

**Saddleback College**  
**Sociology 2**  
**Semester**  
**Ticket # XXXXX**

**Professor Nicole Loftus**  
**Social Problems**  
**Distance Education Course**

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**Office Hours: Via E-mail or by appointment**  
**Class Meets From: XX-XX**

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

### **Catalog Description**

Emphasis on the extent causes, and consequences of a number of social problems: crime, juvenile delinquency, family disorganization, and race relations.

### **Course Description**

This course includes the identification and analysis of selected contemporary social problems in American Society as well as around the world. Theoretical perspectives as well as research methods will be presented and examined. Some of the issues to be investigated are: corporate and government power, poverty, medicine and illness, family disorganization and problems, urban issues, alcohol and drug use, human sexual behavior, crime, juvenile delinquency, the criminal justice system, inequality, sex discrimination, race and ethnic relations, population and the environment, and war and terrorism.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of the course students will be able to:

- Identify and apply the concepts, theories, and issues relating to the topic of Social Problems.
- Apply our sociological theories to specific social problems in society and give suggestions for alleviation and treatment of the social problems.
- Compare and contrast and explain the relationship between social problems at the macrosociological and microsociological levels.
- Analyze specific social problems in terms of their cause-effect patterns.
- Identify current research methods that are utilized for the investigation of social problems.
- Project the upcoming trends and research needed for adequate coverage in the field of Sociology and Social Problems.

- Discuss, analyze, write about, and apply the relevant sociological issues to particular experiences, literature, and photographic mediums.
- Apply one's *Service Learning* experiences to the course by means of classroom online discussion as well by demonstrating appropriate sociological application and analysis.

### **Required Readings**

#### **Text:**

Henslin, James and Lori Fowler (9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> Edition). *Social Problems: A Down-to-Earth Approach*, Pearson/Allyn and Bacon Publishing.  
ISBN # 0-205-64975-0 (9<sup>th</sup> edition); # 0-205-00416-4 (10<sup>th</sup> edition)

#### **Reader:**

Henslin, James (2008), *Seeing the Social Context: Readings to Accompany Social Problems*, Pearson/Allyn and Bacon Publishing  
ISBN# 0-205-56875-0

\* You can purchase these textbooks at the Saddleback Bookstore (they now have a special purchase option from the publisher which made the books cheaper—ask the bookstore rep); however, I would recommend first trying to order them online. If it is done in advance, websites such as [www.dealoz.com](http://www.dealoz.com), [www.half.com](http://www.half.com), [www.chegg.com](http://www.chegg.com), and [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) can help you find cheap textbooks. Remember to order early or do rush shipping as you will be responsible for the all readings.

### **E-MAIL AND COMMUNICATION**

An online course requires constant communication between classmates and the instructor and students. The **first** discussion board titled “Student Question Forum” will be available throughout the semester as a means to ask pertinent questions regarding the course. Students who effectively answer questions here (before the instructor) will receive one extra credit point (for up to five extra points throughout the semester). Students must check this question forum on a weekly basis. If a student has a question or concern that he or she does not feel comfortable sharing on the forum, please email the instructor. Lastly, it is crucial that **each student check his or her Saddleback e-mail on a regular basis** throughout the course as this is my way of contacting you. Please provide the course ticket number and course title in the subject area of ALL e-mails sent to me (make sure to include your name). I will respond to crucial dilemmas as soon as possible, otherwise you can expect a response from me within 24-48 hours.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Student Participation and Expectations:**

Your overall success in this class is dependent on your participation and virtual attendance. Every student must have access to a computer with internet and check their email frequently, as well as visit and participate on the Blackboard class site approximately five days a week. Also, it is necessary that you are familiar with the web and Microsoft Word. It is recommended that students check the class site every other day for any new announcements posted. Every student

is required to check e-mail (your Saddleback e-mail via Mysite), check announcements, get weekly assignments, read weekly lectures (many test questions as well as assignments are taking from the lecture material- this is located under "Course Documents"), read assigned readings from the text and reader, participate on the discussion board, turn in paper assignments, and take online exams as instructed. Every week under the "Assignments" tab, you will see the weekly assignment including readings (text, reader, lecture), discussion board topic (s), and any other papers or tests that may be required for that week. Each student should allocate an average of eight to ten hours per week to this course.

**PLEASE NOTE:** It is **your responsibility to drop or withdraw yourself** from the class if you are no longer participating; however, I have the right to drop you from the course if you do not reply to the attendance emails during the first week, are no longer participating on the discussion board (2 forums or more) AND/OR have not taken the first, second, or both exams (depending on the situation).

**Blackboard:** Your virtual classroom for the semester is the Blackboard learning system. The system includes such features as: class announcements, discussion board (our class discussion forum), lectures, email, assignments, study guides, links to additional readings, exams, and grades. **Course Website Address:** <http://soccdd.blackboard.com>

Your username is your Saddleback College e-mail address given to you at registration (first initial of your first name and your last name plus a number; do not include the @saddleback.edu) and your password is either your pin number plus two zeros or the last four digits of your social security number plus two zeros (whatever you have set it to be). **PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS GOING TO BE THE SAME AS YOUR MYSITE AND EMAIL USERNAME AND PASSWORD; IF YOU CHANGE ONE YOU CHANGE THEM ALL.**

**Technical Difficulties:**

If a student is experiencing difficulties with the website, which extends beyond a few hours, as the website could be temporarily down, he or she must immediately contact me. Questions regarding navigating the website usually can be found by reading the Blackboard instructions found through the Distance Education campus website: <http://www.saddleback.edu/de/> or check out this YouTube video:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/SaddlebackLIBRARY#p/u/3/0Z60Y97WHng>

**Online Etiquette (Netiquette):**

The online classroom should be treated as if you were sitting face to face with your classmates! Please be polite and respectful when making your posts, responding to other students' posts, and in all other written assignments. In addition, offensive language will not be tolerated. If a student is being disrespectful and/or providing a negative learning environment for others he or she will receive a warning or be immediately dropped from the course according to the instructor's discretion.

Please go to the following websites for information on "Netiquette":

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/>

<http://www.chirpingbird.com/netpets/html/computer/emoticon.html>

**Library Information:**

Phone: (949) 582- 4314

M-TH 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

F 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sat 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m

Closed Sundays

**Saddleback College Distance Education Website:**

A good source of information for online students, <http://www.saddleback.edu/de/>

**ASSESSMENTS****QUIZ:**

Your first assessment will be a **ten point, multiple choice quiz** assessing your knowledge and comprehension of the course outline (syllabus), orientation information, and blackboard system. Please read the instructions below for completing exams. You will have twenty minutes to complete it. The quiz is located under “Assignments.”

**DISCUSSION BOARD:**

Each student must participate on the discussion board throughout the week. Before **WEDNESDAY AT NOON** for that week, students must post their main post to the question(s) by clicking on the button that says “thread +”. Before **FRIDAY AT NOON**, students must sufficiently respond to *at least* (more is better) two other students’ posts (not just “Good Job” or “I like what you said”) using the “reply” button. **Please identify the student you are responding to by using his or her name at the beginning of the post.** Your thorough participation (making comments, posting questions, and adding feedback) on this discussion board throughout the week is necessary for your success in the class. Grammar and spell check is available on the discussion board and should be used as this will also be taken into consideration when grading the assignments. Please use **black font** as well as the **font size default** for your responses and replies as it can be difficult to read otherwise. Each discussion board for the week is different: some you may need to apply material from the class, some you may be organized into groups to discuss different vignettes, others may require additional research (in this instance the student is required to cite the source(s) of the data used), and some are opinion questions. Please see the **“Rubric for Online Discussions”** for additional information on the grading for this assignment. I will be frequently checking the discussion boards and providing input and commentary as this is a very important part of your grade and knowledge base for the class. The discussion board requirement is worth up to **60 points**.

**ONLINE EXAMS:**

There will be three online multiple-choice exams (covering 5 chapters each, which are not cumulative). Each exam includes 50 multiple-choice questions and is worth 50 points (there may be a few extra questions that count as extra credit). The exams usually will be assigned on **Sunday** and due on **Tuesday** at midnight (**except for the final- see dates below**). **Please note:** each exam has a specific deadline in which the exam must be completed by as well as a time limit once the exam is started. Students are allowed one hour and twenty minutes to take each multiple-choice exam. **One point will be deducted for each minute or portion of each minute**

**beyond** the allotted time used to take the exam (up to 25 points can be deducted per multiple-choice exam). **NO MAKE UP EXAMS WILL BE PERMITTED.**

To ensure that there are no **TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES** while taking the online exams you will need to **close all OTHER BROWSERS, block all POP-UPS, and DO NOT click on “Refresh” or the “Back” button** as this can cause the website and the exam to freeze up and kick you out of the system. In this instance it will show that you have completed the exam and any questions you have not answered or saved will be marked incorrect. Please make sure you **click on “submit”** once you have completed the exam (if you only chose “save” the exam is not submitted to me). You may save your answers throughout (there is a save button to the right of each question). Make-up exams will not be allowed for such avoidable technical difficulties. Also, make sure your internet connection is not moving slower than usual before you take the exam as this could cause your exam to not be processed upon submitting it. Additionally, **DO NOT USE AWIRELESS ROUTER** (use a wired connection). Make sure you do not wait until the last hours to complete the exam as technical difficulties will not be considered if it is within the last three hours allotted to complete the exam. It is best if you have downloaded **“Firefox”** (go to [firefox.com](http://firefox.com)) on your computer and use this as your browser to access the website.

#### **PAPER ASSIGNMENTS:**

There will be **ONE MAJOR** paper assignment that includes several components and different due dates. Grades will be based on your adherence to the specific instructions, your use of application and sociological analysis (concepts, terms, social theory, and data from class), grammar and spelling, and your overall competence and delivery of the issue. Please make sure to read over all guidelines thoroughly as this is a major factor in the grading process. **No late papers will be accepted.** I do NOT except papers through e-mail.

#### **Service Learning Requirement and Paper Assignment**

##### **Part A**

Each student is required to perform **12 hours** of community service. You will perform some service to an **APPROVED** community agency. The purpose of this assignment is to enhance your learning in this course. Your service learning hours are to be completed on a voluntary basis and therefore are not to be part of a paid, employed position. Students must volunteer with an organization they have NOT previous volunteered with in the past. Your responsibilities should be direct experience with the individuals served by the agency (i.e. you should not be completing clerical work for the agency). **Please see the list of approved service learning sites (Service Learning Packet, “Assignments” button on our class Blackboard website).** If you wish to complete your service learning at a site that is not on the list of approved sites you will need to contact me via e-mail at least five days prior to the due date for the Service Learning Plan with the following information: your name, site name and address, site supervisor’s name and phone number, and prospective responsibilities. Students are required to fill out and sign a **volunteer release of liability form, service learning agreement, service learning plan** (filled out by you and signed by your agency supervisor and me), and a **letter from your site supervisor** on the organization’s letterhead stating the number of hours completed as well as the

dates you volunteered (signed by site supervisor; due on the day the assigned paper is due). You will need to submit the volunteer release of liability form, service learning agreement and service learning plan, and letter to me on the due dates (see course schedule) via: 1) my mailbox (Social and Behavioral Sciences Department; BGS314) 2) via mail – post marked by the due date (Saddleback College, Social and Behavioral Sciences Department, BGS351, 28000 Marguerite Parkway, Mission Viejo, CA 92692-3635) OR 3) via fax (949-347-7363), Attn: Nicole Loftus) OR 4) Email (scan and email to nloftus@saddleback.edu) . **This is worth 25 points.**

## **Part B**

**Service Learning Reflection and Application Essay Assignment:** Students are also required to complete the assigned service learning application, analysis, and reflection paper. You are required to write about your service learning experience as well as incorporate application of the course material and sociological analysis. Your essay will be SUBMITTED INTO TWO AREAS 1) Turnitin Assignment link AND 2) Discussion Board Forum (see paper instructions for requirements). The grading for each paper will be based on your adherence to the requirements, your use of application and sociological analysis, grammar and spelling, and your comprehensive coverage of the experience. **Specific instructions for this paper will be available prior to the due date.** This assignment is **worth 100 points** (additional points are earned for the discussion board requirement). **No late essays will be accepted!**

Please see the course outline for the specific due dates for the **Volunteer Release of Liability, Service Learning Agreement, and Service Learning Plan.** There will be a **five point deduction** for each day past the due date – **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Five points will be deducted for each hour that is not completed of the 12 hour requirement. Please see “Assignments” and the Service Learning folder for the required forms. Also note that I suggest you maintain a **journal** on your service-learning experience which will assist you in writing the assigned paper at the end of the semester.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** See the syllabus for the dates the papers will be assigned as well as the due dates.

**Feedback Time:** I will be active on the discussion board, commenting and asking questions, throughout the week. I will not necessarily respond to everyone’s post; however, I do read every post and provide a final “wrap-up” for each week’s topic(s). Midway through the semester you will receive a progress report on your discussion board participation. I will provide my feedback to your application papers within 10-14 days of the due date. To check your grades go to “Student Tools” and “Check Grade.” **Please make sure you read my personal feedback to you on your papers (click on your score to read the feedback).**

**Makeup Examinations/Late Paper Policy:** The instructor is under no obligation to accept late papers or give makeup examinations and will only be considered 1) if **discussed with me in advance** (prior to the due date or examination date) or 2) in the instance of a **medical emergency.** In either situation, you must contact me **prior to** the scheduled due date or examination time and **written proof** of the absence will be required in order to be considered for

approval of a makeup exam or the turning in of a late paper. Approved late papers and makeup examinations must be turned in or completed in a timely manner and will result in a deduction of total possible points (**10% will be deducted for each day past the due date or assigned examination date**). Note: makeup examinations and late papers are rarely approved.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty is cheating (obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for work by the use of any dishonest, deceptive, fraudulent, or unauthorized means). Aiding someone with any of the above actions is also academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty of any type will not be tolerated. Examples of academic dishonesty include: plagiarism (using another individual's words as your own and/or not citing another individual's work), unacceptable examination behavior (communicating with other students, copying an exam from another person, allowing another student to copy your own exam, using cheat sheets or other unauthorized material), unauthorized collaboration (including allowing other students to read your completed papers), fraud, and document falsification. The penalty for committing academic dishonesty will result in a zero on the assignment, lowering of the final grade in the course, or the student receiving a failing grade in the course. It is up to the instructor on how to handle each situation. If you are unclear on the parameters of academic dishonesty please see me for clarification. **Please note: The "turnitin" program will be used for all papers to check for plagiarism.** See the Student Handbook for more information on academic dishonesty, <http://www.saddleback.edu/media/pdf/handbook.pdf>

### **Special Services**

"Special Services provides support services and specialized instruction for students with disabilities." If you feel that you are in need of special services please contact the Special Services office: (949)582-4249; Office location: SSC113 (Student Services Center 113; first floor); Website: [www.saddleback.edu/serv/couns/dsps/](http://www.saddleback.edu/serv/couns/dsps/)

**Note:** please feel free to discuss special services issues with me. If you have already been assessed through Student Services please discuss accommodations with me and get the paperwork to me as soon as possible.

### **Learning Assistance Program (LAP)**

The LAP is available for tutoring and can help you with writing assistance for this course. Please call or visit the LAP department. (949)582-4519 or Library, room 114 [www.saddleback.edu/library/](http://www.saddleback.edu/library/)

### **RUBRIC FOR ONLINE DISCUSSIONS**

- **Discussion Boards:** The discussion boards are a very important feature of our class and serve as our main means of communication for the semester. It is crucial that you are actively participating in our forums several times a week (at least three), offering comments, questions, and feedback to each other. Every week you must post an original thread in response to the information posted on the week's Discussion Board. You are required to post your original thread by **Wednesday at noon** and make a thorough

response to at least two (more is better) classmates by **Friday at noon**. **You will not receive any credit for responses posted after the week's end.**

I will use the following rubric to evaluate online discussions:

0-3 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No original postings (replies do not count as original postings)</li> <li>○ Too long/rambling/unorganized thoughts</li> <li>○ Lack of respectful consideration of classmates' opinions</li> <li>○ Grammar and spelling errors detract from expression of thought</li> <li>○ Incomplete response</li> <li>○ Postings clustered all on one day</li> </ul>
4-6 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Appropriate, basic original posting with at least 2 appropriate replies to classmates (note: appropriate replies to classmates go beyond social comments such as "good idea" or "I agree")</li> <li>○ Includes all information asked for</li> <li>○ Postings spread throughout the week</li> <li>○ Spelling and grammar do not detract from meaning of post</li> </ul>
7-10 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Original posting contributes to overall learning and knowledge of the class. May include links to additional resources on the topic</li> <li>○ Replies expand upon classmates contributions</li> <li>○ Succinct and to the point, yet complete</li> <li>○ 3 or more posting spread throughout the week without overpowering the topic.</li> </ul>

**Point Distribution**

Quiz	10 points
Discussion Board	60 points
Exams	150 points
Service Learning Documents	25 points
Paper #2 Service Learning	100 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>345 points</b>

### Grading Scale

310-345	A
276-309	B
241-275	C
207-240	D
206 or below	F

### Keep Track of Your Total Points Below

Quiz	_____
Discussion Board	_____
Exam#1	_____
Exam#2	_____
Exam#3	_____
Service Learning Documents	_____
Paper#2 Service Learning	_____
Extra Credit Points	_____
TOTAL	_____

### Tentative Course Outline

The following dates are subject to change and any changes made will be announced on our Blackboard website only. Our class week begins on Sundays and ends on Saturdays (exams will be available on Sundays when assigned). All discussion board assignments are due on Fridays at noon (**main posts due on WEDNESDAY AT NOON**); however, there are a few instances in which there is a variation in due dates (please see below). **See "Assignments" on our Blackboard website on a weekly basis.**

Week of:

#1 **DUE BY WEDNESDAY AT NOON:** 1) Read the first announcement, syllabus, and orientation information (under "Course Information") 2) Navigate through the blackboard course website 3) Read my introduction under "Faculty Information" 4) Read "Rubric for Online Discussions" (syllabus and in "Course Information") 5) Take the quiz under the "assignments" link assessing your knowledge of the orientation, blackboard site, syllabus, and the requirements by WEDNESDAY 6) Introduce yourself on our discussion board forum titled, "Introductions and Social Problems" (**main posts due by Wednesday at NOON, responses to others due by Friday at NOON**). 7) Let me know if you have any questions.

#1 **Continued... DUE BY THE END OF THE WEEK (to stay current on the week's assignments and readings, make sure the following is read by Saturday):**

Lecture	Under "Course Documents"
Chapter1	How Sociologists View Social Problems
Reader	<i>The Forest for the Trees</i>
Chapter 2	Interpreting Social Problems

		<b>Discussion Board</b>
#2	Lecture Chapter 7 Reader	Economic Problems <i>The Lives of Homeless Women</i> <b>Discussion Board</b>
#3	Lecture Chapter 5 Chapter 6 Reader	Violence in Society Crime and Criminal Justice <i>Police Accounts of Normal Force</i> <b>Discussion Board</b>
#4		<b>Exam #1 available Sun., must be completed by Tues. by 11:59 p.m.</b> (Lectures; Text: Chapters 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7; Readings) <b>SERVICE LEARNING FORMS DUE, Monday by 11:59pm</b> (Volunteer Release of Liability Form, Service Learning Agreement, and Service Learning Plan)
	Lecture Chapter 12 Chapter 4 Reader	Urbanization (first part up until pg. 426) Alcohol and Other Drugs <i>Upper-Level Drug Dealers and Smugglers</i> <b>Discussion Board</b> <b>** Please note the Paper # 2 Service Learning Instructions are available under “assignments”</b>
#5	Lecture Chapter 8 Reader Chapter 3 Chapter 9 Reader	Race and Ethnic Relations <i>The Racist Mind</i> Human Sexual Behavior Sex Discrimination <i>Women in the Military</i> <b>Discussion Board</b>
#6		<b>Exam #2 available Sun., must be completed by Tues. by 11:59 p.m.</b> (Lectures, Text: Chapters 3, 4, 8, 9, and 12 (urbanization), and Readings)
	Lecture Chapter 10 Reader Chapter 11	Medical Care <i>On Being Sane in Insane Places</i> The Changing Family <b>Discussion Board</b>
#7	Lecture Chapter 12 Chapter 13	Population Issues (second part starting pg. 427) The Environmental Crisis

**Discussion Board: Service Learning Paper due Wed. by NOON posted to the DB, responses to other students due Friday at noon (timesheet and letter from site supervisor also due)**

#8

Lecture  
Chapter 14 War, Terrorism, and the Balance of Power  
Reader *Child Soldiers*  
**Discussion Board (extra credit up to 5 pts): Reaction Forum**

**Final Exam** Covers lecture, reader, and chapters: 10, 11, 12 (population), 13, 14  
(Available Monday, must be completed by Thursday before midnight)

GOOD LUCK!

**FINAL NOTE: DO NOT PROCRASTINATE!!** Every student must stay organized and on top of his or her work. It is extremely difficult to make up for lost time in an online class (specifically an eight week online course).