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Social Problems

SOC& 201 HYA (5526)

WINTER 2019

M-Th 9:30-10:20 in L220

“What ordinary men are directly aware of and what they try to do are bounded by the private orbits in which they live; their visions and their powers are limited.”

~C. Wright Mills

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Course Information

▪ Course Overview

We often don't see social problems as something that affects us or we don't see a possible solution because we are trapped in our individual mindsets. One of the goals of this class is to free you from your private orbit (see the Mills quotation above) by helping you see the broader social constructs affecting the issue. The outcome of this is a better understanding of how the problem affects you and how change on the societal level can go a long way towards rectifying the problem. On a more personal and immediate level you will learn what you as an individual can do to ameliorate the problem.

Since sociology is a science, we will be looking at the problems and the solutions from an objective, scientific perspective. A purported cause that sounds good from a "common sense" perspective may or may not be true when researched objectively. The same thing applies to solutions. A proposed solution may seem to make logical sense, but until it is tested, one cannot know its efficacy.

This is a service learning class. Service learning gives you the opportunity to add some real life to the theory and information that you gain in the class. It also gives you a chance to put the work that you are doing as a volunteer into a larger framework. This is not just you doing a good deed. Instead, this is you doing something that is influenced by, and in turn influences, the structure of society.

Much of what we do in this class is based on input from you. As the instructor, I bring the structure, relevant sociological principles, and information on the problems we are discussing. As students, you bring insights, information and connections that lead all of us further down the path to understanding. In other words, we are co-learners together. Therefore, your participation is both welcome and needed.

▪ Course Outcomes

By the end of this course you should be able to:

- Explain how social problems are defined and how they differ from personal issues;
- Critically analyze social problems within historical and social contexts;
- Describe the ways in which social problems are created and perpetuated by social institutions (such as the economy, government, the media, and the family);
- Illustrate how social problems are represented within popular culture;
- Discuss how social problems affect all of us, regardless of our social positions; and
- Offer and analyze solutions to contemporary social problems.

GENERAL EDUCATION RATINGS

3 in Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Cultural Diversity

2 in Reading, Ethics, Historical and Intellectual Perspectives

▪ Grading

WRITTEN WORK

- All written work, with the exception of work done in groups, must be typed and stapled (if applicable) with your name and the date at the top
- All sources must be cited in **APA format**. Any information gathered from outside sources, and this includes the text books, must be cited and referenced. For information on citations and references see the writing lab online at <http://bellevuecollege.edu/writinglab/APA.html> or in person in D-204D.
- Since this is a social science class, written work should consist of analysis rather than opinion. This means connecting the information, whether it is from a movie, a text or a speaker, to sociological concepts and themes presented in class. This does not mean you cannot connect things from class to your own life and experiences, but does mean the sociological context is also included and your ideas are backed up by the appropriate source(s).
- Any grade appeals (beyond a recording mistake) must be submitted in writing.

ASSIGNMENTS

| assignment | number | points | total |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Intro discussion | 1 | 25 | 25 |
| Reading groups | 9 | 50 | 450 |
| Internet assignment | 1 | 50 | 50 |
| SL journal 1 | 1 | 15 | 15 |
| SL journal 2&3 | 2 | 30 | 60 |
| SL journal 4 | 1 | 40 | 40 |
| SL presentation | 1 | 100 | 100 |
| SL hours | 16 | 100 | 100 |
| Participation | 1 | 100 | 100 |
| Final exam | 1 | 50 | 50 |

GRADING SCALE

| Grade | Percent |
|--------------|----------------|
| A | 94 to 100 |
| A- | 90 to <94 |
| B+ | 87 to <90 |
| B | 83 to <87 |
| B- | 80 to <83 |
| C+ | 77 to <80 |
| C | 73 to <77 |
| C- | 70 to <73 |
| D+ | 64 to <70 |
| D | 60 to <64 |

| Grade | Percent |
|-------|---------|
| F | <60 |

The link to the College Grading Policy is located on page 10 of the Course Catalog: [Grading Policy](#)

▪ Books and Materials Required

Kozol, J. (2005). *The shame of the nation: the restoration of apartheid schooling in America*. New York, NY: Crown.
(isbn # 1400052440)

MacLeod, J. (2009). *Aint no makin it: Aspirations and attainment in a low-income neighborhood* (3rd ed.). Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
(isbn # 9780813343587)

Other readings may be given in class.

Classroom Learning Atmosphere

▪ Instructor's Expectation

OF ME:

- *A genuine desire to help you learn the material:* My ultimate goal is for you to finish this class with both an understanding of and an excitement about sociology. However, the primary goal is your comprehension of the material and I will do my best to facilitate that.
- *Accessibility.* I am available to you outside of class for questions, comments or help with assignments. I encourage you to contact me via email, phone, or office visit whenever you have a question or concern.
- *Learning.* You can expect me to be a learner with you. While I know sociology and it is my job and my goal to teach you the subject matter, you bring things to the class (perspective and experience) which contribute to the learning for us all.

OF YOU:

- *Preparation.* You should come to class having done the assigned readings and homework, and you should always bring the proper supplies with you. That includes the readings and supplies for note taking. Note that the BC guideline for homework is two hours outside of class for each hour spent in class.
- *Promptness:* Late assignments (late means any time after the due date shown in Canvas) are not accepted. If there is a true emergency (computer problems do not qualify as emergencies) and you cannot get your assignment in, call or email to let me know the

situation as soon as possible. Doing this, along with providing relevant documentation, will allow me to work out a reasonable accommodation with you.

- *Currency*: It is your responsibility to keep current in class. This means attending class sessions and taking notes. If you have to miss class for any reason you must find out what was done and get notes from a classmate. Be sure to also check class materials in the Canvas site.
- *Respect*: We will have many discussions in which you are expected to participate by asking questions, answering questions, and making relevant comments and observations. During a discussion (planned or spontaneous) it is important that we all respect each other's right to participate. That means no side talking, no interrupting, no monopolizing the conversation, and no offensive language. Disagreement is fine, healthy, and makes life more interesting, but be sure that when you disagree you are disagreeing with the ideas and not the other person. People who are disrespectful, either to fellow students or to the instructor, will be asked to leave the class. Serious violations will be reported to the Dean of Student Services.
- *Honesty*: If you cheat, you fail. No excuses will be taken into account. Your work must be your own, except when asked to work with other students. Furthermore, you are required to acknowledge in your papers if you have borrowed any ideas, terms, or phrases, even if you have borrowed from a classmate. Working together is fine and even encouraged. Just be sure to turn in work that is clearly original. Be careful to cite your sources properly as plagiarism will result in a score of zero for the assignment, and possibly an F for the class depending on the severity of the offense. If you would like information on how to avoid plagiarism, the writing lab (<http://bellevuecollege.edu/writinglab/> or D-204D) is an excellent resource online and in person.
- *Communication*: If an issue arises that will impact your class work, let me know as soon as possible so that we can work out a solution together. After assignments have been missed may be too late. If you don't understand a concept or the expectations of an assignment, please ask. I want you to succeed in this class. If you need course adaptations or special accommodations because of a disability, or if you have medical information that needs to be shared with me in the event that the building needs to be evacuated, please contact me during the first week of the quarter. If you require accommodations due to a diagnosed disability, please contact the Disability Resource Center in B132. Phone: 425-564-2498 (Voice) TTY: 425-564-4110.
- *Willingness to listen*: Essential to a liberal arts education is an open-minded willingness to listen to ideas and modes of expression which might conflict with one's personal ideas and/or values. No one is expected to endorse or adopt any idea, concept or value, whether it is from the instructor or from a classmate. Rather all are expected to make an effort to genuinely listen to various perspectives.

▪ **Affirmation of Inclusion**

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination.

We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

Religious Holidays

Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or any other assignments as a consequence of their religious observance should be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays on which they will be absent, preferably at the beginning of the term. Students who are absent on days of examinations or class assignments should be offered an opportunity to make up the work without penalty (if they have previously arranged to be absent), unless it can be demonstrated that a makeup opportunity would constitute an unreasonable burden on a member of the faculty. Should disagreement arise over what constitutes an unreasonable burden or any element of this policy, parties involved should consult the department chair, or Dean.

College Anti-Discrimination Statement (Title IX)

Bellevue College does not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity; color; creed; national origin; sex; marital status; sexual orientation; age; religion; genetic information; the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability; gender identity or veteran status in educational programs and activities which it operates.

For further information and contacts, please consult [College Anti-Discrimination Statements](#).

▪ Division Statements

Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to

be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of "HW" (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Resource Centre, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BC Web site.

Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

*If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.

▪ **Student Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity**

Any act of academic dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source), and fabrication and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to, talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Success for investigation. Specific student rights, responsibilities, and appeal procedures are listed in the

Student Code of Conduct at: [Student Code](#)

Important Links

▪ Bellevue College E-mail and access to MyBC

All students registered for classes at Bellevue College are entitled to a network and e-mail account. Your student network account can be used to access your student e-mail, log in to computers in labs and classrooms, connect to the BC wireless network and log in to MyBC. To create your account, go to: [NetID Management](#)

BC offers a wide variety of computer and learning labs to enhance learning and student success. Find current campus locations for all student labs by visiting the [Technology Help Desk](#)

▪ Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible.

If you are a person who requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc, please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter.

If you are a student with a documented autism spectrum disorder, there is an additional access program available to you. Contact [Autism Spectrum Navigators](#) Email and phone number is on the web page. ASN is located in the Library Media Center in D125.

The DRC office is located in B132 or you can call our reception desk at 425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach us by Skype: the address is **DRCatBC** (NOTE: There is no @ sign...it is actually **DRCatBC**). Please visit our website at [Disability Resource Center](#) for application information into our program and other helpful links.

Accessibility

The online elements of this course are designed to be welcoming to, accessible to, and usable by everyone, including students who are English-language learners, have a variety of learning styles, have disabilities, or are new to online learning. Be sure to let me know immediately if you encounter a required element or resource in the course that is not accessible to you. Also, let me know of changes I can make to the course so that it is more welcoming to, accessible to, or usable by students who take this course in the future.

▪ Public Safety

Public Safety and Emergencies

Public Safety is located in D 171 and can be reached at **425-564-2400** (easy to remember because it's the only office on campus open 24 hours a day—2400). Among other things, Public Safety serves as our Parking Permits, Lost and Found, and Emergency Notification center. Please ensure you are signed up to receive alerts through our campus alerting system

by registering at [RAVE Alert Registration](#)

If you work late and are uneasy about going to your car, Public Safety will escort you to your vehicle. To coordinate this, please phone ahead and let Public Safety know when and where you will need an escort.

Please familiarize yourself with the emergency postings by the door of every classroom and know where to go in the event of an evacuation. Your instructor will be asked if anyone might still be in the building, so check in before you do anything else. Emergency responders will search for anyone unaccounted for.

If a major emergency occurs, please follow these three rules:

- 1) Take directions from those in charge of the response -We all need to be working together.
- 2) Do not get in your car and leave campus (unless directed to)** - Doing so will clog streets and prevent emergency vehicles from entering the scene. Instead, follow directions from those in charge.
- 3) In an emergency, call 911 first, then Public Safety.

Please do not hesitate to call Public Safety if you have safety questions or concerns at any time. You may also visit the [Public Safety](#) web page for answers to your questions.

▪ Final Exam Schedule

Wednesday, March 20th at 9:30.

[Final Exam Schedule](#)

▪ Academic Calendar

The Bellevue College Academic Calendar is separated into two calendars. They provide information about holidays, closures and important enrollment dates such as the finals schedule.

- [Enrollment Calendar](#) On this calendar you will find admissions and registration dates and important dates for withdrawing and receiving tuition refunds.
- [College Calendar](#) This calendar gives you the year at a glance and includes college holidays, scheduled closures, quarter end and start dates, and final exam dates.

Course Calendar

You will find the course calendar in the Canvas site (see course navigation on the left hand side).