Sociology 201: Social Problems
PROFESSOR: Dr. Kara Dillard

REQUIRED MATERIAL:
Additional readings will be posted on the course Blackboard site.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
In this course, you will be introduced to the topic of social and cultural problems. We will discuss what constitutes a social problem (what we’ll call “naming”) and how a social issue is constructed as a social problem (what we’ll call “framing”). You will be exposed to a variety of societal issues that are defined as problems, ranging from problems in the environment, education, crime and deviance, to race, class and gender inequality. While the primary focus of this course is on contemporary American society, we will explore the ways these problems manifest themselves in the greater Fairbanks area. As a part of this class, we will discuss citizen engagement strategies that can be used outside of the classroom to discover local solutions to common problems.

COURSE OUTCOMES:
By the end of the course, students will:

- Have a more critical perspective regarding what are considered social problems, how social problems are constructed, and the national and local efforts extended to alleviate these problems
- Have a more structural and sociological understanding of why problems exist, how problems come to be defined as such, and how citizens and communities can work to lessen these problems.
- Have a more specific understanding of the social problems facing the greater Fairbanks area, how those issues became a social problem and who it has affected.
- Have a greater appreciation for citizen engagement and community problem solving efforts, via public deliberative methods.
- Create an issue guidebook for Fairbanks residents to use in public deliberations over controversial local issues.

*Taken from Fall 2013 syllabus. Description is subject to change in future semesters.*