

SOC 282-4622
Social Problems
Fall 2011
Neal 116
MW 1-2:15

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***This syllabus contains hyperlinks. To access the hyperlinks, download a copy of the syllabus from BlackBoard. Any time you see a word underlined and in blue (on your computer), you can right-click on it to go to the linked website.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An issue oriented course. Among the issues covered are how sociologists view social problems, the changing family, poverty, race and ethnic relations, aging, crime and criminal justice, human sexual behavior, problems of physical and mental illness, urban problems, and other areas based upon student interests.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the completion of the course, the student will

- Be introduced to various sociological perspectives on social problems.
- Use sociological concepts learned in class to be able to explain social problems.
- Be able to explain how scientific research is used to understand social problems.
- Be able to analyze social problems reported in the media in writing.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Best, Joel. [Social Problems](#)
2. Silver, Ira. [Social Problems Readings](#)

ONLINE RESOURCES

1. [Facebook](#) (Learn Sociology) & [Twitter](#): (@learnsociology): I manage a [facebook](#) and [twitter](#) account for all of my sociology courses and sociological work. I encourage you to follow one or both accounts. You are not required to follow either account, but I will post announcements, reminders, and interesting articles that relate to our course on both sites. When you get to the course schedule, you will see that each Week contains a twitter hashtag (#). I will tag my tweets with these hashtags and I ask that you do the same. This enables you to search for each week's tweets, which you could use to review for your exams.
2. I use [BlackBoard](#) as a repository for our course materials. You will find this syllabus and handouts stored there. I will post announcements to BlackBoard, too.

GRADING POLICY

1. **Exams (2 @ 50 points each)**
 - a. Midterm exam is September 29 and covers chapters 1-5 from Best and all associated readings from Silver.

- b. Final exam is December 15 (10:15-12:15) and covers chapters 6-11 from Best, all associated readings from Silver, and the films
 - c. Both exams will be essay. You will be given the essay questions one week prior to the exam. On the day of the exam, I will randomly select two of the questions, which you will be required to answer.
- 2. Film Analysis (2 @ 25 points each)**
- a. We will be watching two films during the semester in class. You will write a 2-3 page sociologically-informed analysis of those films. The film analyses are due February 29 and April 18 by 1 p.m.
 - b. Film Analyses should be submitted through [Turn It In](#) and will not be accepted elsewhere. [Turn It In: The Turn It In Student Manual](#) is also available to review to learn how to submit papers. If you have never created an account, you can create your account [here](#). You will need the course id 4643126, and password problems to create your account.
 - c. Further details about this assignment will be distributed at a later date.
- 3. Course Project and Presentation (100 points)**
- a. I will assign each of you to a group of three and you will select a topic as a group. You will be applying the concepts you learn in this class to your selected topic.
 - b. There are 11 parts of the assignment, with part 11 being a 5-7 minute presentation. You will receive a separate hand-out with full details at a later date.
 - c. You will turn in each assignment through in class on the due date specified in the course schedule below.
- 4. In-class writing (50 points)** You will be required to complete in-class writing. I will pose a question and you will provide a written response. You may miss two in-class writings without penalty. In-class writing can not be made up regardless of reason. In-class writing will be graded pass/fail. Point value per in-class writing will be determined at the end of the semester based on the number of in-class writing assigned during the semester.
- 5. Extra Credit Assessment Survey** due Friday, May 4 at midnight. You need the password "extracredit" to access the survey. It is extremely important that you do not complete this survey until you have completed all of your work up until this point. If I suspect that you took this early in the semester and did not take the assessment seriously, you will not earn extra credit. You will earn 15 extra credit points just for completing this survey, regardless of how many answers you get correct. You will need your course section number.

The mechanics of all out-of-class written work:

- Must be typed, double-spaced, 12 point font, 1 or 1.5 inch margins.
- Please spell-check and read over your work before turning it in. No more than two spelling or grammatical errors per page.
- Place your name, the date, and the assignment title at the top of each entry. No title page is necessary.
- Keep a back-up copy of your work so you do not lose it.

- Include in-text citations and a reference page when appropriate (this means your reference page should have an APA formatted entry for the article, the textbook, and any other references you use). You should follow APA format. More information on APA format can be found at the [OWL @ Purdue](#).

Grading Scale (point system, not an average):

A	300-270
B	269.9-240
C	239.9-210
D	209.9-180
F	179.9-0

GENERAL POLICIES

Email: You need to use your Lake Land email account to communicate with me. Your Lake Land email address uses the same prefix as your IRIS and BlackBoard login. I can not guarantee I will respond to emails from other addresses. Make sure that you include your course name and section number in the subject of your email. This way, I know the email is from a student and I will respond to you first. I will not discuss grades via email. I will discuss your grade in BlackBoard or in-person only. I will respond to your email between 24-48 hours M-F. I will not respond to emails sent on the weekend until Monday or Tuesday.

Attendance: I do not grade attendance. If you are absent, you are responsible for any information covered in class. It is your responsibility to complete all the requirements listed in the course schedule by their due date.

Policy on Academic Honest: Response to student cheating on coursework shall be per school policy with the following instructor options:

- No credit given for the plagiarized work
- Reduced credit in the form of a lower grade for plagiarized work
- Instructor notifies the Division's Chair of the incident
- Cheating incidents of a serious nature may result in dropping the student from the course, which could result in failure in the course

If in doubt, ask. Ignorance is not an excuse. If quoting material, any repetition of three or more words should be included in quotations and citations should be used.

Lake Land College's Student Handbook Conduct Code with more details can be found [here](#).

Withdrawals: A student may drop a course through April 30, 2012. A grade of "W" will be recorded for the dropped course.

Disabilities: Students with some special reason for modified testing procedures or not-taking procedures should contact me as soon as possible so appropriate arrangements

can be made. See Jordan Hicks in Student Services Building #24 if you think you have learning, physical, or emotional issues.

Religious Holidays: If after reading the syllabus, you discover that I have assigned a test or assignment due date for a holy day of your faith, please let me know by the end of Week 2. Furthermore, if you will be missing any class because of holy days this semester, please inform me in writing by the end of Week 2.

Student Athletes: If your coach anticipates that you will need to miss class this semester due to athletic participation, you need to provide me with written documentation from your coach by the end of Week 2.

GROUND RULES:

1. Do not interrupt your fellow students or myself.
2. No personal conversations during lecture (this includes texting).
3. We will not accept any discrimination, intimidation, or harassment of fellow students.
4. Remember, just because something does not apply to you, does not make it any less true. Keep an open mind.
5. Electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, e-readers, laptops, tablets) are conditionally allowed in this classroom. It is assumed that your use of these devices is for educational or extreme emergency situations. Any other uses are prohibited. This technology should be set to silent. I reserve the right to disallow the use of electronic devices at any time for any reason.
6. I do not allow this class to be recorded (audio or visual) unless you have documentation requiring it to be recorded that you have cleared with me beforehand.
7. Consequences: you may be asked to leave class that day.

COURSE SCHEDULE

You should have read the assigned reading prior to the class meeting we are scheduled to discuss it.

Week 1 #soc282wk1	9-Jan	Introduction/Syllabus
	11-Jan	Read Best: Chapter 1
Week 2 #soc282wk2	16-Jan	No Class
	18-Jan	Read Silver: #5
		Read Silver: #26
Week 3 #soc282wk3	23-Jan	Read Best: Chapter 2
	25-Jan	Read Silver: #3
		Read Silver: #10
		Read Silver: #20
		Read Silver: #22
	Course Project #1 due	
Week 4	30-Jan	Read Best: Chapter 3

#soc282wk4	1-Feb	Read Silver: #9
		Read Silver: #12
		Course Project #2 due
Week 5 #soc282wk5	6-Feb	Read Best: Chapter 4
	8-Feb	Read Silver: #6
		Read Silver: #13
Week 6 #soc282wk6	13-Feb	Read Best: Chapter 5
	15-Feb	Read Silver: #1
		Read Silver: #7
		Read Silver: #18
		Read Silver: #31
Course Project #4 due		
Week 7 #soc282wk7	20-Feb	Midterm Exam
	22-Feb	Film
Week 8 #soc282wk8	27-Feb	Film
		Course Project #5 due
	29-Feb	Film Analysis #1 Due
Week 9 #soc282wk9	5-Mar	Read Best: Chapter 6
		Read Silver: #8
		Read Silver: #14
		Read Silver: #16
	7-Mar	Course Project #6 due
		Read Silver: #23
Week 10 #soc282wk10	12-Mar	Read Silver: #21
		Read Silver: #32
		Read Best Chapter 7
Week 11 #soc282wk11	14-Mar	Read Silver: #2
		Read Silver: #24
		Course Project #7 due
Week 11 #soc282wk11	19-Mar	Read Best Chapter 8
		Read Silver: #15
		Read Silver: #25
		Read Silver: #28
	21-Mar	Guest Speaker
		Course Project #8 due

Week 12 #soc282wk12	26-Mar	Read Best Chapter 9
	28-Mar	Read Silver: #29
		Read Silver: #30
		Read Silver: #33
		Course Project #9 due
Spring Break	2-Apr	No Class
	4-Apr	No Class
Week 13 #soc282wk13	9-Apr	Read Best Chapter 10
	11-Apr	Film
		Course Project #10 due
Week 14 #soc282wk14	16-Apr	Film
	18-Apr	Film Analysis #2 Due
		Read Best Chapter 10
Week 15 #soc282wk15	23-Apr	Read Best Chapter 11
	25-Apr	Catch-up/Student's Choice
Week 16 #soc282wk16	30-Apr	Course Project #11 due (Presentation)
	2-May	Course Project #11 due (Presentation)
Week 18 #soc282wk17	9-May 12:30-2:30	Final Exam

The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.