

SOC 282-1449
Social Problems
Fall 2011
NE 101
TR 11-12:15

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***This syllabus contains hyperlinks. To access the hyperlinks, download a copy of the syllabus from Instructure Canvas. 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](#)
3. Readings on Instructure Canvas

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. This courses hashtag is #soc282. I will tag my tweets with this hashtag and I ask that you do the same. This enables you to search for the course's tweets, which you could use to review for your exams.
2. I use Instructure Canvas as a repository for our course materials. You will find this syllabus and handouts stored there. I will post announcements to Instructure Canvas.

GRADING POLICY

1. **Exams (2 @ 50 points each)**
 - a. Midterm exam is October 4 and covers chapters 1-5 from Best and all other assigned readings, films, guest speakers, and other course material up to this point.

- b. Final exam is Dec. 13 (10:15-12:15) and covers chapters 6-11 from Best and all other assigned readings, films, guest speakers, and other course material since the Midterm exam.
 - 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 on the day of the exam.
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 October 16 and November 27 by the start of class on Instructure Canvas.
 - b. 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 6-8 minute presentation. You will receive a separate hand-out with full details at a later date.
 - c. You will turn in each on Instructure Canvas 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, December 7 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 and the assignment title at the top of each submission. 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.

- All written work is due on Instructure Canvas by the start of class on the day it is due. No late work will be accepted or accepted elsewhere.
- Double-check to make sure your work uploads correctly.

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 Instructure Canvas 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 Instructure Canvas 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 Honesty: 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 at <http://www.lakeland.cc.il.us/studenthandbook/detail.cfm?id=30>.

Withdrawals: A student may drop a course through Dec. 4, 2012. A grade of “W” will be recorded for the dropped course.

Disabilities: Students with some special reason for modified testing procedures or note-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.

Online: Reading can be found on Instructure Canvas

Week 1	Aug. 23	Introduction/Syllabus
Week 2	Aug. 28	Best: Chapter 1
	Aug. 30	Silver #8
		Silver #28
		Online: Household Spending by Class Online: Class Differences in Spending on Children
Week 3	Sept. 4	Best: Chapter 2
	Sept. 6	Silver #14
		Silver #26
		Silver #32
		Course Project #1 due
Week 4	Sept. 11	Best: Chapter 3

	Sept. 13	Silver #13 Online: Challenging Gendered Beauty Norms Course Project #2 due
Week 5	Sept. 18	Best: Chapter 4
	Sept. 20	Silver # 3
		Silver #6
		Online: Decoding Autism Research Course Project #3 due
Week 6	Sept. 25	Best: Chapter 5
	Sept. 27	Silver #25
		Silver #30
		Guest Speaker Course Project #4 due
Week 7	Oct. 2	No Class
	Oct. 4	Midterm Exam
Week 8	Oct. 9	Film
		Online: Farmers Cope with Roundup Resistant Weeds
		Online: Is Junk Food Really Cheaper?
	Oct. 11	Film Course Project #5 due
Week 9	Oct. 16	Film Analysis #1 Due
		Best: Chapter 6
		The Story of Stuff (linked online, but we will watch in class)
	Oct. 18	Course Project #6 due
		Silver #19 Online: The Greenwashing of America
Week 10	Oct. 23	Best Chapter 7
	Oct. 25	Online: STEM Fields
		Online: Senate Report on For-Profit Colleges Course Project #7 due
Week 11	Oct. 30	Best Chapter 8
		Silver #9
		Silver #21
		Silver #32
	Nov. 1	Guest Speaker
		Online: Marketing Meth
Course Project #8 due		

Week 12	Nov. 6	Best Chapter 9
	Nov. 8	Online: Health, Work, and Well Being
		Silver #10
		Silver #22
		Silver #23
		Online: When is a Social Problem
Course Project #9 due		
Week 13	Nov. 13	Best Chapter 10
	Nov. 15	Readings to be announced
		Film
Course Project #10 due		
Week 14	Nov. 20	Film
	Nov. 22	No Class
Week 15	Nov. 27	Film Analysis #2 Due
	Nov. 29	Readings to be announced
Week 16	Dec. 4	Best Chapter 11
		Course Project #11 due (Presentation)
	Dec. 6	Course Project #11 due (Presentation)
Week 18	Dec. 13 10:15-12:15	Final Exam

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