Contemporary Social Problems – Chapter 1 Homework

DIRECTIONS: All homework (HW) assignments must be typed and numbered. The responses should be included in the body of your email to me, not attached as a separate file. Your email must be in my inbox on or before the due date with a subject line that includes the course name, the days and times the course meets, your last name, and the HW number (e.g., “SP TT 12:30 pm Smith Ch 1 HW”). All answers should be well-written (i.e. clear, complete sentences) and well thought out.

1. How does the sociological imagination help us understand social problems? This response should be a minimum of one paragraph.

2. How do science and the scientific method help us understand social problems? How is this different from a commonsense understanding of social problems? This response should be a minimum of two paragraphs.

3. Apply your sociological imagination to the problem of the increasing cost of college. Is this a personal problem or a public issue? (Refer to Chapter 1 in the reader for details.) In other words, is this only a problem for students who can’t afford tuition or is the increasing cost of tuition a problem for everyone? Why? This response should be a minimum of one paragraph.

4. Review copies of the local newspaper (http://www.chron.com) from the last 90 days. Based on the front page or local section, what issues are important in Houston? Do these issues include the three elements of a social problem? How are these issues defined and by whom? This response should be a minimum of two paragraphs.

5. What do you think is the most important social problem facing us today? Why? What state and federal policies govern or regulate this problem and those it affects? What is the position of the two main political parties in the US (Democrats and Republicans) on this problem? What resources or programs exist to help solve this problem? This response should be a minimum of two paragraphs.