

Social Problems Spring 2014

SOCI X 232-001

M,W,F 12:30-1:20pm

Mercy 311

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Course Description

Many of us are concerned about social problems in our society, but rarely do we have a chance to carefully examine the complex societal dynamics that perpetuate these problems. This course is intended to provide all of us with the tools to critically reflect on and study social problems. Throughout the course, we will question our own taken for granted assumptions about the social world and we will continually consult evidence from sociological studies and other empirical data that will help us to come to more informed conclusions about complicated and controversial social issues.

Course Objectives

This course aims to contribute to the following objectives of **Loyola's Common Curriculum**:

- Critical and analytic reasoning skills
- Effective skills in research, writing, speaking, reading, and listening
- Comprehension of the great historical, economic, political, social, and technological forces that shape societies.
- The ability to reflect on and critique the presupposed values latent within our world, our commitments, our beliefs, our methodologies, our institutions, and our courses of study.
- A commitment to social justice

In addition, the course aims to contribute to the following learning objectives developed by the **Department of Sociology**:

- Appreciation for discipline of sociology and its role in contributing to our understanding of social reality.
- Knowledge of basic concepts in sociology.
- Understand the role of theory in sociology and applying theories to social phenomena.
- Ability to think critically about the social world.
- An appreciation for the social diversity of U.S. society and an understanding of the position of the U.S. in the global system.
- Ability to identify and think critically about one's own position and the positions of others on social justice issues and the ways in which they are pursued in the community through social action.

Disability Services and Accommodations

If you have a disability and wish to receive accommodations, please contact Sarah Mead Smith, Director of Disability Services at 504-865-2990. If you wish to receive test accommodations (e.g., extended test time), you will need to give the course instructor an official Accommodation Form from Disability Services. The Office of Disability Services is located in Marquette Hall 112.

Plans for Instruction During Emergency/Evacuation

At times, ordinary university operations are interrupted as a result of tropical storms, hurricanes, or other emergencies that require evacuation or suspension of on-campus activities. To prepare for such emergencies, all students will do the following during the first week of classes:

1. Practice signing on for each course through Blackboard.
2. Provide regular and alternative e-mail address and phone contact information to each instructor.

In the event of an interruption to our course due to the result of an emergency requiring an evacuation or suspension of campus activities, students will:

3. Pack textbooks, assignments, syllabi and any other needed materials for each course and bring during an evacuation/suspension
4. Keep up with course work during the evacuation/suspension as specified on course syllabi and on-line Blackboard courses.
5. Complete any reading and/or writing assignments given by professors before emergency began.

Assuming a power source is available....

6. Log on to university Web site within 48 hours of an evacuation/suspension.
7. Monitor the main university site (www.loyno.edu) for general information.
8. Log on to each course through Blackboard or e-mail within 48 hours of an evacuation/suspension to receive further information regarding contacting course instructors for assignments, etc.
9. Complete Blackboard and/or other online assignments posted by professors (students are required to turn in assignments on time during the evacuation/suspension period and once the university campus has reopened.)
10. Contact professors during an evacuation/suspension (or as soon as classes resume on campus) to explain any emergency circumstances that may have prevented them from completing expected work.

Required Readings

Ain't No Makin' It: Aspirations and Attainment in a Low-Income Neighborhood 3rd edition, by Jay MacLeod, ISBN: 978-0-8133-4358-7, Westview Press (2009) \$45.00

Promises I Can Keep: Why Poor Women Put Motherhood Before Marriage

By Kathryn Edin and Maria Kefalas, ISBN 978-0-520-27146-3, University of California Press (2011) \$29.95

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness Revised Edition, by Michelle Alexander, ISBN: 978-1-59558-643-8, The New Press (2012) \$19.95

PDF Textbook: *Social Problems: Continuity and Change* by Steve Barkan
(PDF Available on Blackboard)

<u>Course Requirements</u>	<u>Percentage of Course</u>
Service Learning and Analysis Papers	30%
Online Sessions	30%
Quizzes	20%
Final Exam	20%

Grading Breakdown (by percentage):

93-100	A	73-76	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
77-79	C+	<60	F

Online Sessions

All Monday and Wednesday sessions will meet face to face and all Friday sessions will be conducted online. For online sessions you will be required to complete a short assignment based on that day's reading and based on any lecture material presented in the online session. This work will be graded and will count for 30% of your grade.

Please note that each online session is worth approximately 2% of your final grade.

This means that if you have perfect scores on everything in the course but miss one online session, your grade would be 98%. If you have perfect scores on everything but miss five online sessions, your final grade would fall to 90%. If your scores on other work are less than perfect, say you have an overall grade of 80% but you miss five online sessions, your final grade would fall to 70%. You have all of Friday and much of Saturday to complete this work. There is no in-class meeting on Fridays. The online session IS your class session and fully one-third of the course material will be presented there. **It is therefore imperative that you take these sessions seriously and complete them fully and accurately on time. ALL online session assignments are due by Saturday at 5pm as listed below. Late work submitted at 5:01pm and after will NOT be graded and will thus count as a zero.**

Quizzes

There will be 4 quizzes.

Service Analysis Papers

Service learning provides a wonderful opportunity for you to apply abstract ideas to concrete experience. A minimum of 15 hours of service is required at an approved service

site. You will be asked to complete service analysis papers that will be based on critical reflection on your service work and on course readings and lectures.

NOTE: Failure to complete the full 15 hours that are required will result in the following penalties: 1) a loss of 2% points from this portion of the final grade for every hour not completed by the final day of class; AND 2) no notation on your transcript that service learning was a part of the course.

Final Exam

The final exam will be cumulative.

Policy on Late Work

Online Participation and Assignments: NO late work will be accepted. If the online contribution has not been received by the due date and time it will not be accepted.

Service Analysis Papers: The first three papers may be turned in up to 7 days late with 10% taken off of the grade for each day late (Saturdays and Sundays are also included as days where points will be lost). The fourth paper will NOT be accepted late.

Quizzes: There will be no make-up quizzes.

IMPORTANT:

- Bring your reading to EVERY class. This means that you must bring the textbook and/or print out the readings from Blackboard each time we meet.

Introduction to Studying Social Problems		
M	1/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pp.4-23, “Understanding Social Problems” in <i>Social Problems</i>
W	1/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pp.24-34, “Understanding Social Problems” in <i>Social Problems</i>
F	1/10	Online Session Response DUE: Saturday 1/11 by 5pm

Education, Schools and Inequality		
M	1/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pp. 537-561, “Schools and Education” in <i>Social Problems</i> <i>Hope Against Hope</i>, pp. 1-14, “Prologue” and “Part I: The Christmas of School Days”
W	1/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pp. 562-580, “Schools and Education” in <i>Social Problems</i> <i>Hope Against Hope</i>, pp.15-32 “Part II: Rebirth, The Family”
F	1/17	Online Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Hope Against Hope</i>, pp.129-143 “Part IV: Trouble, The Teacher” Response DUE: Saturday 1/18 by 5pm
M	1/20	Martin Luther King Jr Holiday
W	1/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Hope Against Hope</i>, pp.144-160, “Part IV: Trouble, The Family”
F	1/24	Online Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pp.591-598 “Schools and Education” in <i>Social Problems</i> <i>Hope Against Hope</i>, pp.261-290 “Part VI: Translations, The Family” and “Epilogue” Response DUE: Saturday 1/25 by 5pm

Opportunity, Aspirations and the Reproduction of Inequality		
M	1/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pp.35-52. “Poverty” in <i>Social Problems</i> pp.3-24, “Social Immobility in the Land of Opportunity” and “Social Reproduction in Theoretical Perspective” in <i>Ain’t No Makin’ It</i>
W	1/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pp.53-72 “Poverty” in <i>Social Problems</i> pp. 25-61 “Teenagers in Clarendon Heights: The Hallway Hangers and the Brothers” and “The Influence of the Family” in <i>Ain’t No Makin’ It</i>
F	1/31	Online Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pp.73-96 “Poverty” in <i>Social Problems</i> pp. 62-83 “The World of Work: Aspirations of the Hangers and Brothers” in <i>Ain’t No Makin’ It</i> Response DUE: Saturday 2/1 by 5pm
M	2/3	*****Quiz 1***** <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pp.97-108 “Racial and Ethnic Inequality” in <i>Social Problems</i> pp. 84-112 “School: Preparing for the Competition” in <i>Ain’t No Makin’ It</i>

W	2/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pp.109-139 “Racial and Ethnic Inequality” in <i>Social Problems</i> pp. 113-136 “Leveled Aspirations: Social Reproduction Takes its Toll ” in <i>Ain’t No Makin’ It</i>
F	2/7	<p>Online Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pp.140-154 “Racial and Ethnic Inequality” in <i>Social Problems</i> pp. 137-156 “Reproduction Theory Reconsidered ” in <i>Ain’t No Makin’ It</i> <p>Response DUE: Saturday 2/8 by 5pm</p>
M	2/10	<p>*****Service Analysis 1 Due*****</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pp.599-615 “Work and the Economy” in <i>Social Problems</i> pp. 157-195 “The Hallway Hangers: Dealing in Despair ” in <i>Ain’t No Makin’ It</i>
W	2/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pp.616-647 “Work and the Economy” in <i>Social Problems</i> pp. 198-238 “The Brothers:Dreams Deferred ” in <i>Ain’t No Makin’ It</i>
F	2/14	<p>Online Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pp.241-269 “Conclusion: Outclassed and Outcast(e) ” in <i>Ain’t No Makin’ It</i> <p>Response DUE: Saturday 2/15 by 5pm</p>
M	2/17	<p>*****Quiz 2*****</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pp.273-349 “The Hallway Hangers: Weeble, Wobble, But We Don’t Fall Down ” in <i>Ain’t No Makin’ It</i>
W	2/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pp.350-406 “The Brothers: Finally Finding a Foothold ” in <i>Ain’t No Makin’ It</i>
F	2/21	<p>Online Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pp.407-460 “Reproduction, Redemption, and Respect ” in <i>Ain’t No Makin’ It</i> <p>Response DUE: Saturday 2/22 by 5pm</p>

<p>Sex, Marriage, Family and the Feminization of Poverty</p>

M	2/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pp. 155-176 “Gender Inequality” in <i>Social Problems</i> pp.vii-26, “Preface” and “Introduction” in <i>Promises I Can Keep</i>
W	2/26	<p>*****Service Analysis 2 DUE*****</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pp. 177-200 “Gender Inequality” in <i>Social Problems</i> pp.27-49, “Before We Had a Baby...” in <i>Promises I Can Keep</i>
F	2/28	<p>Online Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pp. 201-208 “Gender Inequality” in <i>Social Problems</i> pp.50-70, “When I Got Pregnant...” in <i>Promises I Can Keep</i> <p>Response DUE: Saturday 3/1 by 5pm</p>
M-F	3/3-3/7	<p>MARDI GRAS HOLIDAY</p>

M	3/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pp. 424-450 “Sexual Behavior” in <i>Social Problems</i> • pp.71-103, “How Does the Dream Die?” in <i>Promises I Can Keep</i>
W	3/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pp. 451-490 “Sexual Behavior” in <i>Social Problems</i> • pp.104-137, “What Marriage Means” in <i>Promises I Can Keep</i>
F	3/14	Online Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pp. 491-501 “The Changing Family” in <i>Social Problems</i> • pp.138-167, “Labor of Love” in <i>Promises I Can Keep</i> Response DUE: Saturday 3/15 by 5pm
M	3/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pp. 502-536 “The Changing Family” in <i>Social Problems</i> • pp.168-186, “How Motherhood Changed My Life” in <i>Promises I Can Keep</i>
W	3/19	*****Service Analysis 3 DUE***** <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pp.187-220, “Conclusion: Making Sense of Single Motherhood” in <i>Promises I Can Keep</i>

Race, Crime, Imprisonment and the Reproduction of Poverty		
F	3/21	Online Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pp.299-348 “Alcohol and Other Drugs” in <i>Social Problems</i> • pp.1-19 “Introduction” in <i>The New Jim Crow</i> Response DUE: Saturday 3/22 by 5pm
M	3/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pp.333-348 “Alcohol and Other Drugs” in <i>Social Problems</i> • pp.20-40 “The Rebirth of Caste” in <i>The New Jim Crow</i>
W	3/26	*****Quiz 3***** <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pp.349-365 “Alcohol and Other Drugs” in <i>Social Problems</i> • pp.41-58 “The Rebirth of Caste” in <i>The New Jim Crow</i>
F	3/28	Online Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pp.366-384 “Crime and Criminal Justice” in <i>Social Problems</i> • pp.59-96, “The Lockdown” in <i>The New Jim Crow</i> Response DUE: Saturday 3/29 by 5pm
M	3/31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pp.385-402 “Crime and Criminal Justice” in <i>Social Problems</i> • pp.97-119, “The Color of Justice” in <i>The New Jim Crow</i>
W	4/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pp.403-423 “Crime and Criminal Justice” in <i>Social Problems</i> • pp.119-139, “The Color of Justice” in <i>The New Jim Crow</i>
F	4/4	Online Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pp.178-220, “The New Jim Crow” in <i>The New Jim Crow</i> AND • pp.221-240, “The Fire This Time” in <i>The New Jim Crow</i> Response DUE: Saturday 4/5 by 5pm

Social Problems and Policy Questions		
M	4/7	• pp.648-702, “Health and Health Care” in <i>Social Problems</i>
W	4/9	*****Service Analysis 4 DUE***** Health Care Policy Case Studies
F	4/11	Online Session • pp.209-256 “Sexual Orientation and Inequality” in <i>Social Problems</i> Response DUE: Saturday 4/12 by 5pm
M- M	4/14- 4/21	EASTER HOLIDAY
W	4/23	*****Quiz 4***** Sexual Orientation Policy Case Studies
F	4/25	Online Session • pp.751-811 “Population and the Environment” in <i>Social Problems</i> Response DUE: Saturday 4/26 by 5pm
M	4/28	Environment Case Studies
W	4/30	Wrap Up Discussion
F	5/2	Final Exam 11:30-1:30