

SOC 002

American Social Problems (3 units)

FALL 2018 – Section #17742
(Online/Web Course – CANVAS)

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Yesi King

Office: NEA - 183

Office Hours: Wednesday and Thursdays Online from 12:00pm – 1:30pm & by Appointment **I Can be reached immediately by email or CANVAS private message**

Phone: (310) 233-4154 – (**ONLINE CLASSES → do NOT leave me phone messages, EMAIL me instead!**)

Email: kingy@lahc.edu (Preferred contact method. Email using **LACCD email address ONLY**. On subject line include name, class, and section # (ex: Yesi King, SOC 2, #17742). I check my email throughout the day. If you do not get a response within 24 hours, then I did not receive your email. Please email me again. **ONLINE CLASSES → Sending me an email will garner a faster response than a private message on CANVAS**

Website: www.professoryeseniaking.com

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome! Sociology 2 provides an emphasis on the analysis of social problems as aspects of social change in a multi-cultural environment. Problems analyzed objectively include those which reflect the pressing issues of population and of family life, personal and social disorganization, crime and delinquency, economics and politics, education and propaganda, race and ethnic relations, social planning and reform, and war and peace in a contracting world.

The quality of this class will depend heavily on your participation. Logging into the course weekly (5 times minimum) is extremely important and crucial to your success in the course. Course requirements include reading the text (and supplementary material), regular weekly login, as well as participation in discussion board activities, completing assignments and exams, etc. This course focuses heavily on theory. I recommend reading the chapter summaries/outlines I post in the weekly modules, then reading the chapter, downloading the Power Points, and taking notes. Review your notes regularly and don't wait until the last minute to study for an exam. I strongly believe in your ability to be successful and am fully committed to guide you to your self-empowerment and help you reach your academic goals!

B. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Student Learning Outcomes will be measured and assessed by examinations and written work assigned. Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Define a social problem and describe the major methodologies used to study them.
2. Describe the three major sociological perspectives/schools of thought and explain how each analyzes a social problem.
3. Explain and discuss a type of social problem and compare and contrast the major theoretical approaches used to explain it, offering a solution.
4. Compare and contrast the various types of social control as they apply to norms and deviant behavior.
5. Explain why social problems are a matter of social definition and compare and contrast the major sociological theories used to understand them.

C. REQUIRED MATERIALS

TEXTBOOK: *Social Problems*, 5th edition, 2016 (ISBN: 9780205881390) by John Macionis. Pearson Publishing.

*Having the book is mandatory and necessary for successful completion of the course. **Additional Readings as necessary.

TECHNOLOGY: 1) High Speed connection required for viewing of media (video, audio, etc.) with a reliable browser OR use of the Student Computer Labs at the LAHC library. Click here for library hours:

<http://www.lahc.edu/library/index.html>

2) Microsoft Word, Power Point, Adobe Acrobat Reader.

3) Anti-Virus Software

4) Be familiar with the HARBOR ONLINE website for CANVAS or email help, questions, and tutorials:

<http://www.lahc.edu/harboronline.html>

5) Use of LACCD email address.

6) Remember that the URL for the online CANVAS site is: <https://ilearn.laccd.edu/login/canvas>

ONLINE SUCCESS: The successful online student is independent, self-motivated, willing to learn in isolation, willing to ask questions as soon as questions arise, good with written instructions, good at expressing her/himself in writing, and aware of technology as a convenience and barrier. This student frequently logs into the course website, reads all announcements frequently, and actively engages with the other students and professor.

- The most important task in this class is to **READ AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS**. I cannot emphasize enough. Please be sure to READ the instructions to all things posted before emailing me. If you don't understand something, don't hesitate to contact me.
- Skipping the last bullet point will cause students to miss important information and points. So **READ EVERYTHING!**
- Log into our course at least 5 times per week to complete work and read announcements. It is your responsibility to frequently check in on CANVAS for announcements regarding class material, assignments, exams, changes to schedule, lecture notes/Power Points, etc. Part of your grade in this class is related to how often you participate in the online assignments, discussion boards, etc. I will check statistics as to how often you are logged into the course. Not logging in and checking announcements will result in your missing important info, which WILL impede your success in this course.
 - *Word Processing Skills* - All written assignments must be typed and processed for spelling. All assignments must be submitted in MS Word Doc format as well as copied/pasted into text-box. Further instructions will be posted on separate assignments.
 - *Saving Your Work* - In creating and storing information and documents for this class be sure to save your work and back it up. If you cannot find, retrieve and print your work, it becomes worthless. Computers get viruses and blow up—back up your work on a removable drive. I will not accept excuses for lost work. If you can, *save everything!*

D. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Syllabus Quiz: Each student is required to complete a ten-question quiz **due the first week of class**. This quiz is designed to provide you with feedback on your early comprehension of the material, on your grasp of the syllabus items, on how well you are keeping pace with the online class format, and to give you some preliminary experience in types of questions you will see later in the coming full-scale exams. ** Please familiarize yourself with the contents of this syllabus as arguing that you did not know particular information that is covered in this document would not be considered an acceptable excuse. Quiz worth 20 points.

Introduction: Students will post an introductory post to the course discussion boards; also **due the first week of class**. This will serve to familiarize the student with each other, Etudes, and it's discussion functions in preparation for the course's discussion boards. Post worth 10 points.

Exams: There will be TWO online exams, a midterm and a final. Each exam may be a combination of multiple-choice, true false, matching, short answer/essay and cover any material assigned up to the date of the exam. The final is not cumulative. Students will be expected to complete the exam online in the same sitting and the exam will be timed. The exams will include information from lecture notes/powerpoints, the textbook, videos, and any assigned/additional readings, so you need to do significant preparation before. Exams must be taken within the allotted time and dates ONLY so pay careful attention to exam dates so that you do not miss them! I will NOT reopen a closed exam that you missed, so do not ask. Each exam will be worth 160 points

Discussion Board: There will be ONE discussion board. All students will be expected to respond to various online discussion questions, which are designed to replace classroom discussions/assignments. It is expected that students have read the assigned readings, viewed any supplemental materials if added, and checked for announcements prior to the posting of each series of discussion questions. Be sure to review the specific criterion for discussion boards for further explanation of grading/expectations. Online discussion questions will be made up of the following factors (More detailed information and instructions will be on the actual Discussion Board when it opens):

- Students need to post a response to any of ONE of the online questions for that week by **Thursday NLT 11:50 PM Pacific Standard Time (PST)**. Your response should be a minimum of 200-300 words in length

- Students need to post a response to TWO fellow student's posts by **Sunday NLT 11:59 PM Pacific Standard Time (PST)**. Both of your responses to others' work must be in two question areas other than the one to which you responded. Your commentary should be 100 to 200 words in length.

**** IMPORTANT:** Discussion board posts/responses must not be hostile in nature, ridicule or insult other students, or make subtle or obvious threats. See the Netiquette Rules handout. Students who do not follow these rules may be asked to leave the class. Also, you **MUST CITE** within the body of the text where appropriate and **LIST REFERENCES** at the bottom/end of post. Failure to do so may result in points being docked or an automatic zero for plagiarism. You must make both your post and responses academic in nature as well as incorporate personal experience/opinions. Failure to do so will result in fewer points assigned.

**** Turnitin.com-** This is a plagiarism prevention site. All of your written work will be submitted through this site and scanned for plagiarism. Your work will be checked against printed publications, online web sites and also other student work. No need to make an account; I check it.

Assignments: In addition to the weekly textbook readings and PowerPoint lessons, there will be TWO major assignments. These may be media/video/clip critiques, response papers, end of chapter questions, analysis research papers, etc. Each paper must be between 4-7 pages in length (this varies depending on actual assignment). I impose substantial penalties on papers that go below or above the required word count. Your analysis must address the overall question/s or goal that I assign for the paper and should draw on the course reading materials, lecture/PowerPoints, outside academic sources, etc. I will post detailed instructions for completing the papers as well as information on grading standards to Canvas. **PLEASE NOTE:** When turning in assignments, please make sure to follow ALL instructions. It is important that you review instructions on assignments carefully so that you understand what you must do. I put a lot of work into making these instructions very precise and clear. Sociology is a very writing/research intensive subject therefore you should expect assignments to be complex, demanding, and that will require you to do significant research, reflection, and writing. Make sure you download the appropriate handouts for guidance. All papers submitted through Canvas will be analyzed for originality by turnitin.com, by me not you. Each assignment is worth 50 points for a combined total of 100 points. Be aware that I **DO NOT** accept late work. If you claim to upload the incorrect draft and attempt to send the "correct" one later, it will not be accepted. I grade what you uploaded, period. **NO** exceptions, don't ask. If you know there will be a scheduling conflict with the due date, turn the assignment in early.

Important Notes on Writing Quality

As previously stated, sociology is a very writing/research intensive subject. Written assignment must conform to not only specific assignment instructions but also to general rules of (1) correct word choice, (2) good grammar, (3) unified and coherent paragraphs, (4) well-thought out, logical organization, and 5) appropriate citing within the body of the text where appropriate and a reference page listing your sources (both in APA format), to earn a grade of B or better. If you struggle with writing, you should correct this weakness now while you are at the undergrad level and before transferring. Doing so may involve significant time investment that does not earn course credit, but it will provide a valuable return on investment over the course of your career (for supporting evidence, see articles linked [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)). I have put together several documents with useful information on basic grammar and writing skills from the Northampton Community College Learning Center, an Essay Writing Format Guide, two separate APA format/citing writing guides (these are VERY important), and a Paper Writing Checklist. These are available on my website. Websites with guidance on writing good papers are also available online with a quick Google search. I would encourage you to visit the LRC (Learning Resource Center) for assistance as they have workshops you can attend and are very helpful.

Lessons Learned/Participation: Points will also be given for your overall participation in the web course. This will be assessed by completing weekly tasks (Lessons Learned posts – on designated weeks) and looking at the statistics for each person's participation at the end of the semester. Participation is defined as how often you log into the course, visit the required sites, and participate in the discussion board (posting and responding to your classmates' posts), complete participation assignments. You are expected to sign into your online class every week. Lessons Learned weekly discussion posts on the weekly readings/materials will count towards participation points (We don't have these every week). Worth 10 pts. total.

Extra Credit: There may opportunities for extra credit (points to be determined).

E. GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Syllabus Quiz: 20	Grading Scale
Introduction Post: 10	Based on accumulated points; NOT based on +/- scale
Exams: 2x160= 320 points	450-500 A
Discussion Boards: 1x40=40 pts each	400-449 B
Assignments: 2x50= 100 pts total	350-399 C
Lesson Learned/Participation: 10 points	300-349 D
TOTAL: 500 points	Below 300 F

****NOTE about Grading Standards:** An A requires truly outstanding work quality and demonstration of true mastery of the material. A grade of B requires consistently high quality work and demonstration of solid understanding of the course material. A grade of C requires work of sufficient quality to demonstrate competence in understanding the course material. If you are diligent about doing the reading and the work for the class in a thorough and timely manner, you should be able to earn at least a C in the class. Anything below a C is pretty self-explanatory – basically you are giving very little effort to all class rules, assignment instructions, missing assignments and/or exams, not signing in as instructed, etc.

F. MISSED EXAMS AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

Students are expected to take exams and submit assignments as scheduled. Make-up exams and submission of late assignments will **NOT** be allowed. Therefore, do **NOT MISS AN ASSIGNMENT OR AN EXAM!!!** Look at the class calendar/schedule now, and plan your own schedule accordingly around the exam and assignment due dates and times. Make-up exams will not be allowed. Likewise, any assignment turned in after the deadline is late and will not be accepted. I post assignments 4-5 weeks in advance of when it's due so you have plenty of time to get started early. Starting late is not recommended.

G. ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Plagiarism is copying another person's statements or ideas and claiming them as your own without proper credit being given to the original author (It also means: representing somebody else's words or ideas as one's own without proper credit being given to the original author; receiving or knowingly supplying unauthorized information; copying from the internet; using unauthorized materials or sources; changing an answer after work has been graded and presently it as improperly graded; illegally accessing confidential information through a computer; taking an examination for another student or having another student take an examination for you; forging or altering registration or grade documents; collaborative learning is considered cheating unless specifically allowed by the professor). Cheating includes using work from another class to complete assignments in this class or copying from another student. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Any acts of academic dishonesty will result in the following consequences: students will receive a zero for the assignment. The act will be reported to the Dean and a disciplinary record will be established to track any additional incidents of cheating/plagiarism. Students may be subjected to further consequences. If you have any doubt as to whether or not you are committing plagiarism or cheating do not hesitate to ask for clarification. For more information please visit [LAHC's Academic Policy page](#).

H. CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT

There will be NO tolerance for comment or judgment on another student's ability, character, performance or experience. Disruptions to the class will not be tolerated. Please adhere to the conduct policy outlined in the LAHC catalog and view/download the Netiquette Guide from my website. Violation of the Classroom Rules will initially receive a warning and subsequently be dropped from the class. Finally, I reserve the option of giving pop quizzes, assigning additional work, and amending this syllabus if needed, which means students are responsible for paying attention to announcements.

Dropping the Class

It is the student's responsibility to officially drop the class whenever he or she determines that he/she can no longer attend the class. Failure to drop a class officially may result in a failing grade and/or a financial obligation to the college.

IMPORTANT DATES	Drop a regular full-term class without receiving a "W"	- September 9
LAST DAY TO:	Drop full-term classes with a "W"	- November 18

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

A student with a disability, who would like to request an academic accommodation, is responsible for identifying herself/himself to the instructor and to the Special Programs and Services. To make arrangements for academic

CLASS SCHEDULE (Tentative)

Week		Topics and Assignments
1	8/27 – 9/2	Syllabus; Introduction to the course; Sociology: Studying Social Problems Ch. 1 -Syllabus Quiz (Due Friday 8/31) -Introductions (Due Friday 8/31)
2	9/3 – 9/9	Poverty and Wealth Ch. 2
3	9/10 – 9/16	Racial and Ethnic Inequality Ch. 3
4	9/17 – 9/23	Gender Inequality Ch. 4 -Assignment #1 Due NLT Sunday 3/11 11:59pm
5	9/24 – 9/30	Inequality and Aging Ch. 5
6	10/1 – 10/7	Crime, Violence, and Criminal Justice Ch. 6
7	10/8 – 10/14	Sexuality and Society Ch. 7
8	10/15 – 10/21	Alcohol and Other Drugs Ch. 8 -Exam 1 Ch. 1-8 (To be completed between Tuesday 10/16 11:30am and Thursday 10/18 11:30pm)
9	10/22 – 10/28	Physical and Mental Health Ch. 9
10	10/29 – 11/4	Economy and Politics Ch.10
11	11/5 – 11/11	Work and the Workplace Ch. 11 -Discussion Board 1 Due (Post by Thursday 11/8 11:59pm; Responses by Sunday 11/11 11:59pm)
12	11/12 – 11/18	Family Life Ch.12
13	11/19 – 11/25	Education Ch. 13
14	11/26 – 12/2	Urban Life; Population and Urban Inequality Ch. 14-15
15	12/3 – 12/9	Technology and the Environment; War and Terrorism Ch. 16-17 -Assignment #2 Due by NLT Sunday 12/9 11:59pm
16	12/10 – 12/16	-Exam 2 Ch. 9-16 (To be completed between Tuesday 12/11 11:30am and Thursday 12/13 11:30pm)

BEST OF LUCK ON YOUR FUTURE ACADEMIC AND CAREER ENDEAVORS!!!

Los Angeles Harbor College promotes access and student success through associate and transfer degrees, certificates, economic and workforce development, and basic skills instruction. Our educational programs and support services meet the needs of diverse communities as measured by campus institutional learning outcomes.