

BELLEVUE COLLEGE

Soc 201

Social Problems

(Previously Soc 170, Contemporary Social Problems)

Quarter & Year: Winter 2011
Section: 5547
Location: Online
Instructor: Michael Woo, MSW, Ph.D., LICSW, NHA.
Office: D200A
Office Hours: M&W 05:00 to 05:30PM (I am usually in C164) or by appointment
Phone: (425) 564-3317 (leave message)
Email: mwoo@bcc.ctc.edu (Please use the email service in Blackboard/Bb Vista to send email to me.)

Course Description: This class focuses on understanding the social-structural basis of, and solutions to some of the contemporary social problems. We will look at issues such as crime, poverty, racism, education, health care, aging and population. This class is intended for the entering students who have limited academic training in sociology.

Readings

Text: Kornblum, William and Julian, Joseph. 2009 Social Problems, Prentice Hall: New Jersey.

Class notes will be posted online weekly. Please check the class Blackboard Vista site periodically for information, messages and update.

Other readings as assigned.

Course Objectives

At the conclusion of the course, it is my hope that students will be able to:

1. have a better understanding of sociology as an academic discipline;
2. understand the basic premises of the major sociological perspectives/theories and to apply them to the understanding of social problems;
3. examine the potential solutions to those social problems.

General Education Ratings

3 in Critical Thinking, 2 in Reading, 2 in Ethics, 2 in Historical and Intellectual Perspectives, and 3 in Cultural Diversity.

Tests and Grading Policy:

Student's grade is based on:

(1) **Examination** (5 x 50/exam = 250 points)

There will be five online examinations. The examinations are not cumulative. They are in the format of multiple choice. Students must take the examinations within the time frames indicated on the syllabus, or as announced during the course of the quarter. The time frames of the tests are 1/14-1/16 (1st Exam), 1/28-1/30 (2nd Exam) and 2/11-2/13 (3rd Exam), 2/25-2/27 (4th Exam), 3/21-3/22 (5th Exam). Once a test has started, the student has one and a half (1.5) hours to finish the test. The test cannot be paused once it has begun.

No make-up examinations will be granted except under extenuating circumstances as determined by the instructor. The instructor reserves the right to ask for official proof if such situation arises. Students who miss an examination must contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss the possibility of taking a makeup examination.

(2) **Papers/Essays** (4 x 20 = 80 Points)

Students must turn in four essays based on the materials and instructions provided by the instructor. Students are expected to critically review the materials and discuss if and how those materials have contributed to their understanding of social problems *sociologically*. The essays should not be mere summaries of those materials.

The main body of each essay has to be about 800 to 1,000 words in length. Follow the American Sociological Association (ASA) citation format if references are used. All assignments have to be turned in on time and through the class' Blackboard Vista site. Five points will be deducted for each late day.

Writing Assignments	Due Date
(1 st Assignment) Documentary: <u>Sick Around America</u> (http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/sickaroundamerica/view/)	1/14/2010
(2 nd Assignment) E-tivity: Criminal Mind (Information will be provided at class site)	1/28/2010
(3 rd Assignment) Documentary: <u>Facing Death</u> (http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/facing-death/?utm_campaign=homepage&utm_medium=top5&utm_source=top5)	2/11/2010
(4 th Assignment) Article: "Suicide Bombers: The Just War Debate, Islamic Style." John Kelsay http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=2616	3/14/2010

- (3) **Online Discussions/Activities** (120 points): The instructor will post questions or activities on the class Blackboard Vista site which students are expected to respond or participate. The number of points that students can potentially earn and the deadline for participation will also be posted.

Be **sociological** in your response. Students are expected to follow proper etiquette when engaging in online discussion. Be respectful and courteous. Do not make demeaning, derogatory, racist, sexist, homophobic, or victim-blaming comments. It is okay to disagree with ideas but do not engage in name calling, personal/character attacks or insults. This instructor reserves the right to delete messages that do not adhere to the above protocol.

Total Possible Points:	Examinations	250
	Papers/Essays	80
	<u>Online Discussions/Activities</u>	<u>120</u>
		450

Grading Scale (%)*:	≥ 93 = A	60-69 = C
	90-92 = A-	50-59 = C-
	85-89 = B+	45-49 = D+
	80-84 = B	40-44 = D
	75-79 = B-	00-39 = F
	70-74 = C+	

** Based on the percentage of total possible points earned from examinations and assignments. Failure to take an examination or turn in an assignment will result in a “zero” for that task.*

A NOTE ABOUT COURSE CONTENT: This course is likely to touch upon various aspects of social behavior which can be provocative. Please be advised that when we explore controversial topics, they will always be framed within an academic context. Keeping in mind that when we find ourselves in a space outside of our comfort zone, it's an opportunity for learning, and you may be confronted with subject matter that is difficult to watch, see, discuss, or listen to. Please note, however, that you will be responsible for any course material you miss if you choose not to participate. If you have any questions or concerns about the content or atmosphere of this class, please feel free to communicate it with me right away.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: If you have a medical situation that might affect your progress in this class, please contact me via email or come to see me during office hours (MW 5:00PM to 5:30PM at C164) or by appointment. If you need course modifications, adaptations, or accommodations because of a disability, I can refer you to our Disability Resource Center (DRC). If you prefer, you may contact them directly by going to B132 or by calling 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110. Information is also available on their website at <http://bellevuecollege.edu/drc/>

OTHER INFORMATION: Please do not hesitate to email me if you have any questions or concerns about the class. Please use the email service in the Bb Vista if you like to send messages to me. I will strive to return your email within 24 hours in weekdays and within 48 hours on weekend (from 3:00PM Friday through Sunday). I am also available to meet with you on campus. You are welcome to see me during office hours or email me to arrange a meeting time.

Course Outline

Date	Topic	Text & Learning Materials
Week One (1/3-1/8)	Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems	Chap. 1
Week Two (1/9-1/15)	Problems of Health and Health Care Problems of Mental Illness and Treatment	Chap. 2 Chap. 3 <i>1st writing assignment due on 1/14</i> (First Exam: 1/14-1/16)
Week Three (1/16-1/22)	Alcohol and Other Drugs Crime and Violence	Chap. 4 Chap. 5 <i>2nd writing assignment due on 1/28</i>
Week Four (1/23-1/29)	Poverty Amid Affluence	Chap. 6 (Second Exam: 1/28-1/30)
Week Five (1/30-2/5)	Racism, Prejudice, and Discrimination Gender and Sexuality	Chap. 7 Chap. 8
Week Six (2/6-2/12)	An Aging Society	Chap. 9 <i>3rd writing assignment due on 2/11</i> (Third Exam: 2/11-2/13)
Week Seven (2/13-2/19)	The Changing Family	Chap. 10
Week Eight (2/20-2/26)	Problems of Education Problems of Work and Economy	Chap. 11 Chap. 12 (Fourth Exam: 2/25-2/27)
Week Nine (2/27-3/5)	Population and Migration	Chap. 14
Week Ten (3/6-3/12)	Technology and Environment	Chap. 15
Week Eleven (3/13-3/19)	War and Global Insecurity	Chap. 16 <i>4th writing assignment due on 3/14</i>
Week Twelve 3/20-3/22)	Final Examination	(Fifth Exam: 3/21-3/22)

P PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION Winter 2011

Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of "HW" (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Resource Centre, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BC Web site.

Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

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**If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*