

SOC 206 General Sociology: **Social Problems**
Portland Community College, Sylvania
CRN 11394 [4 credits]

Winter 2007
Room TCB 214
Thurs. 6 – 9:50pm

Instructor: Andrew Butz
Office hours: Thurs. 4 - 5pm @ SS 217 – G65 [or by arrangement]
Phone: 503.244.6111 (x 3455) [arranged drop-off/pick-up: Secretary @ SS 217]
Email: abutz@pcc.edu [phone preferred] → **check myPCC email weekly**

COURSE DESCRIPTION, OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES

We explore social problems using basic methods, concepts and findings of *sociology* [introduced in SOC 204 / 205] – the scientific study of human society. *Sociologically**, we study *social problems* connected with discrimination & inequality, corporate & government power, poverty, crime, drugs, violence & war, and the environment. 🌐

*By using the *sociological perspective* and *sociological imagination*, we:

- *Challenge common assumptions*
- *Recognize opportunities & constraints within society*
- *Empower ourselves as active participants in society*
- *Recognize human diversity* 🌐

(-Peter Berger)

INTERNATIONAL COMPONENT

🌐 = *Includes international components, in multi-media, to connect & contrast world nations.*

News Analyses [see below] of foreign articles, from *Der Spiegel* to *The Prague Post*. Videos and reading supplements (e.g., on: social structure, power/wealth & poverty, race, crime, national security, urban/environment) connect the U.S. internationally (e.g., with Europe [incl. Czech Rep., Hungary, former Soviet Union, U.K., Netherlands], the Middle East, SE Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and Cuba). Comparative Statistics are presented (e.g., with other G-8 & OECD nations). A Service-Learning Project is required [see below], focusing on global connections (e.g., with: Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization, American Friends Service Committee, Mercy Corps, Physicians for Social Responsibility, etc.).

TEXT (required)

Eitzen and Zinn. 2006. *Social Problems*, 10th ed. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

+ Loeb, Paul R. 2004. *The Impossible Will Take A Little While*. NYC: Basic Books.

REQUIREMENTS

Exams (cover class content, reading):.....	3 @ 20 points ea. = 60 pts
News analyses 🌐 (read daily, discuss weekly):.....	4 @ 6 points ea. = 24 pts
Service-Learning Project* 🌐:.....	1 @ 8 points ea. = 8 pts
Group Presentation:.....	1 @ 8 points ea. = 8 pts
*[TBA: S-L options. + Extra Credit = 10 pts max.] (COURSE TOTAL)..... 100 pts	

- Attendance (i.e., absence permitted for approved emergency).
- Mutual respect (e.g., Listen first. Avoid: personal insults, bigotry or cell phone use☹)
- Academic Integrity [see www.pcc.edu/integrity]: If non-original work is presented as the student's own, i.e. plagiarism, it is subject to a failing grade.

SOC 206 Syllabus:

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- Make-up / Late Policy: A make-up exam can be assigned only with student's prior notice – for a maximum of one missed/late exam. (*Except for approved emergency, late work cannot earn full credit.* ☺)

If you require special accommodations in accordance with the *Americans with Disabilities Act*, please notify instructor. [Questions: 503.977.4341 (O.S.D.)]

Reading Assignments & Course Schedule (tentative)

PCC, Sylvania

** NOTE: Read (& take notes) *before* class -- that also features videos, guest speakers, and/or extra readings. Success requires *your attendance* & following schedule. [Also: check **myPCC** email weekly]

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
1/11	Sociological Approach to Social Prob's [Ch. 1] 🌐.....	Reading (by Topic)
1/18	Wealth & Power: ...the System [Ch. 2] 🌐.....	~1 st ANALYSIS (1 st ½ of class)~
1/25	Poverty [Ch. 7].....	~1 st ANALYSIS (2 nd ½ of class)~
2/01	Racial & Ethnic Inequality [Ch. 8] 🌐.....	EXAM 1 (handout) Service-Learning contracts due
2/08	Gender Inequality [Ch. 9].....	~2 nd ANALYSIS (from 1 st ½)~
2/15	Crime & Justice [Ch. 12] 🌐.....	~2 nd ANALYSIS (from 2 nd ½)~
2/22	Drugs [Ch. 13].....	~3 rd ANALYSIS (1 st ½)~ EXAM 2 (handout)
3/01	National Security.... [Ch. 18] 🌐.....	~3 rd ANALYSIS (2 nd ½)~
3/08	Problems of Place: Urban...[Ch. 6].....	~4 th ANALYSIS (1 st ½)~
3/15	Threats to the Environment [Ch. 4] 🌐.....	~4 ANALYSES, DEADLINE~ EXTRA CREDIT " " " " EXAM 3 (handout) Service-Learning projects due
3/22	<u>Final class @ TCB 214: 6 – 8pm</u>	GROUP PRESENTATIONS



- **Please keep all graded work (and apply written comments).**

Recommended Books

The Problem of the Media (Robert McChesney)
The Media Monopoly (Ben Bagdikian)
 🌐*When Corporations Rule the World* (David Korten)

Recommended Web

www.commondreams.org 🌐
 .altnet.org
 .truthout.org

Amusing Ourselves to Death (Neil Postman)
Brave New World (Aldous Huxley)
1984 (George Orwell)
A People's History of the U.S. (Howard Zinn)
 *The Chalice & the Blade* (Riane Eisler)
The Wilding of America (Charles Derber)
What's the Matter with Kansas? (Thomas Frank)
 *Fear's Empire* (Benjamin Barber)

.socioweb.com/~markbl/socioweb/
.citizen.org
.freepress.net
.oneworld.net 
.greenpeaceusa.org 
.unitedforpeace.org
.globalexchange.org 
www.actionnetwork.org