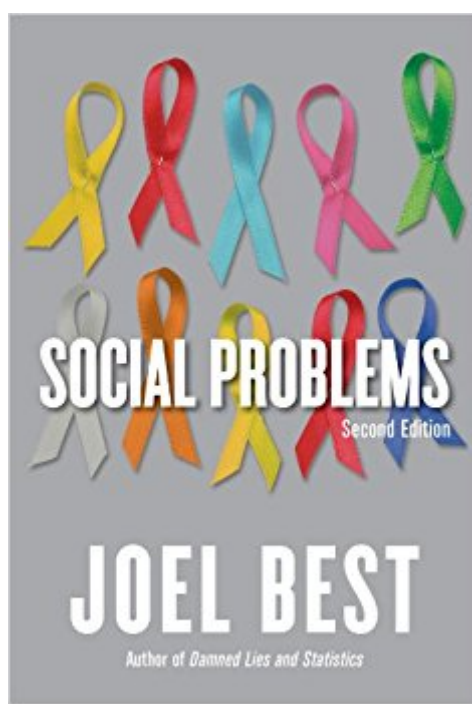# Social Problems (Second Edition)

Synopsis

A complete set of tools for analyzing any social problem. Updated with over 60 new examples and case studies, Social Problems shows how activists, experts, and their opponents frame social problems through the logic that they use; the rhetoric of claims-making; and the ways that access to resources determines who gets their claims heard. Drawing on social constructionist theory, the idea that our experience of reality is created through the interaction and participation of individuals and groups, Joel Best helps readers understand the complex competitive process through which problems emerge. In order to help students connect theory to everyday life, Joel Best fills the book with colorful examples and case studies from the real world.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (30 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I also feel prompted to write this because of the bad one-star review that has nothing to do with Joel Best's book. This book updates Lowney's innovative constructionist approach to teaching Social Problems. It provides an alternative to the more common way of teaching social problems, which can be quite a drudge through a laundry list of society's problems. I also appreciate that it is a highly readable book, not a textbook. It reads well and is not trying to incorporate every bell and whistle to compete in the tough textbook marketplace but instead stands out because of Best's conceptual vision. This also puts it at a great price for students. The accompanying materials for instructors are also really helpful and show Best's collaboration with other sociology profs who were looking for another way to approach the Social Problems class.

I had to order this for class, but at least it wasn't as expensive as many other textbooks. The material seems vague without much to back up why something is the way it is, according to Joel Best. The examples of cases in the book are very elementary. Besides terminology, I do not feel I've learned much this semester with this book.

An excellent and very readable book, an irreplaceable part of my reading on advocacy (for a dissertation project), excellently draws out aspects of advocacy missed by more institution-centric or structuralist approaches, for example rhetoric, rumour and even humour. One small drawback is that it is focused on US politics, but I've still found it very relevant to my research on advocacy in war contexts, which is testament to the clarity of analysis.

Best does a good job of explaining social problems in America. He really breaks things down. The figures are also very helpful.

I borrowed this book for my Sociology class, but was so impressed with Joel Best's Social Constructionist presentation that I had to buy it.

interesting book. i did not think about social problems in this way before

A school text book. Read's easy and like a dialog. The use of parenthesis can be too often and distracting.

The book helped me with all my assignments in my online social problems course.

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