

SOCIOLOGY 2600

Contemporary Social Problems

Fall Semester 2003–MWF–Period 1 (8-8:50 AM), Caldwell 304

Instructor:

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Required Textbook

D. Stanley Eitzen and Maxine Baca Zinn, *Social Problems*, 9th Edition, Allyn and Bacon: Needham Heights, MA 2003.

Course Objective

This is an introductory course to American social problems and compliments Introductory Sociology. There is no requirement that the student has taken any other course in sociology. This course is more focused on a specific set of social problems and we will try to examine the causes and solutions to the major social problems in the United States. We will attempt to take on a “sociological view” and approach these issues as a product of the American social structure.

Course Requirements

A. Examinations

Students will be responsible for the lecture material discussed in the classroom as well as the reading assignments in the text. It is not the instructor’s intent to cover in lecture the same material that is found in the text. The lecture material will complement and extend those issues that are found in the text. The course will be split into three parts with an exam given at the end of each section of the course. Each exam will be worth 25% of the final grade. The final exam will only cover the last third of the course.

B. Task Force Assignments

The class will be broken down into small teams, with each team being given the assignment of

examining how these American social problems are addressed in our local community. The objective of this assignment is to interview individuals who deal with these social problems, visit agencies or institutions in Athens or elsewhere, and observe those people who are struggling with a specific social problem. Each member of a task force will be required to submit a 5 to 7 page paper that critically examines how their specific social problem is addressed and whether there is any evidence that the problem is being solved.. Each task force group will be required to give a class presentation toward the end of the semester. The paper and the class presentation will be worth 25% of the final grade. This paper is due *no later than December 2*. Papers turned in late will be marked down one full grade.

The final grade will be calculated in the following manner:

Examination #1	25%
Examination #2	25%
Examination #3 (Final)	25%
Task Force Assignment	<u>25%</u>
TOTAL	100%

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

Grade of A: 90% or better
Grade of B: 80% to 89%
Grade of C: 70% to 79%
Grade of D: 60% to 69%
Grade of F: 59% or less

Attendance Policy

Students who do not attend class on a regular basis will not do well in this class. Students who miss the first two classes will be dropped so that others may register for this course. Students who miss four classes will be dropped from the course. Prior to October 14 the midpoint of the term, students who are dropped from the class will be given a grade of W. After October 14, the only grade that can be assigned will be a WF.

Classroom Etiquette

Students are expected to arrive before the lecture begins. *Please turn off your cell phones.* Students will not be permitted to sleep or read the paper. If you find that having a class at 8 AM is a problem, then this is not the class for you.

Web site for the course

Supplementary material for this course can be found at the following web site: www.arches.uga.edu/~drojek. Click on SOCI 1600 and you will find a section that related to the lecture material and to the chapters. This material is merely supplementary information and is not intended to take the place of actual lecture or reading material.

Key Dates

August 18: classes begin
Sept. 1: Labor Day, no class
Oct. 14: midpoint of the semester
Oct. 30-31: Fall break, no classes
Nov. 26-28: Thanksgiving break
Dec. 8: Classes end
Dec. 10: Final exam (8-11 AM)

Course Outline

1. Introduction to the study of social problems
Eitzen & Zinn, Chapter 1
2. Economic Systems: Wealth and Inequality
Eitzen & Zinn, Chapter 2
3. Population Issues
Eitzen & Zinn, Chapter 3
4. Environmental Problems
Eitzen & Zinn, Chapter 4
5. Poverty
Eitzen & Zinn, Chapters 7

EXAMINATION #1: TOPICS 1 -5: SEPTEMBER 24

6. Race and Ethnicity
Eitzen & Zinn, Chapter 8
7. Sexism
Eitzen & Zinn, Chapter 9
8. Age Discrimination

Eitzen & Zinn, Chapter 5

9. Sexual Deviance

Eitzen & Zinn, Chapter 10

10. Family Problems

Eitzen & Zinn, Chapter 15

***EXAMINATION #2: TOPICS 6 - 10: October 29

11. The Educational System

Eitzen & Zinn, Chapter 16

12 Health Care: Mental and Physical Issues

Eitzen & Zinn, Chapter 17

13 Work & Industry

Eitzen & Zinn, Chapter 14

14 Crime and the Legal System

Eitzen & Zinn, Chapter 12

15 Drug Abuse

Eitzen & Zinn, Chapter 13

LAST CLASS: December 8

FINAL EXAM: December 10, 8 - 11



AM