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

Course Objectives: Identify, analyze and discuss the major social problems of our times 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, as well, to our analysis and understanding.

The major perspectives are:
1. Functionalism
2. Marxist Conflict Perspective
3. Value conflict Perspective
4. Interactionist Perspective

We will also examine try to define social problems which you will see is a complex task. We will also review basic definitions and assumptions about problems. Our ultimate goal to sharpen our critical thinking and discernment, writing, reading and analysis skills.

PRE-ASSIGNMENTS: SELECT AND WATCH ANY 2 of THESE FILMS

1. See the films:
   - Hoop Dreams
   - Waiting for Superman
   - Diet for a New America
   - Crash
   - Restrepo
   - Vice
   - A Beautiful Mind
   - Spotlight
   - Schindler’s List
   - RGB
   - Food INC
   - Green Book

Write a summary paper for each film of 4 major concepts you learned. Please make sure you clearly identify the 4 concepts.
Each paper should be about 3 pages in length to cover the summary of concepts and your critical review of the film and how it dealt with the issue.

THE @ FILM REVIEWS ARE DUE JUNE 14, 2019

2. THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE THIRD SHORT PAPER EXPLAINED BELOW MUST BE BROUGHT TO CLASS THE FIRST MORNING OF CLASS AND WILL BE READ by EACH STUDENT TO THE CLASS.

Write a short essay 2- 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. Include either a written article on your problem OR you may present a 3 to 5 minute video on your problem for the class to watch.

Text Book: SOCIAL PROBLEM, William Kornblum and Joseph Julian
The ISBN IS: 0-13026313-3
You may also buy an older edition on line. This should be much cheaper. The 12th edition is fine.

For the first meeting weekend please have read for our discussions:

Chapter I Theoretical Perspectives
Health Care
Mental Health
Crime in America
War and Terrorism

For weekend II please read the following chapters:

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

Other requirements:

1. A take home midterm and a take home final is 70% of the grade.
2. An oral presentation is done in class on the second weekend. You must confer with me with your outline for the presentation and get an approval of your topic. This is 15% of grade. Guideline will be explained in class.

3. 15% These points include the 2 film Summaries, first day essay and class participation.

We will also have a guest speak. TBA
Attendance: YOU MUST ATTEND BOTH WEEKENDS FOR THE ENTIRE TIME OTHERWISE BY PCS POLICY YOU MUST WITHDRAW FROM THE COURSE.

PLEASE BE ON TIME!

Academic Integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an honest, truthful and responsible manner. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating on exams, falsification, unapproved collaboration and destruction of library materials. Examples will be reviewed briefly reviewed on the first day of class.

Please contact me at any time: willim@fordham.edu
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SEE YOU SOON WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM FOR OUR WORK TOGETHER!