

CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL ISSUES
SOCIOLOGY 191 - Sec. 4
(Tues/Thurs 12:30-1:45)

Hewitt
Sec 191
SPR 1986

Spring 1986

Instructor: Nancy M. Hewitt
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Office Hours:
Tuesday - 10:00 - 11:00
Thursday - 2:00 - 3:00
(or by appointment)

Required Texts

- (1) Social Problems: Divergent Perspectives
Thomas Sullivan, K. Thompson, R. Wright, G. Gross and D. Spady
- (2) Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Social Issues, 3rd ed.
Kurt Finsterbusch and George McKenna, eds.
- (3) Crisis in American Institutions, 6th ed.
Jerome H. Skolnick and Elliott Currie, eds.

(The attached reading assignment list uses the following abbreviations:
Soc. Prob. refers to (1) above; Issue refers to (2); Crisis refers to (3).)

It is important to complete the reading prior to coming to class as this
will be the basis for discussion.

Grading

Points will be distributed on the following items and the course grade will be
determined using the grade scale below.

<u>Components</u>	<u>Point Value</u>
Attendance (1 pt each session)	25
Midterm	15
World Affairs Critique	5
Project	25
Final	<u>30</u>
	100

Grade Scale

98 - 100 =	A+*	78 - 80 =	C+
94 - 97 =	A	74 - 77 =	C
91 - 93 =	A-	71 - 73 =	C-
88 - 90 =	B+	68 - 70 =	D+
84 - 87 =	B	64 - 67 =	D
81 - 83 =	B-	61 - 63 =	D-

*Note that an A+ will not appear on your transcript

SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>READ (before coming to class)</u>	<u>FOCUS</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
1/30 Thurs.	Soc. Prob., CH 1	Sociological Analysis	Discussion Explanation of Projects
2/4 Tues.	Soc. Prob., CH 2 - pp. 38-47, 57-59	Sociological Research	Discussion *Turn in project choices
2/6 Thurs.	Issue #3 Crisis: 20	Sociobiologism	Discussion
2/11 Tues.	Soc. Prob., CH 12 - pp. 410-421, 432-442 Issue #11	Racism	Film
2/13 Thurs.	Crisis: 11, 12	Ethnicity	Discussion Collect data from class
2/18 Tues.	Issue #12	Discrimination	Debate: Is Affirmative Action Reverse Discrimination
2/20 Thurs.	Crisis: 13	Prejudice	Report: Results of class data analysis Report: Illegal Immigratio
2/25 Tues.	Soc. Prob., CH 13	Sex Roles	Discussion
2/27 Thurs.	Soc. Prob., CH 7 - pp. 218-229	Cultural Stereotypes	Film
3/4 Tues.	Crisis: 15, 16	Sexism	Discussion Report: Inventory of dorm room sex symbols
3/6 Thurs.	Issue #7	Family Roles	Debate: Are Traditional Families More Successful?
3/11 Tues.	Soc. Prob., CH 15 - pp. 527-537 + a) suicide or b) substance abuse a) Soc. Prob., CH 15 - pp. 554-557 b) Soc. Prob., CH 17	Deviant Behavior	Report: Suicide Report: Substance Abuse
3/13 Thurs.	Crisis: 17 Soc. Prob., CH 15 - pp. 537-542	Homosexuality	Discussion
3/18 Tues.	Review (using AIDS and Abortion)		3/20 MIDTERM Thurs.

SPRING BREAK 3/24 - 3/28
Date Read

Focus

Activity

4/1 Tues.	Soc. Prob., CH 16 - pp. 568-574, 578-590, Issue #15 596-605	Crime	Debate: Is Incapacitation the Answer to Crime?
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4/3	Crisis: 30, 31	Criminal Justice	Debate: Is Capital Punishment a Deterrent?
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no classes World Affairs Conference (4/6 - 4/12) Attend Session, Write 1 page critique
(Note: Begin reading for next week - heavy!)

4/15 Tues.	Soc. Prob., CH 11 Crisis: 7, 8, 9, 10, 19, 29 Issue #4, #16	Poverty	*Turn in World Affairs report Debate: Is There A "Culture of Poverty"?
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4/17 Thurs.	Issue #9, #13	Stratification	Debate: Does an Elite Rule America?
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4/22 Tues.	Crisis: 4, 5, 6, 36 Issue #14	Economy	Debate: Are Profits the On Responsibility of Business
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4/24 Thurs.	Crisis: 21, 22	Environment	Discussion
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4/29 Tues.	Crisis: 34, 35, 37	Nuclear Threat	Report: Attitudes regarding Likelihood of Nuclear Holocaust
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5/1 Thurs.	Issue #17	National Security	Debate: Is Nuclear Deterrence Irrational?
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5/6 Tues.	Issue #20 Crisis: 40	The Future: Options	Discussion
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5/8 Thurs.	Soc. Prob., CH 18 - pp. 662-668 Crisis: 38, 39	The Future: Strategies	Discussion
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5/13 Tues.	Review	5/21 FINAL 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.!	Weds.
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Projects

Every project requires reading beyond that which is assigned on the schedule. The texts give additional source suggestions and I will be available to help you locate relevant material. The day you present you should turn in an outline and list of references. (Do not include any literature that was not useful for your project).

In addition, write 2 questions on your presentation. One should be a true/false statement; the other a multiple choice type with 3 to 5 options, only one of which is correct. These questions will be part of the midterm and final.

List your first, second and third choices of projects. Detach and turn in on Tuesday, February 4th. If requests are not turned in, I will assign topics. Every effort will be made to give you your first choice.

-----Detach-----

Panel Presentations

- a. _____ Is Affirmative Action Reverse Discrimination? (2/18)
- b. _____ Are Traditional Families More Successful? (3/6)
- c. _____ Is Incapacitation the Answer to Crime? (4/1)
- d. _____ Is Capital Punishment a Deterrent? (4/3)
- e. _____ Is There a "Culture of Poverty"? (4/15)
- f. _____ Does an Elite Rule America? (4/17)
- g. _____ Are Profits the Only Social Responsibility of Business? (4/22)
- h. _____ Is Nuclear Deterrence Irrational? (5/1)

Individual Presentations

- i. _____ Illegal Immigration (2/20)
- j. _____ Suicide (3/11)
- k. _____ Substance Abuse (3/11)

Team Research Projects

- l. _____ Prepare, administer, analyze and report on classroom experiment (2/3 collect data)
(2/20 present findings)
- m. _____ Conduct visual examination of dorm rooms, prepare inventory, analyze and report (3/4)
(This is a relication of a study reported on p. 454 in Social Problems)
- n. _____ Interview students re. their expectations of nuclear holocaust, analyze and report (4/1)

Comments: _____

Name _____