Instructor, M.Green
Email: mrgreen@deltacollege.edu
Division of Social Sciences (Sociology)
Fall 2008, San Joaquin Delta College
Tuesday, 6:30-9:30pm/Location: Holt 245

PROBLEMS OF A CHANGING SOCIETY
(SOCIOLOGY 001B, SECTION 46894)

Course Description

This course is designed to study/analyze the complexity of social problems through the application of sociological principles and attention to social processes. Topics will include socioeconomic inequalities & poverty, institutional racism, class and gender inequality, education/schooling, crime & law enforcement, health and medical care, homelessness, mental illness & drug addiction, government & democracy, environmental problems and problems with work and the occupational structure.

NOTE: While it's not required that you've taken Sociology 001A (Intro. to Sociology) prior to enrolling in this course, we will proceed in a fashion that assumes some fundamental background and understanding of Sociological jargon and foundations.

Course & Learning Objectives

Students will...
1) Describe the major sociological theories and related research on the relevant social problems in contemporary America.
2) Understand the relationship between social structure and deviant behavior and the impact of sociocultural variables (i.e., race, class, gender) on society's major social problems.
3) Analyze and critique how the U.S. addresses social problems like the one's mentioned above (refer to course description).
4) Construct creative solutions to the problems investigated
5) Acquire knowledge regarding the complexities of social relations and social processes
6) Learn about social construction/creations, institutional power and social control
7) Gain a more in depth understanding of social organization
8) Learn to make linkages between macro & micro level phenomena (i.e., how federal, state, county, city and/or institutional policies impact everyday life)
9) Ultimately learn more about "self" as a social being

Required Texts


Various Library Reserve Readings &/OR Handouts may also be required throughout the semester.
Course Requirements
All students are expected and encouraged to complete all assignments and assigned readings on time (ie., in preparation for the following class meeting) and attend class regularly, class will begin on time.

Note: You’ll be at a disadvantage if you fall behind in the readings, playing catch-up may be stressful.

Quizzes/Midterm/Final

Quizzes will be administered throughout the semester at the discretion of the instructor. You’ll be notified at least 1 week in advance regarding quizzes. Materials on quizzes will include information from readings, lectures, documentaries or class activities.

Type-Written Papers

There will be two (2) essays required of you in this course...SEE syllabus for due dates--

1) Paper on a major social problem using a minimum of (3) references. One reference source could be your textbook.
2) Paper that outlines the critical components of a major social problem and present creative, alternative solutions to the problem.
   (Details of Essay 2 will be discussed)

Attendance/Tardiness Policy

Everyone is expected to attend class on time. Poor attendance will impact your final grade.

Grading Policy

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Autobiography</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response Paper</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay #1</td>
<td>15% (selected social problem)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay #2</td>
<td>10% (solution oriented essay)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Midterm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
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T=100%
8/19  Introductions/Expectations, Why you’re here? Syllabus Review
What’s Sociology? Discussion.

Homework Due 8/26—Prepare a 1-2 page type-written autobiography; include how you arrived at Delta or what brings you to Delta and why you’re here.
Read Ch. 1—A Troubled Society

8/26  Submit homework/Discuss your Interests in Social Problems & Ch. 1

Homework Due 9/2—Read Ch. 2—Class Relations & The Problems of Inequality

9/2  Discuss Ch. 2

Homework due 9/9—Read Ch. 3—Poverty, Unemployment, & Underemployment

9/9  Discuss Ch. 3

Homework due 9/16—Read Ch. 4—Problems of Racism & Racial Inequality

9/16  Discuss Ch. 4

Homework Due 9/23—Read Ch. 5—Problems of Gender Roles & Sex Discrimination
DOCUMENTARY

9/23  Discuss Ch. 5

Homework Due 9/30—Read Ch. 6—Problems in Education

9/30  Discuss Ch. 6

ESSAY #1 DUE
Homework Due 10/7—Read Ch. 7—Problems in Health & Medical Care

10/7  Discuss Ch. 7

Homework Due 10/14—PREPARE FOR MID-TERM EXAM—scheduled 10/17/06

10/14  MIDTERM EXAM

Homework Due 10/21—Read Ch. 8—Problems of Crime & Criminal Justice

10/21  Discuss Ch. 8

Homework due 10/28—Read Ch. 9—Problems Labeled “Deviance”: Homelessness, Mental Illness, Drug Addiction & Homosexuality
DOCUMENTARY
10/28 Discuss Ch. 9

Homework due 11/04—Read Ch. 10—Problems of Work & Worker Alienation

11/04 Discuss Ch. 10

Homework due 11/11—Read Ch. 11—Environmental, Energy & Military-Industrial Problems

11/11 Discuss Ch. 11

Homework due 11/18—Read Ch. 12—Remedying Social Problems

11/18 NOTE THAT DURING THE WEEKS PRECEIVING 11/18-12/2/06 OUR CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS, ANALYSIS & ACTIVITIES 11/25 OF VARIOUS TOPICS WILL CERTAINLY NOT BE EXHAUSTED DURING A SINGLE CLASSROOM SESSION THAT HAS BEEN 12/2 LABELED ON YOUR SYLLABUS. SOME CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CARRY OVER INTO A FOLLOWING WEEK—IN SOME CASES.

12/09 Discuss Ch. 12

12/16 FINAL EXAMINATION

*NOTE THAT OUR SYLLABUS IS A GUIDEPOST BUT WE WON'T BE BOUND BY IT*