

Imperial Valley College Fall 2016- SOC 102 Contemporary Social Problems

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2016	Instructor Name:	Barbara Reyes
Course Title & #:	Contemporary Social Problems	Email:	Barbara.reyes@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10642	Office Phone #:	(760) 355-6283
Classroom:	402	Office #:	1715
Class Dates:	8/15/2016-12/9/2016	Office Hours:	M/W 10:00am -11:00 am T/Th 11:30am - 12:30 pm
Class Days:	Mondays and Wednesdays		
Class Times:	8:00-9:25am		
Units:	3	Available by appointment also.	

Course Description

This course examines contemporary social problems and the process by which competing groups make claims to define phenomena as social problems. Emphasis includes understanding these problems on the societal level, the group level, and from the standpoint of the individual. (C-ID SOCI 115)(CSU, UC)

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, 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, status, roles, norms, institutions, social class, race, gender. (ILO2, ILO3, ILO4, ILO5)*
2. *Distinguish different major sociological theoretical perspectives that explain social behavior. (ILO2, ILO4, ILO5)*
3. *Read, summarize and evaluate peer-reviewed empirical studies. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4)*
4. *Demonstrate the ability to make oral presentations that are organized, rely on evidence and engage the audience. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4)*

Course Objectives

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

1. *Define a social problem and be familiar with the key components of the definition.*
2. *Identify health care as a social problem and explain what constitutes adequate health care in society.*
3. *Analyze the extent of mental illness in America and the nature of mental illness as a social problem.*
4. *Analyze alcohol use and abuse in the United States, as well as other patterns of drug use.*
5. *Recognize the types of crime and criminals in addition to the conditions and causes of crime.*
6. *Describe the extent of poverty in American society and identify the relationship.*
7. *Identify the origins of prejudice and discrimination and the consequences of each.*
8. *Describe the significance of world population growth and immigration that stress the environment.*
9. *Describe the changing family structure in America and the effects on society.*
10. *Analyze the success and failures of the American educational system and compare it to other countries.*

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Kornblum, W. Julian, J 2012. *Social Problems* 14th. Upper Saddle River. Pearson/Prentice Hall ISBN: 978-0205222612.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Class participation and activities: In order to be an active participant in the classroom, you must come to lecture prepared. You are expected to complete all the required readings and to come to class ready to participate, add value to the discussion and be on topic. All students should have joined in class discussion by the end of the second week of the semester.

In addition, I will frequently utilize in-class activities, assignments, and videos to compliment lectures. If you are absent you will lose the opportunity to participate resulting in loss of participation points.

I am here to help you succeed. Please feel free to visit me during my office hours for additional support. Do not wait until the end of the semester to improve your grade.

Newspaper Articles Summaries: You will be expected to summarize 6 newspaper articles that deal with social problems. The summaries are to be typed out and attached to the newspaper clipping. Additional guidance on how to write your summaries will be provided during class.

MIDTERM: There will be a one-midterm exam. You are expected to be present on the day of the exam. Please bring a Scantron test form and a pencil.

QUIZZES: Short quizzes will ensure that you are on top of your readings, lectures, and pay attention to class discussions. Quizzes will be short and will reward those students who have read and attend class for that day. There **ARE No** make-ups for the quizzes missed. There will be a total of 5 scheduled quizzes worth 20 points each for a total of 100 points of your final grades. **Please bring a Scantron test form and a pencil.**

FINAL GROUP PROJECT: Your final project will consist of analyzing a social problem with a group of 3-4 students. The social problem can be on anything from crime to teen pregnancy, immigration, drunk driving, etc. The purpose of the presentation will be to educate your fellow students on the social problem using a sociological perspective. Don't stress! You will receive guidance and support throughout the course.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Semester Grade		Grade Scales	
Participation	100	A (100% - 90%)	550-495
Newspaper Articles	150	B (89% - 80%)	494-440
Quizzes	100	C (79% - 70%)	434-385
Midterm	100	D (69% - 60%)	383-330
Final Presentation	<u>100</u>	F (59% & below)	329 & below
Total Points	550		

Attendance

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See [General Catalog](#) for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

Classroom Etiquette

- Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices must be **turned off and put away during class**, unless otherwise directed by the instructor. I will sanction such behavior by **taking points off your participation grade**.
- Food and Drinks are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed by the instructor.
- Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the [General Catalog](#).
- Children in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children
- Classroom discussion should remain civil. We are here to learn from each other. Sensitive topics will be discussed throughout the course. You are expected to RESPECT your fellow classmates. It is difficult to learn from someone who is yelling at you, rolling her/his eyes, grumbling under his/her breath, ignoring you, interrupting you, or engaging in other dismissive behaviors.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the important of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- Plagiarism is taking and presenting as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and

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preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to “cite a source” correctly, you must ask for help.

- **Cheating** is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the [General Catalog](#) for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.

Additional Student Services

Imperial Valley College offers various services in support of student success. The following are some of the services available for students. Please speak to your instructor about additional services which may be available.

- **Blackboard Support Site.** The Blackboard Support Site provides a variety of support channels available to students 24 hours per day.
- **Learning Services.** There are several learning labs on campus to assist students through the use of computers and tutors. Please consult your [Campus Map](#) for the [Math Lab](#); [Reading, Writing & Language Labs](#); and the [Study Skills Center](#).
- **Library Services.** There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the [Study Skills Center](#), study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the [Disabled Student Programs and Services](#) (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313. Please contact them if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

Student Counseling and Health Services

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee.

- **Student Health Center.** A Student Health Nurse is available on campus. In addition, Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District provide basic health services for students, such as first aid and care for minor illnesses. Contact the IVC [Student Health Center](#) at 760-355-6128 in Room 1536 for more information.
- **Mental Health Counseling Services.** Short-term individual, couples, family, and group therapy are provided to currently enrolled students. Contact the IVC [Mental Health Counseling Services](#) at 760-355-6196 in Room 2109 for more information.

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Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and to due process of law. For more information regarding student rights and responsibilities, please refer to the IVC [General Catalog](#).

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. The IVC [Library Department](#) provides numerous [Information Literacy Tutorials](#) to assist students in this endeavor.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Date or Week	Topic	Readings and Due Dates
Week 1 August 15 & 17	Syllabus & Introduction Social Problems	Read syllabus Reading Chapter 1
Week 2 August 22 & 24	Health and Healthcare	Read Chapter 2 1st Newspaper Article Due 8/24/16
Week 3 August 29 & 31	Mental Health and Treatment	Read Chapter 3 Quiz #1 (Bring Scantron)
Week 4 September 5 & 7	September 5 No CLASS Happy Labor Day! Alcohol and Other Drugs	Read Chapter 4
Week 5 September 12 & 14	Crime and Violence	Reach Chapter 5 Quiz # 2
Week 6 September 19 & 21	Poverty and Affluence	Read Chapter 6 2nd Newspaper Article Due 9/21/16
Week 7 September 26 & 28	Racism, Prejudice, and Discrimination	Read Chapter 7
Week 8 October 3 & 5	Gender and Sexuality	Read Chapter 8 MIDTERM (Chapters 1-7)
Week 9 October 10 & 12	An Aging Society	Reach Chapter 9
Week 10 October 17 & 19	The Changing Family	Read Chapter 10 3rd Newspaper Article Due 10/19/16
Week 11 October 24 & 26	Problems of Education	Read Chapter 11 Quiz # 3
Week 12 October 31 & 2	Work and the Economy	Read Chapter 12 4th Newspaper Article 10/31/16
Week 13 November 7 & 9	Population and Immigration	Read Chapter 13
Week 14 November 14 & 16 November 21 & 23	Technology and the Environment <i>Happy Thanksgiving Break!</i>	Read Chapter 14 Quiz #4 (Bring Scantron)
Week 15 November 28 & 30	War and Global Insecurity	Read Ch. 15 5th Newspaper Article 11/30/16
Week 16 December 5 & 7	Final Project Presentations	

*****Tentative, subject to change without prior notice*****