

COURSE SYLLABUS OUTLINE

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Course Number: 2010

Course Name: Social Problems

Pre-Requisites/Co-Requisites: None

Description: This course explores empirical data and subjective awareness of current social issues affecting large numbers of people. Students will investigate social responses to social issues, how they manifest and evolve over time through the lens of power, individual agency and social policy. Students will improve their ability to understand and systematically investigate individual, community, institutional and social movement responses to the social conditions.

Credit/Contact Hour Designation: 3.0 semester credit hours/4.5 quarter credit hours/45 contact hours

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES: Course will

1. Understand the socially constructed nature of social problems.
2. Apply sociological perspective and theory to explain social problems; including person versus system blame approaches.
3. Evaluate claims concerning the significance of social problems and solutions.
4. Investigate social issues within society's institutions.
5. Provide an overview of how access to resources and privilege influences the perception of social problems.
6. Study various collective movements and their efforts to alleviate social problems.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will be able to

1. Apply theories and concepts sociologists utilize to study social problems.
2. Critically examine the subjective and objective aspects of social issues.
3. Demonstrate use of the sociological perspective for deeper understanding of social problems, including person versus system blame approaches.
4. Explore ideas that challenge existing understandings of the social world.

5. Understand how access to resources and privilege influences the perception of social problems.
6. Evaluate various social movements that work to alleviate social problems.

IV. CONTENT/TOPICAL OUTLINE

A. Course content areas may include, but are not limited to:

1. Social Institutions
2. Social Inequality/Inequity and Social Stratification
3. Discrimination and Prejudice
4. Conflict and Deviance

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:

A. Suggested Textbooks: (The final selection is at the discretion of the instructor with the most recent edition available).

1. Understanding Social Problems by Mooney, Knox and Schact. Cengage.
2. Social Problems by Eitzen. Pearson.
3. Social Problems – Sociology in Action by Atkinson, Odell Korgen and Trautner. Sage.
4. Investigating Social Problems by Treviño. Sage.
5. Social Problems by John J. Macionis. Pearson.
6. Social Problems Continuity and Change (OER). Creative Commons. University of Minnesota.
7. Open Educational Resources that meet the listed course objectives/competencies and student outcomes, chosen at the instructors' discretion.
8. Social Problems (8th Edition) by William Kornblum and Joseph Julian

VI. METHOD OF PRESENTATION

A. Methods of presentation typically include a combination of the following:

1. Lectures
2. Discussion Groups
3. Collaborative Projects
4. On-campus
5. Community engagement
6. Research
7. Essays
8. Field Trips (including virtual)
9. Computer-assisted instruction to include:

- a. On-line
- b. Hybrid
- c. Distance Learning Technologies
- d. Virtual Meeting Platforms
- e. Other Multimedia

Methods of presentation are at the discretion of each instructor.

VII. METHOD OF EVALUATION

A. Methods of evaluation, although determined by the individual instructor, traditionally includes a combination of the following:

1. Attendance
2. Class and group participation
3. Exams and quizzes
4. Presentations
5. Projects and activities
6. Papers/writing
7. Portfolios
8. Discussion forums

B. Course grades, at the determination of instructor, will be based on evaluation methods utilized. Instructor will distribute and discuss evaluation and grading policies with students.

VIII. INSTITUTIONAL DEFINED SECTION

(to be used at the discretion of each community college as deemed necessary)