

81914SOC2020LVHFall2014vsyllabusfv
Wayne State University

- Instructor: Dr. Luceal J. Simon
- Office Hours: by appointment, before and after class, or arranged via
- Email at address: ac3787@wayne.edu
- Course Name: Soc2020/Social Problems
- Place: Lakeview High School St. Clair Shores
- Section: 12172 CRN: 904
- Meeting Days: Mondays & Wednesdays
- Meeting Times: 1:10 pm-2:35 pm
- Meeting Room: WHEAT BLDG WSU Room

Required Text:

- 1) James M. Henslin. Social Problem: A-Down-to-Earth Approach.
- 2) Additional reading materials will be handed out or posted on Blackboard

Important dates:

Aug 27th: Classes begin

Sept 01st: No class Labor Day

Sept 06th: Submission of chapter summaries begins. A two page typed written
Summaries of chapter readings are due at the beginning of each
class.

Nov 27st: Holiday No class No assignment due

Dec 10th: Exam 3 (Final Exam)

Course Description: This course examines sociological concepts in contemporary social behavior. It offers students a basis understanding of human behaviors and provides knowledge of the many different ways that social life is done. The course also examines the critical sociological, definitions, terminology, and theoretical perspectives that enable understanding of contemporary societal problems.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course:

1. Students will be able to identify and contemporary social problems
2. Students will gain a better understanding of the social experiences of others.
3. Students will be able to utilize and apply appropriate sociological terminology in describing and understanding societal problems.
4. Students' will be able to relate applicable sociological theories to concepts.
5. Students will be to design, conduct, and analyze research studies using sociological frameworks.
6. Students will be able to research and present on topics of social problems (PPTS) using Power Point Presentations.

Course Policies

Attendance: Students are expected to attend ALL class session. Missing more than one class during the semester will adversely affect your final grade. If you anticipate more than 3 absences you should consider dropping the course.

Absences: If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to obtain materials such as notes or materials covered in class. I strongly suggest that you schedule a meeting with me for any questions you may have on the readings and lectures of classes missed. In addition I suggest that you exchange email addresses with class members in the event that you missed a class.

Late arrivals and early departures: should be avoided. Three late arrivals or early departures will count as an absence. If you anticipate arriving consistently late or the need to leave class early (more than 3 times) to class you should drop the course.

Exams:

The exams are based on materials covered in chapter readings, other assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions. The exams will be inclusive of all assigned readings (whether or not they were discussed during class).

There will be 3 exams for the fall 2014 session. Students are expected to arrive on time for exams. Students that arrive to the exam more than 10 minutes late or after the exam has started will not be allowed to take the exam.

Missed Exams: Missed exams require my approval and must be arranged prior to the date of the exam. Approval to make up an exam will be allowed only under the following conditions: (1) a written note from a doctor (or other health care provider) indicating a medical emergency or health issues that prevents you from being able to complete the assignment or exam on the date and time it is due (2) An obituary with the date of the funeral showing that the funeral took place on the date of the exam. NO OTHER EXCUSES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Assignments:

There are three assignments for the fall course. Assignments must be completed prior to the class for which they are assigned and submitted at the beginning of the class in which they are due. You must be in attendance to hand in your assignments. Emailed assignments will not be accepted without prior approval.

Late Assignments: Assignments must be submitted even if late. Late assignments will be reduced in value by 5 pts for each day the assignment is late. Assignments submitted after one week will not receive credit point but will receive a pass/fail grade.

Missed Assignments: Requires my approval and must be arranged prior to the date of the assignment. Approval of make-up work will only be allowed under the following conditions: a written note from a doctor (or other health

care provider) indicating that health issues prevented you from being able to complete the course work or take the exam on the due date. No other excuses will be accepted. Students will not be allowed to write papers to make up for missing assignments.

Detailed description of coursework

Chapter and Article Summaries

Each student is expected to submit a 2 page typed written summary of each of the assigned readings. Summaries are due at the beginning of each class. Each summary must: 1) Consist of an essay format 2) reference the readings, and 3) contain three questions that the student would like to discuss during class.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Student must be present to hand in the summaries. Students who are not in attendance will not be allowed to submit summaries the following week. Emailed summaries will not be accepted. .

Interview Assignment#

You are to conduct interviews ten people on their views and opinions as to their beliefs about societal problems. Include the following in your written report: 1). the responses of each of your interviewees, 2).compare and contrast interviewees responses, and 3) summaries your findings

Interview Assignment

You are to conduct four interviews on gender inequality. Two of your respondents must be between 18 to 25 years of age and Two must be 50 years of age or older. Two of your respondents must be male and two must be female.

Your interviews must focus on respondents' views/beliefs on changes in gender roles. Interview findings must be must be typed in 12 point Arial font, double-spaced, proofread, and edited. Interview notes must be submitted with your final paper. Typed write ups and original notes must be turned in at the beginning of class on the date that they are due, those turned in late will be marked down by one letter grade for each day they are late.

Deviant behavior Assignment

Research 6 newspaper articles on the types of crimes reported in your community. Compare and contrast the types of deviant reported in your community with those in two other communities (i.e. If you live in a rural community compare your community to an urban and a suburban community).

Class Participation

Students are given weekly reading assignments and are expected to complete the assigned readings prior to class. The weekly readings are assigned to facilitate discourse and incorporate the learning into active participation in class discussions. Class participation will not garner credit points.

Student Conduct

Students are asked to treat each other with respect, refrain from personal attacks during class discussions, and maintain decorum while in class. Students are expected to carry themselves in a manner respectful not only to the instructor, but to fellow students. Any disruptive behavior will result in the student being asked to leave the classroom and/or Public Safety will be

alerted for removal and full disciplinary action will be brought against the student.

Cell Phones, computers and all other electronic devices

Cellular phones, computers and all other electronic devices must be turned off for the entire class session. Students will not be allowed to be online, text message, play computer games, talk on their cell phones (or leave the class room to talk on the cell phone) while class is in session, do homework for other classes, write papers, engage in conversations with fellow students browse through magazines and newspapers, or be disrespectful to other students, during class sessions. Any one caught doing any of the aforementioned activities will be asked to leave class and will receive an absence for the day.

Wayne State University violations of academic integrity

Plagiarism, cheating on exams and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. I will adhere to the university guideline for dealing with acts of dishonesty by taking the following course of action: (a) giving a failing grade on the assignment; (b) giving a failing grade for the course; or (c) suspension or exclusion. Information on procedures is available in the Office of the Dean.”

Special Needs & Accommodations If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services (SDS) for coordination of your academic accommodations. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department. SDS telephone number is [313-577-1851](tel:313-577-1851) or [313-577-3365](tel:313-577-3365) (TDD only).

The following percentage curve will guide the grading policy in the course.

| | Points |
|--|---------------|
| Exams | |
| Exam 1: | 20 |
| Exam 2: | 20 |
| Exam 3: | 20 |
| Total possible points | 60 |
| Weekly summaries (1 pt. each) | 15 |
| Assignment#1: Social Problems Interviews | 5 |
| Assignment#2: Deviant behavior and crime reports assignment | 5 |
| Assignment#3: Gender Inequality Interviews | 5 |
| Power Point Presentation | 10 |
| Total possible points | 25 |
| Total Possible Points | 100 |

| Percentage | Letter Grade |
|--------------|--------------|
| 96 and above | A |
| 90 – 95 | A- |
| 87 – 89 | B+ |
| 83 – 86 | B |
| 80 – 82 | B-* |
| 77 – 79 | C+ |
| 73 – 76 | C |
| 70 – 72 | C- |
| 61 – 70 | D |
| 60 and below | E |
| 50 and below | F |

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (subject to change at the discretion of the Professor)

| Session Number | Date | Topics/Readings | Assignments |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | Aug 28 | Introduction, Syllabus Review, Student Expectations, and questions and answers Class discussion of list of contemporary social problems | 1) How do you define a social problem? 2) Compile a list of the ten most pressing societal problems of contemporary times. |
| 2 | Sept 01 Sept 03 | Holiday No Class Reading chapter 1: "The Sociology of Social Problems in the Henslin Text." Lecture: The origins of Sociology and Social Problems | A 2 page typed written summary of the chapter reading is due at the beginning of class. In your summary discuss: 1. Discuss the meaning of the phrase "sociological Imagination". 2. Explain why common sense is not adequate to understand social problems. 3. Describe how sociologists view social problems. 4. Discuss the four basic research designs and their limitations. |
| 3 | Sept 08 Sept 10 | Reading chapter 1:" Methods for studying social problem" in the Henslin text Reading: Chapter 2 "Interpreting Social Problems" in the Henslin text. | A 2 page type written summary of the chapter readings is due at the beginning of class. In your summary discuss: 1. The three major theoretical frameworks that sociologists use to interpret social problems. 2. Explain the theoretical frameworks of functionalism, conflict, symbolic interactionism, and feminism. A 2 page type written summary of the chapter readings is due at the beginning of class. In your summary discuss 1) The limitations of theories application of theories on social problems. |

| Session Number | Date | Topics/Readings | Assignments |
|-----------------------|-------------|---|--|
| 4 | Sept 15 | Discussion of social problems interview results Analysis of social problems interviews | Assignment#1 Interview reports are due at the beginning of class. A 2 page type written summary of the chapter reading is due at the beginning of class. In your summary discuss: 1). How the industrial revolution changed the family 2). The perspective that best explains why divorce is common when you apply the three sociological theories to 3). The trends and social changes that are likely to affect family relationships. |
| | Sept 17 | Reading: "Chapter 11 The Changing Family" in the Henslin text. | |
| 5 | Sept 22 | *Power point topic proposal are due at the beginning of class | A 2 page type written summary of the chapter reading is due at the beginning of class. In your summary discuss: What is deviance? 1.How is deviance functional for society 2. How do mainstream societal values produce deviance? 3. Explain why labels are powerful? How do symbolic interactionists explain deviance? How do functionalists explain deviance? How do conflict theorists explain deviance |
| | Sept 24 | Lecture: Deviant behavior *Exam#1 Bring scantron and # 2 pencils | |
| 6 | Sept 29 | Reading: Chapter 4 "Alcohol and Other Drugs" in the Henslin text | A 2 page type written summary of the article readings is due at the beginning of class. In your summary discuss: 1. Why drug use or abuse is a personal or a social problem. 2. Contrast the symbolic interactionist, functionalist, and conflict perspectives on drugs. A 2 page type written summary of the article readings is due at the beginning of class. In your summary discuss: What was new to you about the topic teens and prescription drugs, |
| | Oct 01 | Readings: Teens and the Misuse of Prescription drugs. Evidence-Based; Recommendations to Curb a Growing Societal Problem by Eric C. Twombly Æ Kristen D. Holtz | |

| Session Number | Date | Topics/Readings | Assignments |
|-----------------------|-------------|--|--|
| 7 | Oct 06 | <i>Reading: Chapter 5 "Violence in Society" in the Henslin Text Class</i> | <i>A 2 page type written summary of the chapter reading is due at the beginning of class. In your summary discuss: 1) The functionalist, conflict, and symbolic interactionist perspective on why there is violence in society.</i> |
| | Oct 08 | <i>Reading: Chapter 6" Crime and Criminal Justice" in the Henslin text</i> <i>Class Discussion of Deviance behavior and crime reports</i> | <i>A 2 page type written summary of the chapter reading is due at the beginning of class. In your summary discuss: 1) The functionalist, conflict, and symbolic interactionist perspective on why there is crime in society.</i> |
| 8 | Oct 13 | Discussion of the class findings | <i>Assignment#2 Deviant behavior and crime report due at the beginning of class.</i> |
| | Oct 15 | Analysis class findings assignment#2 | |
| 9 | Oct 27 | Readings: Chapter 7 "Problems of Social Inequality", in the Henslin text. | <i>A 2 page type written summary of the chapter reading is due at the beginning of class. In your summary discuss : 1) The major economic problems facing the United States 2) The three types of poverty and the problem with the poverty line 3) What the likely future of the social problem of poverty is and why?</i> |
| | Oct 29 | Readings: Chapter 7 "Problems of Social Inequality", in the Henslin text. | <i>A 2 page type written summary of the chapter reading is due at the beginning of class. In your summary discuss : 1) The culture of Poverty</i> |

| Session Number | Date | Topics/Readings | Assignments |
|-----------------------|--|--|---|
| 10 | Nov 03 Nov 05 | Reading Chapter 9,"Inequalities of Gender and Sexual Orientation", in the Henslin text. Reading Chapter 9,"Inequalities of Gender and Sexual Orientation", in the Henslin text. cont. | <i>A 2 page type written summary of the chapter reading is due at the beginning of class. In your summary discuss the questions below.</i> 1) <i>What is gender stratification?</i> 2) <i>How might changes in roles and stereotypes affect our lives?</i> 3) <i>What do you think can be done to reduce gender inequality?</i> <i>Develop ten questions you would like to include in the interview questionnaire</i> |
| 11 | Nov 10 Nov 12 | Development of interview research design and questionnaire for assignment#3 Development of interview research design and questionnaire for assignment#3 | No chapter summaries due No chapter summaries due |
| 12 | Nov 17 Nov 19 Nov 24 Dec 01 Dec 03 | Discussions of gender interviews Analysis of gender interviews Holiday No Class Student Presentations Student presentations | Assignment#3 is due at the beginning of class |

| Session Number | Date | Topics/Readings | Assignments |
|-----------------------|-------------|--|--------------------|
| 13 | Dec 08 | Student Presentations | |
| | Dec 10 | Exam 3 Final Exam Bring bluebook and Number 2 pencils | |

Student Power Point Presentation Topics
Prepare a 10 minute presentation on a sociological topic of your choice