Welcome Students! I look forward to working with you on this most interesting course material!

Course Objectives: Identify, examine and analyze social problems from different theoretical perspectives. The goal is to better understand our complex and diverse society and the intertwining and conflicting forces that create social problems. Solutions which our different theoretical perspectives propose will be critical, to our analysis and understanding.

The major Perspectives include: 1. Functionalism  
2. Marxist Conflict  
3. Value Conflict  
4. Interactionist/ Psychosocial

We will also examine basic definitions and assumptions about problems. Our ultimate goal to sharpen our critical thinking, writing, reading and analysis skills.

PRE-ASSIGNMENTS:

1. See the films – WAITING for SUPERMAN and FOOD INC.  
Write a summary of 5 major concepts presented for evaluation from each of the 2 films. Each paper should be at least 3 pages in length. Also, give a critique of the film itself from your perspective. Does it seem balanced, bias, one dimensional etc. What did you learn from the film? Would you recommend it to others etc.  
THIS ASSIGNMENT IS DUE JUNE 22, 2016 which is the Wednesday before our class meeting.

2. THE ASSIGNMENT BELOW MUST BE BROUGHT TO CLASS ON THE FIRST MORNING ,6/25/16 SINCE IT WILL BE SHARED BY EACH MEMBER OF THE CLASS AND DISCUSSED.
Write a short essay 2-3 pages stating what you believe to be the most serious social problem in society from your own perspective. How do you experience the problem? By this I mean directly in your own world or from media and readings etc. What do you consider to be the root causes and what are some practical solutions. What level of intervention would be needed? By this I mean government, private sector, individual efforts. Be specific.

Bring in an in depth article from Newsweek, Time Magazine or the New York Times Magazine section that covers your problem in detail.

ONLY THESE 3 SOURCES ARE ACCEPTABLE

Text Book: SOCIAL PROBLEM, William Kornblum and Joseph Julian
The ISBN IS: 0-13026313-3
You may also buy an older edition online. This should be much cheaper. The 12 edition is fine. You can rent the book from chegg.com

For the first meeting weekend 6/25 and 6/26 please have read in order to participate in discussion:

Chapter I Theoretical Perspectives
HealthCare
Mental Health
Crime and Criminals
War and Terrorism

For weekend II July18/19 please read the following Chapters:

An Aging Society
Gender and Inequality
Problems in American Education
Technology and the Environment

Other requirements:

1. A take home midterm and final exam.
2. An oral presentation in class on the second day of the second weekend. You must confer with me with your outline for the presentation and get an approval of your topic.
3. One additional project/assignment will be discussed in class

We will also have a guest speak. TBA
Attendance: YOU MUST ATTEND BOTH Weekends FROM 8:30 TO 5:00. Otherwise, you will be required to withdraw from the class.

The University policy on Academic Integrity will be handed out in class and briefly reviewed on the first day.

Please contact me at any time: willim@fordham.edu
Office: Keating 118 Phone: 718-817-4600

Grading: Midterm and Final each worth 30%
Oral presentation 15%
All other assignments 15%
Class participation 10 points