

University of California, San Diego – Fall 2009
Sociology 115: Social Problems

Professor Devon Smith
Department of Sociology

Class Meetings: Tu/Thu 11:00am – 12:20pm

Classroom: WLH 2111

Office Hours: Tu/Thu 12:45pm – 1:45pm

Office: SSB 463

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REQUIRED TEXT

Social Problems 12th ed. by William Kornblum and Joseph Julian
Additional Readings are on e-reserve

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce you to the discipline of sociology, which is the study of social interactions, events, structures, processes, and organizations. It will specifically focus on the topic of social problems, from problems relating to crime, racism, sexism and drugs to work, education and the family. In particular, this course will analyze social problems by way of various sociological perspectives. Throughout the course we will seek to ask questions about what constitutes a social problem, when a condition becomes “problematic” and who is advocating certain solutions, reforms, etc.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Student Participation: Class attendance and participation is imperative. If your final class grade is on the borderline between grades, I will give you the benefit of the doubt if I feel that you have contributed significantly in class discussions.

Many of the course readings are electronically accessible via **e-reserves** (<http://reserves.ucsd.edu/>). Please note that you will be responsible for downloading and printing each item. You can access the files from any campus computer, and you can print them with an ACS laser printing account (see <http://sdacs.ucsd.edu/~icc/laser.php>). You can also download and print the files from off-campus, but in order to do so you need to specify a proxy in your web browser (an easy process; see <http://www-ono.ucsd.edu/documentation/squid/>). In the case of any problems accessing e-reserves, library staff is available to help you.

Students are prohibited from selling (or being paid for taking) notes during this course to or by any person or commercial firm without my express written permission. No **audio recordings** of class are permitted without my permission.

Preparedness: You are required to read the assigned material *prior* to coming to class. You must also be prepared to discuss the content and ideas. In organizing your time remember, a good rule of thumb is to allow two hours of study time for every hour that you are in class.

Grading:

Midterm Exam – 45%

Final Exam (non-cumulative) – 55%

All exams will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

Note: The following schedule is TENTATIVE and subject to change at the instructor’s discretion. Changes will be announced in ample time for you to complete assignments. However, it is YOUR responsibility to keep up with schedule changes.

<u>Week 0</u>	Thu 9/24	Introduction
<u>Week 1</u>	Tu 9/29-Thu 10/1	Chapter 1 Begin Chapter 2 and Pear and Herszenhorn article “A Primer on the Details of Health Care Reform” as well as Whitcomb article “LA Sports Arena Hosts Health Clinic of Last Resort”
<u>Week 2</u>	Tu 10/6-Thu 10/8	Finish Chapter 2; Chapter 3 and Rosenhan article “On Being Sane In Insane Places”
<u>Week 3</u>	Tu 10/13-Thu 10/15	Chapter 4; Chapter 5 and Davis article “Racialized Punishment” and Monk article “Is Street Crime...?”
<u>Week 4</u>	Tu 10/20-Thu 10/22	Chapter 6, Griffiths and Tita article “Homicide in and Around Public Housing” and Anderson article “Code of the Streets”

<u>Week 5</u>	Tu 10/27-Thu 10/29	Midterm Exam - Tuesday Thursday – Begin Chapter 7, Kim article “Racial Triangulation” and Lipsitz article “Possessive Investment...”
<u>Week 6</u>	Tu 11/3-Thu 11/5	Finish Chapter 7
<u>Week 7</u>	Tu 11/10-Thu 11/12	Chapter 8 Herek article “Beyond Homophobia” and Thompson article “A Way Outa No Way”
<u>Week 8</u>	Tu 11/17-Thu 11/19	Chapter 9 and Chapter 10; Shelton and Deen article “Divorce Trends...” and Kurz “Violence Against Women...”
<u>Week 9</u>	Tu 11/24-Thu 11/26	Chapter 11 and Kozol article “Savage Inequalities” **NO CLASS THURSDAY – CAMPUS HOLIDAY**
<u>Week 10</u>	Tu 12/1-Thu 12/3	Chapter 13, Massey article “American Apartheid” Chapter 15 and Heinberg article “The Oil Depletion Protocol”

****Final exam on Wednesday, 12/9 11:30am-2:29pm****

Other Information

Missed Exams: Make-up exams and papers will be authorized only with proper documentation of personal or family emergency. In such instances exams and papers may be made up *no later* than one class meeting after the regularly scheduled due date.

Late papers: No late papers will be accepted unless you make special arrangements with the instructor. Late papers may be subject to grade penalties, at the discretion of the instructor.

Paper format: All writing assignments must be stapled, typed, and double-spaced, on 8½” x 11” white paper. Use a non-decorative 12-point font, such as Times New Roman, and provide 1” margins around all sides of the page. Do not include title pages. Include your name, section number, instructor name, assignment number, date, and page numbers on all pages. Use the MLA website or a current MLA style guide for style, grammar, format, and citation questions.

Exam Collection: Exams with a signed Buckley waiver can be collected in the “exam cubbies” on floor 4 of the Social Sciences building AFTER I announce in class that they are all graded. Those without a signed Buckley waiver must collect their exams from me personally with a valid photo ID. *All exam questions and concerns must be addressed to me within TWO WEEKS of the exams being made available to students for pickup.*

E-mail messages: I try to check my e-mail (dysmith@ucsd.edu) every day - it is probably the most effective way to reach me. However, you are more likely to get a prompt response if you send your emails during normal “business hours” – Monday through Friday, 8am-5pm.

Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities who may need special accommodations should discuss options with me during the first two weeks of class.

Classroom environment: You are expected to respond respectfully to your classmates and instructor at all times, in adherence to the UCSD Principles of Community. Any comments or actions that instigate or contribute to a hostile environment in the classroom are unacceptable. NOTE: *Cell phones must be turned off while you are in class.*

UCSD Statement of Academic Integrity: Students are responsible for producing their own, original work in this class. Representing someone else’s work as your own will not be tolerated, as outlined in the UCSD Policy on Academic Integrity published in the UCSD General Catalog:

Cheating will not be tolerated, and any student who engages in suspicious conduct will be confronted and subjected to the disciplinary process. Cheaters will receive a failing grade on the assignment or the exam and/or in the entire course. They may also be suspended from UCSD. Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to:

- Cheating, such as using “crib notes” or copying answers from another student during the exam, modifying a graded exam and returning it for a new grade, or submitting the same paper or assignment for two or more different courses unless authorized by the instructors concerned.
- Plagiarism, such as using the writings or ideas of another person, either in whole or in part, without proper attribution to the author of the source.
- Collusion, such as engaging in unauthorized collaboration on homework assignments or take home exams, completing for another student any part or the whole of an assignment or an exam, or procuring, providing or accepting materials that contain questions or answers to an exam or assignment to be given at a subsequent time.