Social Problems
SOC 222-650

Professor John Tenuto
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A250 Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 7:30AM–10:00AM
Tuesdays and Thursdays: 7:15AM-8:00AM; 9:30AM-10:00AM
Online Hours: Tuesdays 10:30AM until 11:30AM

"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 explore the relationship of social change to social problems
To analyze competing causal theories of social problems
To gain a concern and awareness of various proposed solutions to problems and the probable effects of implementing those proposals
To emphasize the social nature of society's problems

Required Text

*Introduction to Sociology* 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 for computers and mobile devices at: [https://openstaxcollege.org/textbooks/introduction-to-sociology/get](https://openstaxcollege.org/textbooks/introduction-to-sociology/get).

You do not need to make a donation at the OpenStax website, and may select “continue without donating” if you wish.
The Grades

Each test is worth 50 points and the Ancestry Social Problems paper is worth 50 points also.

Grade system:
- 180 - 200 Points = A
- 160 - 179 Points = B
- 140 - 159 Points = C
- 120 - 139 Points = D
- Zero - 119 Points = F

The Policies:

Regular attendance is required. Tardiness is not acceptable. It is the responsibility of students to let me know if they arrive after attendance for sociology. Tardiness, talking while others are talking, plagiarism, and other disruptive behaviors are not acceptable class behaviors. Please reference the CLC student rights and responsibilities. There are no late homework assignments accepted or allowed. 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 are allowed unless there is a serious, unforeseeable, and verifiable emergency which is at the discretion of the teacher to agree qualifies.

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 from Social Problems without the instructor's consent is November 13, 2013. In order to withdraw from Social Problems 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 which as a result may affect their academic and career goals. The services of professional counselors are available at three locations on an appointment or drop-in basis: Grayslake Campus, C110, (847) 543-2060; Waukegan Campus, N211, (847) 543-2186; Vernon Hills Campus, V130, (847) 543-6501

No texting is allowed during class. 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 in the catalog. Academic dishonesty will result in failing grade for the class and the informing the College administration at the teacher's discretion. Academic concerns are defined as cheating (“intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids or an act of deceit by which a student attempts to misrepresent academic skills or knowledge; unauthorized copying”);
fabrication ("intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation such as falsifying research, inventing or exaggerating data, or listing incorrect or fictitious references"); academic dishonesty ("intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate college policies, such as tampering with grades, misrepresenting one's identity, or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a test or any information about the test"); and plagiarism ("the deliberate adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, phrases, statistics from books, journals, or the Internet, or statements of another person as one's own without appropriate acknowledgment, such as copying another's work, buying a paper from another student or other source, presenting someone else's opinions and theories as one's own, fabricating sources to cover up plagiarism, or working jointly on a project then submitting it as one's own") (Source: http://pd.clcillinois.edu/). If you have any questions, please inform me and I am happy to help.
## Social Problems

### August

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27 Tuesday</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Thursday</td>
<td><em>Module 1: What is a Social Problem?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Please read from our etext:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 20: Population and the Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 21: Social Movements and Social Change</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Please read:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C. Wright Mills, “The Promise”</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Please watch:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home</em> (1986) directed by Leonard Nimoy</td>
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### September

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Tuesday</td>
<td>No school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Thursday</td>
<td>Continue <em>What is a Social Problem?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Tuesday</td>
<td>Continue <em>What is a Social Problem?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Thursday</td>
<td>Continue <em>What is a Social Problem?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Tuesday</td>
<td>Continue <em>What is a Social Problem?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Thursday</td>
<td>Continue <em>What is a Social Problem?</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Tuesday</td>
<td>Continue <em>What is a Social Problem?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Thursday</td>
<td>Continue <em>What is a Social Problem?</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### October

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Tuesday</td>
<td>Continue <em>What is a Social Problem?</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3 Thursday  Continue *What is a Social Problem?*

8 Tuesday  Continue *What is a Social Problem?*

10 Thursday  Continue *What is a Social Problem?*

15 Tuesday  **Test 1**

17 Thursday  *Module 2: Economics and Sociology*  
Please read from our etext:  
Chapter 1: An Introduction to Sociology  
Chapter 9: Social Stratification in the United States  
Chapter 16: Education  
Chapter 17: Government and Politics  
Chapter 18: Work and the Economy

22 Tuesday  Continue *Economics and Social Problems*

24 Thursday  Continue *Economics and Social Problems*

29 Tuesday  Continue *Economics and Social Problems*

31 Thursday  Continue *Economics and Social Problems*

*November*

5 Tuesday  Continue *Economics and Social Problems*

7 Thursday  Continue *Economics and Social Problems*

12 Tuesday  Continue *Economics and Social Problems*

14 Thursday  Continue *Economics and Social Problems*

19 Tuesday:  **Test 2**

21 Thursday  *Prejudice and Discrimination*  
Please read from our etext:  
Chapter 11: Race and Ethnicity  
Chapter 12: Gender

26 Tuesday  Continue *Prejudice and Discrimination*

28 Thursday  No School
December

3 Tuesday Continue Prejudice and Discrimination

5 Thursday Continue Prejudice and Discrimination

10 Tuesday Continue Prejudice and Discrimination

12 Thursday Continue Prejudice and Discrimination

19 Thursday Test 3

Ancestry Social Problems Paper Due at the start of class
December 19, 2013

Test Days

ON TESTING DAYS
On these days, please go to room A220 which is a computer lab. We will not be in our regular classroom at the start of class on these test days as the tests are administered on the computer and tests are closed book and closed notes.

BEFORE THE FIRST TEST
Before the first test, be sure to sign on to your CLC blackboard account (instructions are available at http://clc.blackboard.com) AND activate your CLC email (instructions available at http://www.clcillinois.edu/). It is recommended that you try to sign on the first days of class to allow for us to answer any questions or solve problems. Not being able to sign on because of forgotten passwords is not an acceptable excuse on test days for rescheduling an exam and no points will be awarded for that test. Students must be able to sign on to this class via CLC Blackboard to access the tests. If you have any problems or concerns, please let me know. Thank you for your consideration and for learning sociology!
Ancestry Social Problems Paper

We are the dreams of our grandparents.

Sociology teaches, especially with C. Wright Mill’s concept of the sociological imagination, that a great deal of whom people are is the result of their interactions and socializations. The goal of this homework is to apply the ideas of sociology to everyday experiences and appreciate the practical information that sociology provides.

Students will produce two items for this Ancestry Social Problems paper

20 FACTS: a list of twenty facts about your family history and/or the history of your family’s places of origin learned while conducting your ancestral research

BIOGRAPHY: an at least four page biography of the relative for which you have enough information or a relative you wish to study which includes a discussion of the social problems they experienced

DUE: Both 20 FACTS and the BIOGRAPHY are due at the start of class on the day of our third test: December 19, 2013, Thursdays, at 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 for their own records and perhaps to help with future ancestral research.

FAMILY TREE SHEET (not graded/not turned in):
The teacher will supply students with a copy of family tree sheets. It is suggested, but it is not required, that students create a family tree for themselves using the family tree sheet or any Internet programs you may wish. Although this is not something that is graded or turned in to the teacher, it is a great help with keeping information better organized.

20 FACTS:
Students are asked to create a list of twenty facts about their family history, or the history of the places of family origins, that they did not know before conducting the research. Please number each fact on your homework. The facts should be written as full sentences with proper grammar. Each fact needs to be at least one sentence long, but could be a few more if needed.

Facts could include a family member having served in a war, or listing when family arrived at Ellis Island. Facts could discuss a family member having been a slave, or helping with civil rights. It could be that a relative was the first in your family to attend college. Any facts you wish to share will meet the requirements of the assignment, but it would be great if many of them were accomplishments of your family or facts you are proud to have learned.
You do not need to write the names of any people in your family if you do not wish to: you could write “I have a relative who” or “Someone in my family” when detailing any facts, if for some reason you do want to share their actual names. I would be happy and humbled to provide the real names of my family so people know their accomplishments; however, you may think otherwise.

BIOGRAPHY:
Students are asked to produce an at least four page biography about a relative on their family tree for which they have quality information and they wish to research. You do not need to provide the real name of this person if you do not wish.

The biography should discuss interesting facts about the person’s experiences and how you think those experiences influenced your family and/or society. Most importantly, the paper should discuss at least one social problem that was experienced by your relative and the effects of the problem. The biography should include sociological facts utilizing the “Four Stages of a Social Problem” from our lectures.

If you wish, you could include copies of photographs or documents on a different page, although please use copies as the photographs will not be returned. There should also be a works cited page listing any sources, documents, interviews, or texts utilized to write the biography. Sources utilized in the paper should be cited using MLA or APA styles.

Suggestions for finding information:
There are many sources and resources for ancestry information, all of which we will detail in class:

✔ Ask or interview members of your family. For example, your grandparents may remember their grandparents, which would be your great great grandparents

✔ Use Internet programs and websites such as FamilySearch.org which is free or Ancestry.com which is free at some local libraries

✔ Use newspapers and Internet search engines

✔ Contact groups or organizations to which your relatives belonged

REMINDERS:
Please be certain to include your name on both 20 Facts and the Biography. Please use proper grammar and cite any sources utilized. Also, be certain to keep a copy of everything and all originals for yourself. You may wish to utilize these documents and share them with your family someday. Maybe you will also determine not only who you think they were; you may also determine who you think you are because of what you learn.