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FOURTH EDITION

Understanding Social Problems

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Fourth Edition

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East Carolina University

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Preface

Understanding Social Problems is intended for use in a college-level sociology course. We recognize that many students enrolled in undergraduate sociology classes are not sociology majors. Thus, we have designed our text with the aim of inspiring students—*no matter what their academic major or future life path may be*—to care about the social problems affecting people throughout the world. In addition to providing a sound theoretical and research basis for sociology majors, *Understanding Social Problems* also speaks to students who are headed for careers in business, psychology, health care, social work, criminal justice, and the nonprofit sector, as well as those pursuing degrees in education, fine arts, the humanities, and those who are “undecided.” Social problems, after all, affect each and every one of us, directly or indirectly. And everyone, whether a leader in business or politics, a stay-at-home parent, or a student, can become more mindful of how his or her actions (or inactions) perpetuate or alleviate social problems. It is our hope that *Understanding Social Problems* not only informs, but also inspires planting seeds of social awareness that will grow no matter what academic, occupational, and life path students choose.

New to This Edition

As societies change at an ever-increasing pace, issues and events once defined as “social problems” are solved or redefined and replaced by new, emerging social problems. The Fourth Edition of *Understanding Social Problems* reflects this evolution not only with updates to important data—such as the global poverty statistics, population growth rates, and the percentage of U.S. residents without health insurance—but also with the incorporation of important new research findings and changing social policies, laws, and programs. Updates and revisions are included throughout the book’s chapters, as detailed below.

Chapter 1 (Thinking About Social Problems) now includes a discussion of social constructionism and how it helps our understanding of the origin and evolution of social problems. The Self and Society feature has been updated to reflect the most recent “freshman norms.” A debate over the legal protection of sociologists’ sources is included at the end of the chapter.

In **Chapter 2** (Illness and the Health Care Crisis), a new opening section explores ways in which globalization affects health. We have also updated infor-

mation on two major problems: the global HIV/AIDS crisis and the problem of inadequate health insurance coverage. The section on mental illness has been expanded, highlighting men's experiences with depression, attitudes toward seeking psychological help, and educational strategies to combat the stigma of mental illness. The concept of medicalization has also been expanded, and we introduce a new related concept: biomedicalization.

Chapters 3 (Alcohol and Other Drugs) now includes a discussion of oxycontin and methadone use along with an expanded discussion of “date rape” and club drugs. Results from the most recently available National Household Survey on Drug Abuse are presented throughout the chapter. A discussion of prevention techniques has been added along with a discussion of California's Proposition 36. The priorities of our national drug control strategy are also new to this chapter.

Chapter 4 (Crime and Violence) presents the most recent crime statistics available from the National Crime Victimization Survey and the Uniform Crime Reports. The section on white-collar crime has been expanded to include recent (e.g., WorldCom) accusations of securities fraud, tax invasion, and insider trading, and a new section on corrections has been added. Further, the chapter ends with a debate over whether or not sex offenders should be required to register with local or state agencies.

In **Chapter 5** (Family Problems), information on changing structures and patterns in U.S. families and households has been reorganized in a more concise fashion. We incorporate feminist perspectives on the family, address issues concerning DNA paternity testing, and discuss the Community Marriage Policy—a faith-based strategy to strengthen marriage. Information on child abuse and intimate partner violence has been updated, including the cycle of abuse that characterizes many chronically abusive relationships.

Chapter 6 (Race and Ethnic Relations) provides increased coverage of prejudice and discrimination against Muslims and people of Middle Eastern descent—a topic that has gained widespread attention since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. We have also expanded and updated the discussion of affirmative action, including the 2003 Supreme Court ruling on affirmative action.

Chapter 7 (Gender Inequality) now includes a discussion of feminism in the theory section and an expanded discussion of media, language, and cultural sexism. A review of the relationship between gender and health has also been expanded and now more completely addresses the issue of women and HIV/AIDS. The chapter now ends with a “take-a-stand” debate over gender differences and the nature-versus-nurture argument.

In **Chapter 8** (Issues in Sexual Orientation), we present recent U.S. census data on same-sex cohabiting couples in the United States and provide updated information on the legal status of sexual orientation issues, including the Massachusetts court ruling on same-sex marriages and the 2003 Supreme Court ruling in *Lawrence v. Texas* that struck down sodomy laws. The findings from a national survey on the campus climate for GLBT are discussed, and new material on campus “safe zones” is included in the section on reducing antigay prejudice and discrimination.

Chapter 9 (Problems of Youth and Aging) has been significantly revised. Adding to its strength, we have included several new sections in the chapter. Discussions of children's health, orphans and street children, child labor, and child trafficking and prostitution are now included in this chapter. A new section on “fighting age discrimination” has also been added, including the 2003 case of *EEOC and Arnett et al. v. CalPERS* (California Public Employees' Retirement System). This updated chapter also includes new information on physician-assisted suicide.

Chapter 10 (Poverty) includes updated information on the extent of poverty and economic inequality worldwide, patterns of poverty in the United States, public assistance programs and myths and realities of welfare in the United States, and “corporate welfare.” Important new research findings on the use of genetically engineered crops, which its advocates promote as a strategy for feeding the world’s poor populations, have been added to the “Focus on Technology” feature in this chapter.

New information on modern slavery has been added to **Chapter 11** (Work and Unemployment), along with expanded coverage of the globalization of trade and free trade agreements and transnational corporations. In a new “Human Side” feature, Barbara Ehrenreich, author of the best-selling *Nickel and Dimed*, talks about her experiences working in low-wage jobs. This chapter also includes new survey data on corporate and government repression of labor union efforts from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions as well as updated statistics on job health and safety issues.

In **Chapter 12** (Problems in Education), we have expanded the sections on school segregation and have added a discussion of a new trend—“school re-segregation.” The section on school violence has also been expanded, and we have added a section on President Bush’s “No Child Left Behind” initiative and its four organizational principles. Finally, we have added a discussion of “learning while black,” the educational equivalent of racial profiling.

Chapter 13 (Population and Urbanization), which was titled “Cities in Crisis” in the third edition, has been merged with discussions of problems associated with population growth. New material in this chapter includes recent United Nations population projections and a discussion of the effects of urbanization on the demographic transition. The “Human Side” and “Social Problems Research Up Close” features in this chapter are also new, and both deal with the effects of family planning on the lives of women and men in several countries.

In the previous edition of this text, environmental problems shared a chapter with population problems. New to this edition, population problems are discussed elsewhere (Chapter 13, Population and Urbanization), and all of **Chapter 14** (Environmental Problems) is now devoted to environmental problems. New topics added to this chapter include worldwide energy use (including a new “Self and Society” feature, “Energy IQ Test”), the environmental effects of mining (including a new “Human Side” about mountain-top mining in Appalachia), the vulnerability of children to environmental chemical exposure, and the effects of “bioinvasion.”

Chapter 15 (Science and Technology) contains an expanded section on partial birth abortions and the legal challenges to them as well as a discussion of feminists’ opposition to the new ban. A discussion of several laws that advocate and protect “fetal rights” is also new to this chapter, including a discussion of the *Unborn Victims of Violence Act*. In addition to the topics listed, Chapter 15 now includes a discussion of the problem of pornography on the Internet.

Chapter 16 (Conflict, War, and Terrorism) has been renamed to better reflect its new content. A significant portion of the chapter is now devoted to the types, patterns, and roots of terrorism and to responses to terrorism (for instance, USA Patriot Act). Further, a feminist perspective of war is presented as well as an analysis of September 11, 2001, media coverage. Other topics new to this chapter include the war with Iraq, the conflict in Afghanistan, and a discussion of Samuel P. Huntington’s *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* (1996).

Features and Pedagogical Aids

We have integrated a number of features and pedagogical aids into the text to help students learn to think about social problems with a sociological perspective. It is our mission not only to help students apply sociological concepts to observed situations in their everyday life and to think critically about social problems and their implications, but to learn to assess how social problems relate to their lives on a personal level.

Study Aids in Each Chapter That Are New to This Edition

Taking a Stand. Because writing and critical thinking skills are so important, we've added the "Taking a Stand" exercise at the end of each chapter to help students hone these specific skills. New to the Fourth Edition, the "Taking a Stand" exercise begins by presenting a single question addressing a particular issue that's relevant to the chapter topic (for example, "Should Social Security be privatized?"). We follow the question with a short paragraph that introduces the major issues associated with the question. We then refer students to Wadsworth's many sociology online resources to help them research and write their response to the question posed. With this new exercise, students will not only sharpen their understanding of specific social issues, but they will also hone their analytical and writing skills in general.

End-of-Chapter Reviews in Question-and-Answer Format. To the Fourth Edition, we've added chapter summaries to help students study and review each chapter. To make the summaries particularly effective, we've formatted them using the easy-to-read, question-and-answer approach. This approach highlights and reinforces the most important concepts while helping students to understand rather than just simply memorize the material.

Exercises and Boxed Features

Self and Society. Each chapter includes a social survey designed to help students assess their own attitudes, beliefs, knowledge, or behavior regarding some aspect of the social problem under discussion. In Chapter 5 (Family Problems), for example, the "Abusive Behavior Inventory" invites students to assess the frequency of various abusive behaviors in their own relationships.

The Human Side. In addition to the "Self and Society" boxed features, each chapter includes a boxed feature entitled "The Human Side," which further personalizes the social problems under discussion by describing personal experiences of individuals who have been affected by them. The "Human Side" feature in Chapter 6 (Race and Ethnic Relations), for example, profiles several post-9/11 hate crime victims, revealing the senseless violence against Muslims and people of Middle Eastern descent that peaked after 9/11 and remains a problem today.

Social Problems Research Up Close. In every chapter, boxed features called "Social Problems Research Up Close" present examples of social science research. These features demonstrate for students the sociological enterprise from theory and

data collection to findings and conclusions. Through the “Social Problems Research Up Close” feature, students are thus exposed to a variety of studies and research methods.

Focus on Technology. Because technology is a pervasive part of our society, we have added a “Focus on Technology” boxed feature to every chapter, in addition to dedicating an entire chapter to the topic (Chapter 15, Science and Technology). The “Focus on Technology” features present information on how technology may contribute to the specific social problems and their solutions that are under discussion in any given chapter. In Chapter 10, Poverty, for example, the “Focus on Technology” feature examines the controversy surrounding the use of agricultural biotechnology, weighing its potential benefits (such as increasing food supplies and nutrition for the poor) against the potential risks (such as adverse effects on human and environmental health).

In-Text Learning Aids

Vignettes. Each chapter begins with a vignette designed to engage students and draw them into the chapter by illustrating the current relevance of the topic under discussion. Chapter 2, Illness and the Health Care Crisis, for instance, begins with the case of 57-year-old Larry Causey. Mr. Causey staged a federal crime (post-office robbery) because he wanted to be arrested and put in prison where he would receive medical treatment for cancer—treatment he could not otherwise afford due to the escalating cost of health care.

Critical Thinking. Each chapter ends with a brief section called “Critical Thinking,” which raises several questions related to the chapter topic. These questions invite students to apply their critical thinking skills to the information discussed in the chapter.

Key Terms. Important terms and concepts are highlighted in the text where they first appear. To re-emphasize the importance of these words, they are listed at the end of every chapter and included in the glossary at the end of the text.

Glossary. All of the key terms are defined in the end-of-text glossary.

Understanding [specific social problem] Sections. All too often students, faced with contradictory theories and study results, walk away from social problems courses without any real understanding of their causes and consequences. To address this problem, chapter sections entitled “Understanding . . . [specific social problem]” cap the body of each chapter just before the chapter summaries. Unlike the chapter summaries, these sections synthesize the material presented in the chapter, summing up the present state of knowledge and theory on the chapter topic.

Supplements

The Fourth Edition of *Understanding Social Problems* comes with a full complement of supplements designed with both faculty and students in mind.

Supplements for the Instructor

Instructor's Resource Manual with Test Bank (with Multimedia Manager CD-ROM). This supplement offers the instructor learning objectives, key terms, lecture outlines, student projects, classroom activities, and Internet and InfoTrac® College Edition exercises. Test items include 60–100 multiple-choice and true/false questions with answers and page references, as well as short answer and essay questions for each chapter. Concise user guides for InfoTrac College Edition and WebTutor™ are included as appendixes. An all-new Multimedia Manager Instructor Resource CD-ROM is now packaged with the IRM/TB. This new instructor resource includes book-specific PowerPoint lecture slides, graphics from the book, the IRM/TB Word documents, CNN video clips, and links to many of Wadsworth's impressive sociology resources. All of your media teaching resources in one place!

ExamView® Computerized Testing. Create, deliver, and customize tests and study guides (both print and online) in minutes with this easy-to-use assessment and tutorial system. ExamView offers both a quick test wizard and an online test wizard that guide you step by step through the process of creating tests. The test appears on screen exactly as it will print or display online. Using ExamView's complete word processing capabilities, you can enter an unlimited number of new questions or edit existing questions included with ExamView.

Videos. Adopters of *Understanding Social Problems* have a couple of different video options available with the text.

CNN Today: Social Problems/Issues and Solutions Video

Social Problems: Volume I: 0-534-54119-4

Social Problems: Volume II: 0-534-54124-0

Social Problems: Volume III: 0-534-61898-7

Social Problems: Volume IV: 0-534-61933-9

Issues and Solutions Volume I: 0-534-54122-4

Issues and Solutions: Volume II: 0-534-54123-2

Integrate the up-to-the-minute programming power of CNN and its affiliate networks right into your classroom! Updated yearly, *CNN Today* videos are course-specific videos that can help you launch a lecture, spark a discussion, or demonstrate an application—using the top-notch business, science, consumer, and political reporting of the CNN networks. Produced by Turner Learning, Inc., these 45-minute videos show your students how the principles they learn in the classroom apply to the stories they see on television. Special adoption conditions apply.

Wadsworth Sociology Video Library. This large selection of thought-provoking films is available to adopters based on adoption size.

Supplements for the Student

Study Guide. The study guide includes learning objectives, chapter outlines, key terms, Internet activities, completion exercises, practice tests consisting of 25 multiple-choice and true/false questions with answers and page references, and 5 short answer questions with page references to enhance and test student understanding of chapter concepts.

Wadsworth's Sociology Online Resources and Writing Companion for Mooney/Knox/Schacht's *Understanding Social Problems*, Fourth Edition.

NEW! This valuable guide shows students how they can use Wadsworth's exclusive Online Resources—InfoTrac College Edition, the Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center (OVRC), and MicroCase Online—to assist them in their study of sociology and to build essential research and writing skills. Part One provides informative user guides that introduce each of these powerful research tools, while Part Two contains chapter-by-chapter directed exercises designed to develop research and critical thinking proficiency for each of the core topics in social problems. Part Three encourages students to “put it all together” and apply their newly acquired research skills to respond to the specific sociological questions posed in the “Taking a Stand” feature in the main text. Part Four then provides an overview of some of the research and writing tools available online, such as InfoWrite and the OVRC research guide, and shows students how they can effectively integrate their research findings into class assignments.

***Investigating Social Problems: An Introduction Using MicroCase®*, First Edition.** Written by David J. Ayers of Grove City College, this supplementary workbook and statistical package takes a skills-based approach to teach students how to perform social research into common social problems using real, sociological data such as that found in the GSS. Each chapter contains perforated worksheets with quizzes and exercises using MicroCase. By using the workbook, students develop skills using empirical data in order to examine real world problems.

***Social Problems: Readings with Four Questions*, First Edition.** Edited by Joel M. Charon of Minnesota State University–Moorhead, this reader is a unique and groundbreaking collection of 58 articles, organized in 13 thematic sections, that takes a structural-conflict approach yet lets the voices of those impacted by social problems be heard. The articles are a mix of classic and contemporary readings that cover a wide range of issues in the United States and the world. The introductory article, written by the author, focuses on four questions that students are urged to apply throughout the reader: What is the problem? What makes the problem a “social problem”? What causes the problem? What can be done? This “four-questions” approach gives students a consistent sociological framework within which to analyze social problems.

***Social Problems of the Modern World: A Reader*, First Edition.** Edited by Frances V. Moulder of Three Rivers Community College, this unique anthology includes readings from both American and global perspectives for each problem area, while also covering all key issues typically addressed in social problems courses. With all readings chosen for their interest and accessibility, this wonderful collection includes articles written by sociologists as well as fascinating accounts representing a diversity of voices from different nationalities and backgrounds. No other anthology so effectively helps readers understand social problems on both national and global scales and think critically and deeply about each issue.

***Experiencing Poverty: Voices from the Bottom*, First Edition.** Edited by D. Stanley Eitzen, Colorado State University, and Kelly Eitzen Smith, University of Arizona, this reader is unique in its comprehensive understanding of poverty. The readings incorporate the experiences of the impoverished in different situations, including people who are homeless, housed, working, nonworking, single, married,

urban, rural, born in the United States, first-generation Americans, young, and old. Most significantly, the crucial dimensions of inequality—race and gender—are interwoven through the selected readings.

Researching Sociology on the Internet, Third Edition. Prepared by D.R. Wilson of Houston Baptist University, this guide is designed to assist sociology students with doing research on the Internet. Part One contains general information necessary to get started and answers questions about security, the type of sociology material available on the Internet, the information that is reliable and the sites that are not, the best ways to find research, and the best links to take students where they want to go. Part Two looks at each main topic in the area of sociology and refers students to sites where they can obtain the most enlightening research and information.

Applied Sociology: Terms, Topics, Tools, and Tasks, First Edition. This concise, user-friendly book by award-winning sociology professor Stephen F. Steele of Anne Arundel Community College and Jammie Price of the University of North Carolina–Wilmington addresses a common question among many introductory sociology students: “What can I do with sociology?” The book introduces students to sociology as an active and relevant way to understand human social interaction by offering a clear, direct linkage between sociology and its practical use. It focuses on the core concepts in sociology (terms and topics), presents contemporary and practical skills used by sociologists to investigate these concepts (tools), and contains concrete exercises for learning and applying these skills (tasks). The book also includes brief sections on using sociology to make a difference in the community and on developing a career in sociology. *Applied Sociology* is an ideal supplement to traditional sociology texts to add an applied component to the course.

Six Steps to Effective Writing in Sociology, First Edition. Written by Judy H. Schmidt, Pennsylvania State University, Michael K. Hooper, California Department of Justice, and Diane Kholos Wysocki, University of Nebraska–Kearney, this compact resource is intended to embed strong writing skills in students and prepare them for their academic and professional pursuits. The authors approach writing as a series of skills to be applied at each stage of the writing process: generating ideas, developing and planning, drafting, revising, and editing. Sample writing topics, examples, formats, and sample papers reflect the discipline, providing a complement to classroom instruction and discussion.

Online Resources

Wadsworth’s Virtual Society: The Wadsworth Sociology Resource Center (<http://www.wadsworth.com/sociology>). Here you will find a wealth of sociology resources such as Census 2000: A Student Guide for Sociology, Breaking News in Sociology, a Guide to Researching Sociology on the Internet, Sociology in Action, and much more. Contained on the home page is the companion Web site for *Understanding Social Problems*, Fourth Edition.

Mooney/Knox/Schacht’s *Understanding Social Problems* Companion Web Site (http://sociology.wadsworth.com/mooney_knox_schacht/problems4e). Access to useful learning resources for each chapter of the book. And for instructors, the site includes password-protected Instructor’s Manuals, PowerPoint lec-

tures, and important sociology links. Click on the companion Web site to find useful learning resources for each chapter of the book. Some of these resources include:

- Tutorial Practice Quizzes that can be scored and e-mailed to the instructor
- Web Links
- Internet Exercises
- Video Exercises
- InfoTrac College Edition Exercises
- Flashcards of the text's glossary
- Crossword Puzzles
- Essay Questions
- Learning Objectives
- Virtual Explorations

And much more!

WebTutor™ Toolbox for WebCT or Blackboard. Preloaded with content and available free via pincode when packaged with this text, WebTutor Toolbox pairs all the content of this text's rich book companion Web site with all the sophisticated course management functionality of a WebCT or Blackboard product. You can assign materials (including online quizzes) and have the results flow automatically to your grade book. Toolbox is ready to use as soon as you log on—or you can customize its preloaded content by uploading images and other resources, adding Web links, or creating your own practice materials. Students have access only to student resources on the Web site. Instructors can enter a pincode for access to password-protected instructor resources.

InfoTrac College Edition. With each purchase of a new copy of the text comes a free four-month passcode to InfoTrac College Edition, the online library that gives students access to reliable resources anytime, anywhere. This fully searchable database offers 20 years' worth of full-text articles from almost 5000 diverse sources, such as academic journals, newsletters, and up-to-the-minute periodicals including *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Science*, *Forbes*, and *USA Today*. This incredible depth and breadth of material—available 24 hours a day from any computer with Internet access—makes conducting research so easy that your students will want to use it to enhance their work in every course! Through InfoTrac's InfoWrite, students now also have instant access to critical-thinking and paper-writing tools. Both adopters and their students receive unlimited access for four months.

Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center (OVRC). Newly available from Wadsworth, this online center presents varying perspectives on today's most compelling issues. OVRC draws on Greenhaven Press's acclaimed Social Issues series, as well as core reference content from other Gale and Macmillan Reference USA sources. The result is a dynamic online library of current events topics—the facts as well as the arguments of each topic's proponents and detractors. Special sections focus on critical thinking—walking students through the steps involved in critically evaluating point-counterpoint arguments—and researching and writing papers.

Interactions CD-ROM for Mooney/Knox/Schacht's Fourth Edition. This free CD-ROM comes automatically packaged inside the text and is a dynamic, colorful, and exciting all-new interactive study tool. It includes Multimedia Chapter Summaries that contain interest-generating multimedia presentations of chapter

topics with audio, photos, and selected videos; chapter-by-chapter quizzes with scoring and feedback; a direct link to the InfoTrac College Edition; and links to other online sociology resources and the book's companion Web site!

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Finally, we are interested in ways to improve the text and invite your feedback and suggestions for new ideas and material to be included in subsequent editions. You can contact us at mooneyl@mail.ecu.edu, knoxd@mail.ecu.edu, or schachtc@mail.ecu.edu.

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