

SOCIOLOGY 102-SOCIAL CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL PROBLEMS-3 UNITS

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Soc. 110-CRN# 15188
Class Day/Times: M-TH
4:30-7:40 pm

DESCRIPTION

This course will be an overview of the main concepts, theories and perspectives of contemporary social problems. The course surveys social problems from both micro and macro perspectives. The course will examine human behavior and their relationship to major social institutions and how these interactions lead to problems, both for people and society. The course will focus on poverty, inequality, minority group relations and other topics that relates to improving or hurting people's life chances for health, well-being and empowerment.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge and/or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Define and apply the basic concepts of sociology including culture, social behavior, institutions, inequality, oppression, family, racism and theories that explain social interaction.
2. Identify the various institutions and their impact on the individual, family, community and society at large.
3. Demonstrate social influence on conformity, obedience and persuasion.
4. Assess both macro and micro social influences in understanding different aspects of an individual's behavior and thinking as they interact with the social world.
5. Define and operationalize 50-100 terms related to people, their behavior, both in relationships and groups.
6. Understand that race, gender, values and socialization affect thoughts, behavior and group relationships.
7. Understand the roles that nature, the environment and spirituality have in human behavior.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe how different social systems operate and the role that power, interactions and socialization contribute to social problems and affect human behavior.
2. Recognize Sociology as a science that approaches the study of the individual in society in a systematic manner.
3. Identify the effects class, race, gender and culture have on individual functioning, growth and behavior.
4. List the different institutions and their impact on human behavior and how they contribute to social problems and inequality.
5. Describe the importance of social, economic and political forces in our culture and how they impact the individual and family.
6. Identify the dynamics of power and control in small and large groups.
7. Identify power and control relationships as they relates to family, work, living and social relationships.
8. Recognize how history, culture and structural forces relate to individual and institutional functioning in the past, present and future.
9. Write short essays on social topics that demonstrate critical thinking, organization and understanding of social problems.

TEXTBOOK

Kornblum, Seccombe, Julian, Social Problems, (15th Edition), Pearson Education, Inc. 2017, ISBN 10:0-13-397458-8

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Two Exams (100, 200 points)

There will be a midterm exam (100) and a final exam (200 points). Each exam will cover @ 7 chapters in the book, discussions, information from presentations and power points. Exams will be both multiple choice and short essay answers.

Problems Perspectives (100 points)

Students will write a 5-7 page personal story in which they will use at least **10 terms** from the first 7 chapters of the text to analyze their personal experiences related to at least 3 social problems. Students will analyze how social problems relate their life experience and impact the lives of individuals and families. Students will be expected to define the terms and use sociological theory to analyze and evaluate social experiences in different groups or settings. All writing will be word processed using a 12 point font. When using a term from the text, **highlight the term, define it and please note the author's name, page number (from glossary), and date** (Kornblum, 2017.) Students will use paragraphs, college language and margins.

Research Project (100 points)

Students will write a 5-7 page essay addressing a research question on a topic related to society and social problems: poverty, inequality, school, prison, education, sports, parenting, recreation, recovery, technology, religion, culture, etc. Students will discuss why they chose the topic, how it is relevant to sociology, develop a research question, a questionnaire (at least 5 questions) and administer it to at least 5 individuals. They will develop questions, provide demographic data of participants (age, ethnicity, etc.) and summarize results. Students will provide an example of their research instrument at the end of the essay.

Class Attendance/Participation (40 points)

There are many ways to participate in the class. The first is to show up. ("You miss all of the shots you don't take"- Michael Jordan). Students are encouraged to use the bathroom before class because going out of class is "non-participation." Verbal participation is rewarded but optional in class discussions. All students will be expected to participate in discussion panels about vocabulary, theory and **possibly personal experiences with social problems.**

Absence Policy

Students are expected to attend all classes. If a student misses a class or leaves early, they may not receive participation points for that day. Students can communicate with the instructor beforehand if they know they will miss a class in order to get the points they would have missed. The make-up work will be a short essay about the content of the chapters or defining of 5-10 vocabulary words.