

Fall Semester, 1987
Social Problems/Social Change
Soc. 250

Lee Brocius, Instructor
Office Hours: M-W 10-11am
Office: Ketchum 401
Office Phone: 492-6637
Home Phone: 786-1435

Required Texts:

Social Problems: A Critical Thinking Approach
by Paul Baker and Louis Anderson

In addition to the above listed text, each student will review one of the following: (to be assigned first week of class)

Operating Manual for SpaceShip Earth by Buckminster Fuller

The Future Is Within Us by Denis de Rougemont

This course will examine social problems as "constructed realities" using a "critical thinking" approach. We will look at both "micro" and "macro" issues and then move on to a more global viewpoint using a "systems" approach for analysis.

Each student will write four reviews using a standardized format. The first two reviews will be based upon your choice of articles from the Social Problems textbook. The second two assignments will be from your second text as assigned to each student. While the student will write only two reviews, it is expected that you will read and be responsible for the entire text. In addition, each student will participate in an oral presentation (panel discussion) based upon their critical reviews. Teamwork will be necessary to make this presentation a success.

If the reviews are of high quality, there will be no midterm examination. Students are expected to work on their reviews and presentations for maximum quality output. A final comprehensive examination will be administered emphasizing critical thinking skills, Berger's book and class lecture materials.

Due dates for written assignments, oral presentations and readings will be determined after the first class meeting. Students with unexcused absenteeism on assignment due dates or on the date of the oral presentation will be heavily penalized.

Grading:

Each written assignment	10 points	total	40
oral presentation	10 points		10
final examination	50 points		50
Total possible points			100
90 points	A		
80	B		
70	C		
60	D		

Attendance will be taken daily. It is expected that no student will miss more than three classes. In the case you are borderline between two grades, with good attendance, you will be raised to the higher grade.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

- 8/26 Introductions
- 8/28 The construction of social reality
- 8/31 The construction of social reality, continued
Baker, Preface and Chapter 1 (pp. xi-xiv & 1-23)
- 9/02 Baker, Chapter 1, continued
- 9/04 Baker, Chapter 2 (pp. 24-45)
- 9/09 Baker, Chapter 2, continued
- 9/11 Baker, Chapter 3 (pp. 46-67)
- 9/14 Baker, Chapter 3, continued
- 9/16 Baker, Chapter 4 (pp. 68-82)
- 9/18 Baker, Chapter 4, continued
- 9/21 Review of Chapters 1-4
Assignment of class practice readings
Assignment of individual readings for reviews
- 9/23 Review of first practice selection
- 9/25 Review of second practice selection
- 9/28 Final comments on critical thinking approach
- 9/30 Formation of discussion groups for second text assignments
- 10/02 Pyramids of sacrifice and Global systems approach lecture
- 10/05 Pyramids and systems, continued
- 10/07 Pyramids and systems, continued
- 10/09 First writing assignment due
- 10/12 Pyramids and systems, continued
- 10/14 Pyramids and systems, continued
- 10/16 Second writing assignment due
- 10/19 Pyramids and Systems, continued
- 10/21 Pyramids and Systems, continued

Second Set of Writing Assignments from Fuller and de Rougemont due:

10/23 Fuller, Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 due

10/26 Fuller, discussion chapters 1-4

10/28 Fuller, Chapters 5, 6, 7 and 8

10/30 Fuller, discussion chapters 5-8

11/02 de Rougemont, Assignments Part I due

11/04 de Rougemont, discussion Part I

11/06 de Rougemont, discussion Part I
de Rougemont, Assignments Part II due

11/09 de Rougemont, discussion Part II

11/11 de Rougemont, discussion Part II

11/13 de Rougemont, Assignments Part III due
de Rougemont, discussion Part II

11/16 de Rougemont, discussion Part III

11/18 de Rougemont, discussion Part III

11/20 de Rougemont, discussion Part III

11/23 Oral Presentation on Fuller

11/25 Oral Presentation on Fuller continued

11/30 Oral Presentation on de Rougemont

12/02 Oral Presentation on de Rougemont continued

12/04 Oral Presentation on de Rougemont continued

12/07 Review for final

12/09 Review for final

12/16 Final exam, 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS !!!