

# WELCOME LETTER

Dear Student,

Welcome to my online Sociology 2, American Social Problems class. We are fully online, and I am writing to provide you with important information before we begin the class.

The class is entirely online. It begins February 8<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to have the textbook and log in by Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. The class ends on Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Log in information is below and the link to our class may be access through:

[www.LAVC.edu/canvas](http://www.LAVC.edu/canvas)

Helpful information, particularly technical questions, may be found here [www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley](http://www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley)

## Class Overview

### SOC2, American Social Problems

Transfer (IGETC: 4J; CSU GE:D0, D3).

IGETC is the pathway used to transfer to a UC campus, CSU is the pathway to a CSU campus.

## Required Text

Keister, Lisa A. and Darby E. Southgate. 2012. Inequality: A Contemporary Approach to Race, Class and Gender, 1st edition. Cambridge University Press, New York. ISBN-10: 0521680026; ISBN-13:978-0521680028

This book is available online at generic book sellers (i.e., Chegg, Barnes and Noble, etc.), and at the LAVC bookstore. You must use the book in this online class – failing to do so will have a negative impact on your success.

I am currently updating the textbook for publication and have updated information in my lecture notes which may be found in modules and pages (these are sections within Canvas).

Prerequisite: None.

**Recommended:** English 28, English as a Second Language 8, English as a Second Language 363, or placement into English 101. **This is important.** I encourage all students to better their reading and writing skills. There is an expectation that you read and write at a college level to be successful in this class.

As this is a typical lecture class, expect to participate for 3 hours a week.

Sociological concepts and theories are used to describe and explain a range of social problems that exist in the United States, such as issues of prejudice, discrimination, suicide, drugs, crime, wealth and poverty, and political radicalism. We will also analyze the effectiveness of attempted and potential solutions to these social problems.

## Getting Started

You will need to log on to our course in the first week of class, if you do not log on and participate by 11:59 pm, PST, Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, you may be dropped from the course as a “no show”. Once you log onto the class, read the syllabus, locate, and open MODULES – this will help you navigate the class week by week and link you to required work in the Discussions, Modules and Quizzes in Canvas. For those new to online classes and Canvas or for technical questions, tutorials, or other questions related to online education see Valley Virtual: [www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley](http://www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley).

## Student Resources

To access our class website: [www.lavc.edu/canvas](http://www.lavc.edu/canvas)

Once on the website, login to Canvas: Student username is your Student ID number or your @student.laccd.edu email address. Example student ID's: 881234567 or 991234567 or smithj1234@student.laccd.edu

Success: In order to succeed, you must have regular access to the Internet. You must logon to our class site to retrieve and submit assignments and to participate in regular and substantive class discussions weekly. If you will not be able to participate in this manner, this is not the course for you. While mobile phones often have apps to help navigate Canvas, I suggest having computer access as technical issues often occur with mobile phones. Please note I cannot access "cloud" submissions – you will need to convert all assignments into a .doc/.docx or .pdf file to submit them for a grade.

We will all progress through the course together, at the same pace. This is not a class in which you can complete all the work for the semester in the first week or make it all up in the last week. The success of this class depends on the willingness of everyone to participate in regular and substantive discussions regularly, and to share ideas in writing. All our discussions will be asynchronous (not at the same time), not synchronous (e.g., live chat, instant messaging). This will allow you to participate at times suitable for your schedule (with Friday deadlines). Exams will be conducted online and are discussed in the syllabus.

Technical requirements: See Valley Virtual above.

If you have any questions always feel free to send me an email at the address below. I look forward to working with you over the semester.

Sincerely,

Dr. Southgate

(southgde@lavc.edu)