

Social Problems

SOC 222-650

Professor John Tenuto

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CLC Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 7:00AM–8:00AM

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 7:00AM-8:30AM; Tuesdays 9:45AM-10:15AM

Online Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:30PM-1:30PM; Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30AM until 12:30PM

"People who like to avoid shocking discoveries, who prefer to believe that society is just what they were taught in Sunday School, who like the safety of the rules, the maxims of what Alfred Schutz has called the "world-taken-for-granted," should stay away from sociology" - Peter Berger, author of "Invitation to Sociology."

Goals

To stress the comprehension of social reality through empirical study

To analyze competing causal theories of social problems

To explore the relationship of social change to social problems

To emphasize the social nature of society's problems

To gain a concern and awareness of various proposed solutions to problems and the probable effects of implementing those proposals

Texts

Introduction to Sociology 2e Second Edition by OpenStax College of Rice University.

This is a free etext which is available as a pdf file in the "Etext" link of our class Blackboard website. The book may also be read online or downloaded free for computers and mobile devices at: <https://openstax.org/details/introduction-sociology-2e>. You do not need to make a donation at the OpenStax website, and may select "continue without donating" if you wish.

Reflections: A Life in Two Worlds by Ricardo Montalban and Bob Thomas

Thanks to the kindness of Mr. Ricardo Montalban's family, our class has been given special permission to use a free, electronic version of Mr. Montalban's out of print autobiography. A pdf version of the book is available for student academic use on our class Blackboard website. Please help keep our textbooks free by not distributing or copying this book to any other source or person. This free pdf book is for students of my classes and only for academic purposes.

The Grades

Grades are comprised of three tests and the ancestry homework assignment. *Solutions* is worth 50 points, and each test is also worth 50 points.

The grade system for our class:

179 - 200 Points = A

159 - 178 Points = B

139 - 158 Points = C

119 - 138 Points = D

Zero-118 Points = F

The Policies

Regular attendance is recommended. Tardiness, talking while others are talking, plagiarism, and other disruptive behaviors are not accepted class behaviors. Please reference the CLC student rights and responsibilities.

Tests must be taken in the computer lab at the scheduled time with the class unless there is a note from the Office of Disabled Student Services. No late tests or homework are allowed unless there is a serious, unforeseeable, unavoidable, and verifiable emergency which is at the discretion of the teacher to agree qualifies or a recognized religious obligation. Test dates may need to change. The College of Lake County expects that students with disabilities needing test taking, note taking, or other special accommodations contact the LRC's Office of Disabled Student Services, 847-543-2474 or 847-223-0134 TTY.

The last day to withdraw with a "W" grade from *Introduction to Sociology* without the instructor's consent is April 12, 2017. In order to withdraw from *Introduction to Sociology* after this date, the student must have a current passing grade at the time of the student request.

The College of Lake County Counseling Office offers professional counseling for students who are in crisis or are having personal problems. The services of professional counselors are available at all campuses. Grayslake Campus (847) 543-2060; Waukegan Campus (847) 543-2186; Vernon Hills Campus (847) 543-6501

No texting is allowed during class. No recording of the class is allowed unless an accommodation has been granted by the CLC Office of Students with Disabilities. Please refrain from checking cell phones or utilizing PCs for non-class purposes during lectures.

The College of Lake County rules about academic honesty are located at <http://www.clcillinois.edu/aboutclc/depts/ssd/student-rights-and-responsibilities>. Academic dishonesty results in a failing grade for the assignment and informing the College administration at the teacher's discretion. If you have any questions as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please inform the teacher. I am happy to help. We will discuss examples during class lectures.

Social Problems

January

17 Tuesday

Introductions

19 Thursday

Module 1: What is a Social Problem?

Please read from our etextbook:

Chapter 20: Population and the Environment

Chapter 21: Social Movements and Social Change

Please read:

C. Wright Mills, "The Promise"

24 Tuesday

Continue *What is a Social Problem?*

26 Thursday

Continue *What is a Social Problem?*

31 Tuesday

Continue *What is a Social Problem?*

February

2 Thursday

Continue *What is a Social Problem?*

7 Tuesday

Continue *What is a Social Problem?*

9 Thursday

Continue *What is a Social Problem?*

14 Tuesday

Continue *What is a Social Problem?*

16 Thursday

Continue *What is a Social Problem?*

21 Tuesday

Continue *What is a Social Problem?*

23 Thursday

Continue *What is a Social Problem?*

28 Tuesday

Test 1

March

2 Thursday

Module 2: Economics and Sociology

Please read from our etextbook:

Chapter 1: An Introduction to Sociology

Chapter 9: Social Stratification in the United States

7 Tuesday

Continue *Economics and Social Problems*

9 Thursday	Continue <i>Economics and Social Problems</i>
14 Tuesday	Continue <i>Economics and Social Problems</i>
16 Thursday	Continue <i>Economics and Social Problems</i>
28 Tuesday	Continue <i>Economics and Social Problems</i>
30 Thursday	Continue <i>Economics and Social Problems</i>
<i>April</i>	
4 Tuesday	Continue <i>Economics and Social Problems</i>
6 Thursday	Continue <i>Economics and Social Problems</i>
11 Tuesday	Test 2
13 Thursday	<i>Prejudice and Discrimination</i> Please read from our etextbook: Chapter 11: Race and Ethnicity
	Please read <i>Reflections: A Life in Two Worlds</i>
18 Tuesday:	Continue <i>Prejudice and Discrimination</i>
20 Thursday	Continue <i>Prejudice and Discrimination</i>
25 Tuesday	Continue <i>Prejudice and Discrimination</i>
27 Thursday	Continue <i>Prejudice and Discrimination</i>
<i>May</i>	
2 Tuesday	Continue <i>Prejudice and Discrimination</i>
4 Thursday	Continue <i>Prejudice and Discrimination</i>
11 Thursday	Test 3 and Solutions 8:00AM

Solutions

- 1) Identify a specific social problem that you wish to learn more about
- 2) Using our class textbook and other scholarly sources, research the history and facts about that social problem. You may also utilize the Ricardo Montalban biography as a source if appropriate.
- 3) Please write an at least four page paper that answers these questions in detail:
 - ✓ What is the history or origins of this problem? Which groups were affected by this social problem? How were they affected? Be certain to include statistics or data.
 - ✓ What was the official reaction to the social problem initially?
 - ✓ What was the reaction to that official reaction by those affected?
 - ✓ What is the problem today? Be certain to include statistics or data.
 - ✓ What is a possible solution to the problem?

Papers should include customary grammar and quotes or specific information from our class readings and outside scholarly sources with proper citation, either APA or MLA. The papers should include sources yet also must be mostly original. Please avoid the use of personalisms when writing to help with objectivity. Personalisms are the words and phrases I believe, I think, you, we, and us. The paper is due at the start of class, Thursday, May 11, 2017, 8:00AM.

As this is the last day of class meetings and grades are submitted after class, there are no late papers accepted unless there is an extreme, unavoidable, and unforeseeable emergency which is at the discretion of the teacher to accept as a valid reason and which may result in a temporary incomplete grade for the class. Students must inform the teacher of any problems before the due date and time. Students should keep a copy of the homework. If you have questions, please let me know!