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Office: Blair Hall 3151  
Office Hours: T, Th 11-12; W 1-2  
or by appt.

**Required Text:**

Maconis, John J. 2010. Social Problems, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. New Jersey: Prentice Hall.  
Venkatesh, Sudhir. 2008. Gang Leader for a Day: A Rogue Sociologist Takes to the Streets. NY, NY: Penguin Press.

**Course Description & Objectives:** This course will introduce you to current social problems and is designed so that each student may have a clear understanding of the social problems of the world, differing perspectives of the issues, the context of each, and possible individual and collective responses. Classroom time will be divided among a variety of activities, readings, writing, films, and simulation games. For a full experience in this class each student should complete assigned readings, attend regularly, and participate fully. This course is designed to provide you with the tools necessary to:

1. define current and future social problems,
2. identify elements within each problem,
3. understand each problem using a sociological perspective,
4. determine ways to investigate and analyze social problems, and
5. produce possible responses, both individual and collective, to address the problems.

**Course Etiquette:**

1. *Collegiality* - You are expected to respect the viewpoints expressed by others. If you disagree with what someone has said, you are encouraged to express your disagreement but are expected to do so in a civil, respectful, & polite manner. Failure to comply will result in course dismissal.
2. *Attendance/Participation* – I record attendance daily. You are expected to attend class daily and participate fully. You will obviously miss critical information if you have excessive absences and this will be reflected in your exam and homework grades. Also, walking into class late is disrespectful to both your professor & your colleagues & will not be tolerated.
3. *Readings* - I write each lecture with the expectation that you have completed the assigned readings for the day. We will use class time to discuss & build on the readings. Reading is required to participate in class and for successful completion of this course.
4. *Cell Phones/Texting/Technology* - **NOT ALLOWED! Turn off or silence all cell phones** before entering class & **DO NOT use them for texting** during class. If I see someone texting, the entire class will have a pop quiz. You also **may NOT use laptops or tape recorders** in class.
5. *Academic Integrity* - You are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct ([www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php](http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php)). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards and **you will automatically fail the course.**
6. *Communication* - I am always available to meet with you to discuss grades, lecture, exams or other the course matters. Please make use of my posted office hours, call my office phone, or use email to schedule appointments. If you use email, please be professional and follow

standard email guidelines. 1) Put the course # in the subject line (SOC 2890), 2) include greeting (Dr. or Professor Lovekamp), 3) use standard English, write in complete sentences, avoid abbreviations and text slang (TTYL, LOL), 4) and end with a signature (full name).

#### 7. *Assignments -*

- a. *Reflection Papers:* You will write 4, two page reflection papers (double-spaced) that will demonstrate critical thought and analysis of the simulation, lecture on the topic, and the Gang Leader for A Day readings for that week. You must discuss the interconnectedness of these areas, address how these discussions and reading resonate with something that is currently happening in our society, and reflect on how meaningful the assignment was to you or discuss the 'lesson' learned.
- b. *Media Paper:* You will complete a media paper where you select and critically analyze a popular movie, documentary, or television show through a social problems lens. A complete analysis contains central them for analysis, supporting details from the choice of media, and a systematic critical analysis that incorporates and cites appropriate literature, readings, concepts and/or theories that have been discussed or assigned in class. The paper shall be double-spaced and no more than 6 pages.
- c. *Current Event Paper:* You will complete a critical examination of a current social issue. A complete critical examination of a current social issue contains a detailed presentation of the social issue, supporting documentation from current media outlets, trade publications, or professional publications, and a systematic critical analysis of the issue from a constructionist social problems point of view and cites appropriate literature, readings, concepts, theories and simulations that have been discussed or assigned in class. The paper shall be double-spaced and no more than 6 pages.

\*You cannot submit work late. Any deviation in this policy must be in accordance with EIU Internal Governing Policy 43.

8. *Desire2Learn:* You are required to use D2L for access to additional course materials.

#### **Course Evaluation:**

Media Paper	75 pts.	A=(100-90%)
Current Event Paper	75 pts.	B= (89-80%)
<u>Reflection Papers</u>	<u>100 pts.</u>	C= (79-70%)
TOTAL	250 pts.	D= (69-60%)
		F= (0-59%)

**Students with Disabilities Statement:** If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

**Student Success Center Statement:** If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

**Medical Emergency Statement:** For medical emergencies, go to the nearest phone & call 911. All Sociology/Anthropology faculty offices have telephones & during normal business hours (8-12 & 1-4:30), the Sociology Office (Blair 3170) is open. Be sure to state the floor & room number of the emergency to the 911 operator. If possible, someone should go to the central

entrance of Blair Hall to direct EMS personnel to the medical emergency scene. If the medical emergency is on the second or third floor, someone else should hold the elevator on the first floor for EMS use.

**Tornado Statement:** In case of a tornado warning, proceed to the center of the hallway on the first floor, near the posted severe weather signs. Under no circumstances should you attempt to leave the building.

**Building Fire Statement:** In case of fire, activate the fire alarm & exit the building. When a fire alarm sounds, everyone must exit the building & cannot re-enter the building until allowed by the building coordinator or fire department official. Fire alarms are located at the north & south ends of the corridors just inside the fire doors. The closest exits for all classrooms in Blair are on the north & south ends of the building. Under no circumstance should the elevator be used. Group assembly areas for all classes in Blair are either on the patio area between Blair & Old Main or on the southeast corner of the North Quad. As you exit the building, continue moving well away from the exits so that you do not impede the egress of other students or the work of fire officials. Move a safe distance away from the building.

WEEK	LECTURE TOPIC	READINGS SCHEDULE	ASSN DUE DATE
8/23,25	Introduction to Discipline		
8/30,9/1	Social Problems Process	Best Chapter 1 (D2L) Maconis Chapter 1	
9/6,8	Claims and Claimsmakers	Best Chapter 2 (D2L)	
9/13,15	Why Unremarkable Things Matter	Silverman Ch 1-2 (D2L)	Media Paper Due 9/15
9/20,22	Simulation		
9/27,29	Critical Analysis	Venkatesh 1-2	
10/4,6	Simulation		Reflection Paper 10/4
10/11,13	Critical Analysis	Venkatesh 3-4	
10/18,20	Simulation		Reflection Paper 10/18
10/25,27	Critical Analysis	Venkatesh 5-6	
11/1,3	Simulation		Reflection Paper 11/1
11/8,10	Critical Analysis	Venkatesh 7-8	
11/15,17	Public Reaction and Policymaking		Reflection Paper 11/15
11/29,12/1	Social Problems Work & SC Stance		
12/6,8	Course wrap-up		Current Event Paper Due 12/6

9/2/16 deadline to drop a course w/ no grade; 11/4/16 deadline to withdraw from course w/ W.

Thanksgiving Break November 21-25

**\*\*This syllabus serves as a contract between the student & instructor. The student is responsible for all information contained within this syllabus. Any changes the professor makes will be announced in class.**