

SOCIAL PROBLEMS
SOCIOLOGY 2750
D. CUNNINGHAM

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Welcome to Social Problems. This course is designed to offer you both theoretical and practical analysis of various social problems. This course is not designed to offer you instruction through lecture only. Visual Sociology will be used to illustrate many perspectives of social problems. Upon developing the sociological imagination the goals of the course are as follows:

1. Come to understand the various theoretical approaches to defining and solving various social problems;
2. Begin a critical examination of several very different social problems;
3. Be responsible for the reduction of the impact that various social problems have on individuals; and
4. Be able to define and analyze social issues on your own.

The objectives used to achieve these goals will be through lectures, class discussion, class exercises, group projects, video, web links and information found in the text. It is my hope that many of you take away a new understanding of these social problems and begin to think as a sociologist. In this same vein, I put in your hands the ability to effect social change. When you know about the issues as they have been researched, you can make informed decisions about how you want to participate in the solutions.

CLASS POLICIES:

Missed tests can only be made up as essay and must be discussed with me prior to the test date. You may take the test early. All other missed tests will be counted as a ZERO.

Plagiarism:

"EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY IS COMMITTED TO THE LEARNING PROCESS AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY THAT IS DEFINED IN THE STUDENT CONDUCT CODE (1.1). TO ENCOURAGE ORIGINAL AND AUTHENTIC WRITTEN WORK, ANY WRITTEN PROTECTED AND RESTRICTED USE DATABASE." ASSIGNMENT CREATED IN THIS COURSE MAY BE SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW TO TURNITIN.COM AND WILL BECOME A SEARCHABLE DOCUMENT WITH THE TURNITIN-

- 1. IF ITS NOT YOUR WORK, IT NEEDS TO BE CITED**
- 2. IF ITS OFF THE INTERENT IT NEEDS TO BE CITED**
- 3. YOU CANNOT DOWNLOAD ANY INFORMATION FROM THE INTERNET PUT YOUR NAME ON IT AND HAND IT IN.**
- 4. YOU CANNOT CUT AND PASTE INTO YOUR DOCUMENT WITHOUT USING QUOTATION MARKS AND CITING YOUR SOURCE.**
- 5. IF ITS NOT A COMMONLY KNOWN FACT AND YOU STATE IT IN YOUR DOCUMENT, IT NEEDS A CITATION.**

PLAGIARISM IS A SERIOUS OFFENSE; YOU MAY RECEIVE AN F ON THE PROJECT OR IN THE CLASS IF YOU ARE CAUGHT!

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST HAVE SOURCE CITING WHERE APPLICABLE OR THEY WILL BE COUNTED AS A ZERO!!!!!!

Grading :

100-90 A	69-60 D
89-80 B	BELOW 59 F
79-70 C	

Your grade will be based on 3 tests, 1 quiz, 2 in class assignments and the group projects. The information on group projects is attached. For some there may be a writing component and in that case: **All assignments must be typed. Any assignment that is not typed will not be credited. All assignments are due on the date designated, late assignments will not be accepted, unless you have made prior arraignments.**

-  **TESTS ARE WORTH 100 POINTS**
-  **QUIZ IS WORTH 50 POINTS**
-  **CLASS PROJECTS ARE WORTH 50 POINTS**
-  **CLASS ASSIGNMENTS ARE WORTH 15 POINTS EACH**

Extra Credit:

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXTRA CREDIT OCCUR DURING THE SEMESTER BY ATTENDING VARIOUS APPLICABLE LECTURES ON/OFF CAMPUS. THESE ARE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS. THEY REQUIRE YOU TO TYPE A REACTION OR SUMMARY OF THE EVENT AND MUST BE TURNED IN THE FIRST CLASS MEETING AFTER THE EVENT! They are usually worth an additional 3 points and are based on quality of information.

Attendance:

While attendance is not figured into your grade, it will be to your benefit to attend class. I will take regular attendance. Participation will be considered.

CELL PHONES

Cell phones **MUST** be turned off or on vibrate during lecture. **NO** electronic devices will be permitted during the examinations. You will be allowed to use your phones during class when we are working on our group projects. **NO** texting...if it is that important, you should probably stay home.

Alcohol/Drugs

Please do not come to class under the influence of alcohol or drugs (other than those prescribed by a Dr.). I reserve the right to ask you to leave. Let's be respectful to our peers.

COURSE OUTLINE

Chapters 1-3	<u>CRASH</u> Introduction to Social Problems Poverty and Wealth Racial and Ethnic Inequality	January 12- February 6 2009
EXAM 1	February 9, 2009	
Chapters 6,7 & 9	Crime and Violence The Criminal Justice System Alcohol and Other Drugs	February 11- March 4, 2009
EXAM	March 9, 2009	
Chapter 18	War and Terrorism	March 11-27 2009
QUIZ	March 30, 2009	
Chapters 5, 10, 8 & 14	Mental and Physical Health Aging and Inequality Sexuality Family Life	April 1 - May 1, 2009
Final Exam week	May 6-9 2009	

Class Assignments:

The first of 2 class assignments deals with the summary of information during our lecture series on Crime, Violence and the Criminal Justice System. In this exercise your small group will be asked to solve a murder. Your points will be assigned as your group presents the evidence, identifies the suspect and declares the intent. Witnesses will be required to type a reaction paper as well and identify the evidence they have on their sheet that may be significant and why. You must read chapters 6 and 7 in order to be able to answer the questions which will be handed out during the “crime game”

Your second class assignment will be based on the Family Caregiver Plan simulation. During this game your group will have on person assigned the role of elderly parent, while some others of you may be assigned roles as service providers. Those remaining in the group will be the children of the elderly parent whose task it is to find services to assist their elderly parent. Writing assignments for each “ROLE” will be different. Every person must submit a paper with all the members of their group’s name included. The specifics for these assignments will be handed out before we begin this simulation.

USE THIS TABLE TO RECORD YOUR GRADES!

Tests	Quiz	Assignments	Extra Credit

Until Thanksgiving break (not after), if you can answer these questions correctly it will be worth 2 extra credit points. Type up the answers and turn them in.

- 1. What are the objectives or goals of this course?**
- 2. What is the grading scale?**
- 3. How much are the tests/quiz worth?**
- 4. What are the 5 plagiarism points?**
- 5. When is an extra credit assignment due?**

GROUP PROJECTS

In lieu of written assignments, you and your classmates may choose to participate in the class projects. This entails choosing a category from the next page, gathering data from Coles or surrounding counties and choosing a way to assist that particular group of people or area. The project is worth **50 points total**. Your point totals will be assigned by me for each item donated or amount of time volunteering. **THIS LIST IS FLEXIBLE!** (see attached point values)

You will be placed into groups of 4 or 5 depending on class size. Your group will work together to achieve the total points. For example: If Steve collects 5 cans and each can is worth 5 points all the members of Steve's group are allotted the 25 points. Each person in group should be assigned a task. Someone in the group will take notes on your meetings, keeping track of everyone's responsibilities. Should a problem arise, you will be required to bring this documentation to me for review and resolution.

DONATIONS/VOLUNTEER

On the following pages you will find there are many places to which you can donate time or items. You must inform me as to what agency you are planning to donate/volunteer. Your group will contact the agency, find out if they need any items, if so what type. **Collect them before April 10, 2009 bring them in to my office for counting and documentation by scheduling an appointment. You can call me or see me during office hours to set up appointments. But all your items must be counted and documented by April 10, 2009.**

You have until April 22, 2009 to get them to their respective places. Have the agency give you a receipt and then you will give that receipt to me. When I have documentation that this has been donated, your group's points will be entered in the grade book. Late receipts will not get full credit. Each person in the group is responsible for collecting items that equal 10 points.

Your decision about how best to meet the need of the category you have chosen must be approved by me no later than **January 30, 2009** From then you have until **April 22, 2009** to complete your project. You will bring in items to donate and I will count them, if you volunteer your time, you will have a sheet signed by the supervisor of the agency. If you are doing clean-up or recycle your time/items must be witnessed by all group members.

You will have class time to plan your project

January 28, 2009

March 27, 2009

April 6, 2009

**REMEMBER: APRIL 09 2009 ALL ITEMS MUST BE COUNTED!
APRIL 22, 2009 ALL VOLUNTEER WORK AND
DONATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED AND RECEIPTS IN!**

For each social problem consider the following:

Child abuse:

- Department of Children and Family Services
- HOPE
- Lutheran Social Services
- Illinois Coalition for Community Services
- Big Brother/Big Sister
- Teen Reach
- Kids Hope United
- Children's Advocacy Center

Elderly and Aging:

- Embarrass River Agency
- Peace Meal
- Hospice
- Senior Center
- Local Nursing Homes
- Department of Aging

Substance Abuse

- Central East Alcoholism and Drug Council
- HOPE
- Department of Children and Family Services
- Teen Reach
- Soup Stop

Homelessness

- PADS
- HOPE
- Coles County Mental Health
- Central East Alcoholism and Drug Council
- Charleston Civic Association
- Department of Children and Family Services
- Soup Stop

Crime and Violence

- Children's Advocacy Center
- Central East Alcoholism and Drug Council
- Coles County Mental Health
- Department of Children and Family Services
- HOPE
- Coles County Safety and Detention Center

Poverty

PADS
Charleston Civic Association
Food Pantry
Catholic Charities
Salvation Army
Coles County Public Health
Soup Stop

Each of these agencies can be found in the local phone book. Many of them have their own websites. Please try to find the web sites before contacting each agency for information. See me for a list of some of the above if you cannot find them.
Final date for donation and volunteer time is **.APRIL 22, 2009**
Receipts must be turned in to me on the this day NO LATER.

RESEARCH

All papers will be due on the date assigned. No late assignments and NO EMAILS!!!! You MUST turn it in to me. Some of these will require outside of class communications! I am familiar with most of the agencies on this list and I am aware of the services they provide. Additionally, for the last assignment, you will have to discuss what you as a group learned and report on that for the point values.

Each group will have the same due dates:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Assignment 1
Due: 2-2-09 | Define your class' social problem. Compile statistics for this problem on both a state and local level. |
| Assignment 2
Due: 2-23-09 | Of the agencies listed that deal with your social problem, pick 2 and describe their efforts to lessen the effects of this problem. |
| Assignment 3
Due: 3-23-09 | Find data that indicate how much this problem costs on a yearly basis for both the state and community. |
| Assignment 4
Due: 4-10-09 | Suggest solutions for solving this problem on a local level. |
| Assignment 5
Due: 4-22-09 | Describe what you and others have learned about this social problem of which you were previously not aware. |

Each assignment is worth 10 points. For all the information that you gather you must cite your source. Your assignment will count as a **zero** if it is not and may affect the grade of your group members. You may cite sources using MLA, ASA or APA. Whatever is most familiar to you. Each paper should be 2 pages in length, double spaced with traditional margins. Similar to what is on this page and all others in the syllabus, no fonts over 12 will be accepted. Additional questions should be directed to your instructor.

DUE DATE FOR COLLECTION IS 4-10-09
DONATION DUE BY 4-22-09

POINT VALUES

1 Hr volunteer time	10 points
1 article of used clothing	1 point
1 article of new clothing	3 points
1 good coat	4 points
1 good sweatshirt	2 points
1 canned good sm	1 point
1 canned good md	2 points
1 canned good lg	3 points
1 sml boxed meal	2 points
1 lg boxed meal	3 points
Socks and underwear	1 point per pair
Sheets(used)	3 points
Sheets (new)	5 points
Lg cleaning supply	3 points
Md cleaning supply	2 points
Sml cleaning supply	1 point
Lg diapers	5 points
Md diapers	4 points
Sml diapers	3 points
Diaper wipes (lg)	5 points
Diaper wipes (sm)	3 points
New toy (lg)	10 points
New toy (md)	7 points
New Toy (sml)	4 points
Good used toys	3 points
Toiletries (lg)	4 points
Toiletries (md)	3 points
Toiletries (sml)	2 points
New book	5 points
Used book	3 points
Magazines	2 points
Pen/Pencil pack (lg)	4 points
Pen/Pencil pack (sm)	2 points
Lg Crayon box	5 points
Sml crayon box	3 points
Lg marker box	5 points
Sml marker box	3 points
Bookbag new	10 points
Bookbag used	5 points

SOUP STOP POINT VALUES

Single serving micro meals	2 points
4pk pudding/jello	2 points
Snack packs (cookies/cakes etc) boxes	2 points
Peanut butter sm/md/lg	2/3/4 points
Baby food jars	1 point each
Juice boxes	1 point each
Snack packs (chips) sm/md/lg	2/3/4
Plastic gloves box sm/md/lg	3/4/5
Fruit rollups box sm/md/lg	2/3/4
Raisins packages 2 boxes	1 point
Sack lunch bags sm/md/lg	1/2/3

PADS Points

Foam Plates Sm/md/lg	3/4/5 points
Plastic silverware sm/md/lg	1/2/3
Foam cups sm/md/lg	2/3/4
Foam bowls sm/md/lg	2/3/4
Lunch sacks sm/md/lg	1/2/3
Sandwich bags sm/md/lg	1/2/3
Napkins sm/md/lg	2/3/4
Paper clips sm/md/lg	2/3/4
Masking tape	2
Staples sm/md/lg	2/3/4
Note pads sm/md/lg	2/3/4
3.5 disks	2 for 1 point
File folders sm/md/lg	4/5/6
Tape	1point each
Post its sm/md/lg	1/2/3
Coffee sm/md/lg	3/4/6
Cereal	2
Fruit cups	2 for 1 point
Pudding cups	2 for 1 point
Dry milk	3 points
Oatmeal lg	3 points
Boxed pasta sm/md/lg	2/3/4

Other misc.

Paper towels	1 point per roll
Toilet paper	1 point per 2 rolls
Kleenex	2/3/4
Detergent	3/4/5
DVD's used	2 points

DVD's new	5 points
VHS tapes	3 points
Coffee	3/4/5
Stamps	3 points per sheet of 20
File folders	4/5/6
Napkins	2/3/4
Coffee cups	2/3/4
Creamer	3/4/5
File folders pkg.	4/5/6
Baby bottles	2 points each
Poster paint 8 pk	3
Scissors	sm-2 lg-3
Construction paper	2/3/4
Glue sticks	2points each
Beads	2/3/5
Beading cord	2/3/5
Watercolor paints	2/3/4
Watercolor markers	lg 5
Dental floss	2 points
Q tips	3 points
Notebooks	1/2/4
Folders	2 points each
Cereal	3/4/5
Fans	5/6/7
Washcloths	1 each
Towels	2/3/5
Microcassette tapes	2 points each