

Contemporary Social Problems-SOC 102
Summer 2020

PROFESSOR

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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:

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:

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.

COURSE TEXTS/MATERIALS

This class is a Zero Textbook Cost/ Free Online Educational Resources.
It is free and you are able to download just follow the link below.

Social Problems: Continuity and Change

<https://open.lib.umn.edu/socialproblems/>

***Other reading materials will be posted on Canvas.

ONLINE CLASS STRUCTURE

My on-line classes are asynchronous, meaning that I use different teaching methods, such as pre-recorded lectures, plenty of discussions boards, videos, and many participation activities. My lectures will be available for you to review at your own pace, however, you are responsible to submit assignments and follow the due dates. Please keep in mind that the summer sessions are really fast paced so you will be very busy!

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grading Based	Total
Contact the Professor!	25
Discussions (10) @ 20	200
News Articles (10) @15	150
Quizzes (6) @ 25 points	150
Final Research Paper	75
Possible Total Points =	600

Contact the Professor (25 points). Getting to know you is the best part of my job. I would like to learn a little bit about you. Therefore, your first “assignment” of the semester is to contact me via Canvas. You will have until the end of **the second day of the summer semester to complete in order to stay in class**, plan accordingly. It should take anywhere from 5 to 10 minutes. No late submissions will be accepted!

Quizzes: Canvas Quizzes will ensure that you are on top of your readings and lectures. Quizzes are multiple choices, True/False, and short responses. All quizzes will open on Thursdays in the afternoon and will close on Sundays at midnight. Quizzes will be timed so you need to study. Make sure that you know how to access Canvas prior to the first quiz. Ask for help! It is your responsibility to have Canvas set up by the first week of the semester.

Discussions: Discussions are an important part of this course. The Discussions require a response to specific questions that result in collaborative conversations with classmates, which builds and expands your learning and knowledge of the subject matter. You must support your discussion postings and responses with evidence from course materials by citing from the textbook, reading or outside materials. You must use original thoughts--No plagiarism!

Current Events-News Articles Summaries: You will be expected to stay on top of the current social problems affecting our society. In order to do this, you will have to be actively searching for news articles that discusses the social problem being cover each week of the semester (follow the class calendar). You will read the article thoroughly and write a one-page reflection summary.

Additional guidance on how to write your summaries will be provided in Canvas.

Social Problem Research Paper: During the semester, we will be learning about the many social problems affecting the world and our nation. For this project you will have a chance to conduct research in order to learn more about a social problem affecting our community (e.g. homelessness, unemployment, air pollution, high rate of asthma, crime, etc.) This will allow you to not only practice your research skills but will also help you engage with your community. I will be posting a list on some of the social problems affecting our community via Canvas.

Note: Each student's capacity to read, write, and take notes at a college level is assumed. In addition, your written work will be graded not only for mastery of course materials, but for clarity, structure, and presentation (e.g., syntax, style and precision of expression, spelling, punctuation, etc.). The Writing Center has been established specially to assist students with writing projects. Contact them early for help with your assignment.

Extra Credit. You will have opportunities to earn extra credit throughout the course. I will announce extra credit opportunities during the PowerPoint presentation and my lecture videos. If you do not watch or read the PowerPoint presentations you will miss the announcement. **I will not tell you what the extra credit is via email. No late extra credit will be accepted!**

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Announcements

Announcements will be posted in CANVAS on a regular basis. They will appear on your CANVAS dashboard when you log in and/or will be sent to you directly through your preferred method of notification from CANVAS. Please make certain to check them regularly, as they will contain any important information about upcoming projects or class concerns.

Email

In this course, we will use the Inbox feature (located on the left-hand side, titled "Inbox") to send an email for private messages. You can either check your messages in the CANVAS system or set your notifications to your preferred method of contact. Please check your messages regularly. When submitting messages, please do the following:

- Put a subject in the subject box that describes the email content with your name, week and message subject. For example, **YOURNAMEWK2ASSIGNMENT**.
- Send email only to "Inbox" and not my personal email account.
- Do not send messages asking general information about the class, please post those in the **QUESTION FORUM**.
- Do not submit your assignments by messenger.
- Make certain to check your messages frequently.

Attendance and Participation

In this course, logging in regularly and your participation in discussions is how I will gauge your "attendance." Thus, meeting the due dates for "discussions" is very important. The beauty of an online course is that you can fit your studying around your schedule. This doesn't mean, however, that the course is self-paced. **You need to be on top of your due dates!**

Add/Drop Policy

If, after reviewing the syllabus and orientation unit, you feel this is not the right course for you, please drop yourself ASAP..OR..please let me know ASAP so that you can be dropped from the course and another student can be added in your place.

Students who miss more than two graded assignments (lessons, discussions, drafts, peer reviews, or conferences) may be dropped from the course. Also, students who fail to log in to the course for seven consecutive days risk being dropped from the course. If you are struggling, experiencing access issues, or are seriously ill, please contact me immediately so we can develop a success plan together.

Late work will not be accepted. Exceptions will be made only in cases of severe and documented hardship. You must contact me *as soon as* you realize you will not be able to get an assignment in on time. I will review the legitimacy of your petition and decide whether to accept the late work.

"R-E-S-P-E-C-T", find out what it means to me." Classroom discussion should remain civil. We are here to learn from each other. 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. I do not expect that any of us will be tempted to behave so rudely but it doesn't hurt to spell out that these things are out-of-bounds in the classroom.

How to use online office hours? I enjoy office hours because it is time devoted to working with students one-on-one or in small groups. Examples of how students use office hours are: asking questions about the paper assignments, bringing in paper drafts or just ideas for your paper, sharing personal examples that relate to the class, complaining about something not going well in our class, clarifying your status in class, telling

me what learning styles work for you, getting feedback from wanting to know about graduate school, wanting to know about other sociology classes, and wanting to know about career options with a sociology major.

Some of the least effective ways to use office hours is asking “what happened in class” because you missed – if this is the case, get the notes from a classmate and come to me with specific questions and comments.

I am here to help you. If you have outside responsibilities or other potential barriers to completing the work for this course, please come talk to me as soon as possible. **Do not wait until it is too late to get help.**

Additional Campus Rules and Information

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](#).

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 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 Support 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.

- **CANVAS LMS.** Canvas is Imperial Valley College's main Learning Management System. To log onto Canvas, use this link: [Canvas Student Login](#). The [Canvas Student Guides Site](#) provides a variety of support available to students 24 hours per day. Additionally, a 24/7 Canvas Support Hotline is available for students to use: 877-893-9853.
- **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 (DSP&S)**

If you have any disability, either temporary or permanent, which might affect your ability to participate fully in the course, please let me know right away. We can figure out what accommodations will be necessary to provide for equitable participation. 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 counseling services are available for currently enrolled students. Services are provided in a confidential, supportive, and culturally sensitive environment. Please contact the IVC Mental Health Counseling Services at 760-355-6310 or in the building 1536 for appointments or more information.

Veteran's Center

The mission of the [IVC Military and Veteran Success Center](#) is to provide a holistic approach to serving military/veteran students on three key areas: 1) Academics, 2) Health and Wellness, and 3) Camaraderie; to serve as a central hub that connects military/veteran students, as well as their families, to campus and community resources. Their goal is to ensure a seamless transition from military to civilian life. The Center is located in Building 600 (Office 624), telephone 760-355-6141.

Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS)

The Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) offers services such as priority registration, personal/academic counseling, tutoring, book vouchers, and community referrals to qualifying low-income students. EOPS is composed of a group of professionals ready to assist you with the resolution of both academic and personal issues. Our staff is set up to understand the problems of our culturally diverse population and strives to meet student needs that are as diverse as our student population.

Also under the umbrella of EOPS our CARE (Cooperative Agency Resources for Education) Program for single parents is specifically designed to provide support services and assist with the resolution of issues that are particular to this population. Students that are single parents receiving TANF/Cash Aid assistance may qualify for our CARE program, for additional information on CARE please contact Lourdes Mercado, 760-355- 6448, lourdes.mercado@imperial.edu.

EOPS provides additional support and services that may identify with one of the following experiences:

- Current and former foster youth students that were in the foster care system at any point in their lives
- Students experiencing homelessness
- Formerly incarcerated students

To apply for EOPS and for additional information on EOPS services, please contact Alexis Ayala, 760-355-5713, alexis.ayala@imperial.edu.

Student Equity Program

The Student Equity Program strives to improve Imperial Valley College's success outcomes, particularly for students who have been historically underrepresented and underserved. The college identifies strategies to monitor and address equity issues, making efforts to mitigate any disproportionate impact on student success and achievement. Our institutional data provides insight surrounding student populations who historically, are not fully represented. Student Equity addresses disparities and/or disproportionate impact in student success across disaggregated student equity groups including gender, ethnicity, disability status, financial need, Veterans, foster youth, homelessness, and formerly incarcerated students. The Student Equity Program provides direct supportive services to empower students experiencing insecurities related to food, housing, transportation, textbooks, and shower access. We recognize that students who struggle meeting their basic needs are also at an academic and economic disadvantage, creating barriers to academic success and wellness. We strive to remove barriers that affect IVC students' access to education, degree and certificate completion, successful completion of developmental math and English courses, and the ability to transfer to a university. Contact: 760.355.5736 or 760.355.5733 Building 100. The Student Equity Program also houses IVC's Homeless Liaison, who provides direct services, campus, and community referrals to students experiencing homelessness as defined by the McKinney-Vento Act. Contact: 760.355.5736 Building 100.

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.

Summer 2020 Contemporary Social Problems Class Calendar

Week #1 Jun. 22 - 27

Read Chapter 1

ASSIGNMENTS: FOLLOW ALL STEPS IN THE "GETTING STARTED MODULE"

Complete all Week 1 Quizzes and Discussions

Week #2 Module Jun. 28 - Jul. 4

Read Chapters 2 & 3

ASSIGNMENTS: Complete all Week 2 Quizzes, Discussions and weekly news articles summaries.

Week #3 Jul. 5 - 11

Read Chapters 4 & 5

ASSIGNMENTS: Complete all Week 3 Quizzes, Discussions and weekly news articles summaries.

Week #4 Jul. 12 - 18

Read Chapters 7&8

ASSIGNMENTS: Complete all Week 4 Quizzes, Discussions and weekly news articles summaries.

Week #5 Jul. 19 - 25

Read Chapters 10 &11

ASSIGNMENTS: Complete all Week 5 Quizzes, Discussions and weekly news articles summaries.

Week #6 Jul. 26 - 30

Read Chapter 13 &15

ASSIGNMENTS: Complete all Week 6 Quizzes, Discussions and Weekly news articles summaries.

Final Research Paper due on July 30th

END OF SUMMER SESSION!!!

NOTE: This course outline should be considered tentative since some minor changes may be made according to the needs of class, changes will be announced during class.