their ability to critically analyze current social problems
To enable students to present information concerning social problems orally and in written form. **REQUIRED**

TEXT

Social Problems: A Critical Power-Conflict Perspective. 5th Edition. Joe R. Feagin, Clairece Booher Feagin. ISBN: 0136510841

RECOMMENDED READINGS

C. Wright Mills (1959). The Sociological Imagination. Oxford University Press: New York.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

Two Essay Examinations. There will be two essay examinations. Students are required to purchase bluebooks (8X10) for each exam. To schedule a make-up exam, students must contact the professor during regular office hours within one week (five working days) of the scheduled exam date.
(200 points possible/100 points each)

Five In/Out-Class Activities. Students are expected to participate in five activities related to topics concerning social programs. These activities are designed to enable students to apply information derived from the course. These activities are designed to stimulate discussion between group members and the class at large. Each student should write one page reflecting your contribution to the group discussion. (50 points possible/10 points each)

Activity #1 – Who are the Poor?

Activity #2 – What is the Most Significant Social Problem Today?

Activity #3 – The Bio-Medical Ethics Human Cloning

Activity #4 – What is Worker Alienation?

Activity #5 – Design a Social Welfare Policy

Grading Scale

A = 90% 225 -250 Points

B = 80% 200-224 Points

C = 70% 175-199Points

D = 60% 150-174 Points

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to be prompt for each meeting of the class. Preparation previous to each meeting is also a must. More specifically, students should be prepared to openly discuss course topics each day of the course. Participation in class discussions is considered a key component to the course. Students are encouraged to ask questions and to provide their unique insights as time permits. Attendance is considered in rounding your final grade for the course. Those students with less than three absences for the course will be rewarded under this provision. Roll will be taken periodically throughout the course to determine your attendance.