Who or what started social problems?

_The Book of Genesis According to St. Miguelito:_

http://allpoetry.com/poem/8582915-
The_Book_of_Genesis_According_to_St._Miguelito-by-Miguel_Pinero

_We Didn't Start the Fire:_

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2a2SS0zqmzk&feature=related

Identify and analyze the following social problems and issues.

_Gun Control:_

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6uYZdpLF1U

_Global Warming and the Environment:_

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pouYRrk-gyI

_Terrorism:_

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdgGj7wON10

_Oleanna:_

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMTbQ1g6vI8

_Precious:_

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L26bnfsPb2A

_When the Levees Broke:_

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pD1aVJaRsM&feature=fvw
Trading Schools:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kpMD9gWNf8

Legalizing Syringe and Needle Exchange Programs:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpTKQAAc-Yw

Pariah:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNRdxSTmV1U

The Unequal Opportunity Race:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBb5TGzqGNY

Body Projects:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTlmho_RoyY
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xaB5K-PvnSY
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9Ct7FgFB0

We will explore the social problems in these video clips along with many other contemporary issues including crime, juvenile delinquency, bullying, family responsibilities and how the human body is problematized in society. We will explore the complexity of social problems and see how they are interrelated.

Course Description:

This course presents fundamental sociological concepts and analyzes major problems of contemporary society including micro and macro social causes. We will examine the individual and structural components of society that contextualize behavior while exploring topics such as but not limited to: the social construction and dissemination of power; poverty; racism; ethnic conflict; gendered inequalities; the environment; suburban and urban life; drugs and crime; social deviance; health and body-related issues; the family; and, educational inequality. In addition, we will examine “facts”, theories, and methods sociologists use in the study of social problems. Last, we will also consider how other nations address problems that are familiar in the United States.
Course Prerequisites: None

Course Objectives:

To enable students to understand and utilize:

a. Their "Sociological Imaginations";
b. Basic sociological research methods in the study of social problems;
c. Sociological theories to understand how prevalent social problems are conceptualized within the American value system;
d. Primary sociological interpretations toward the analysis and resolution of social problems for societal betterment;
e. The role of social institutions in shaping and transforming society;
f. The variation in what individuals and groups define as social problems and how a society solves its problems;
g. Contemporary U.S. and global perspectives when examining major social issues and behaviors identified as social problems and.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

a. Demonstrate knowledge of how past, present and future social events and problems are inextricably linked;
b. Formulate strategies and methods to locate, research, evaluate and apply information through mini research projects;
c. Utilize sociological theories to study, ask meaningful questions about, and address complex social problems;
d. Analyze social policies and recommend solutions to resolve social problems and conflicts for the betterment of society;
e. Demonstrate knowledge of the role of social institutions in creating and solving social problems;
f. Demonstrate knowledge of how social problems are defined and contextualized by a definition of a situation and how society solves problems;
g. Display an understanding of how contemporary U.S. and global perspectives are utilized to define social problems
Topical Outline and Course Content:

Week 1 (Defining and Analyzing Social Problems, and Conflict Resolution)

Week 2 (Social Inequality, Deviance, Drugs, and Crime)

Week 3 (Race, Gender, Marriage and Family, and Education)

Method of Instruction and Student Learning Activities:

This is an online course, which means all lessons/lectures, discussions and writing will be transmitted via the computer. Discussion Board, mini-writing assignments, which will include individual responses to the weekly readings along with a traditional essay. Final Exam will be a part of this online course.

Bibliography of Supportive Texts:


Hawthorne, NJ: Aldine de Gruyter.


Economic Policy Institute:
http://www.epi.org/


*Society for the Study of Social Problems*:
http://www.sssp1.org/


