



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2021	Instructor Name:	Laura Semmes
Course Title & #:	Soc. 102	Email:	Laura.semmes@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20637	Units:	3
Classroom:	Online	Office #:	Online
Class Dates:	2/17/2021-6/9/2021	Office Hours:	Tuesday 11:00 am-12:00 pm
Class Days:	Wednesday	Class Format:	Zoom
Class Times:	6:30-9:40 pm	Emergency Contact:	Laura.semmes@imperial.edu

Course Description

"Neither the life of an individual nor the history of a society can be understood without understanding both"
– C. Wright Mills

This course is designed to introduce you the main sociological theories and perspectives regarding various social problems facing the world today. This course examines various social problems from both a scientific viewpoint regarding why we have social problems and also from an applied viewpoint regarding how social problems affect humans in society. Topics include physical and mental health, alcohol and drug problems, crime, violence, poverty, racism, prejudice and discrimination, sex roles and inequality, the changing family, education problems, and work and economy problems.

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

No prerequisites/corequisites

Student Learning Outcomes

Each of the following outcomes should be achieved during the time you are in this class. The goal is for you to grow in your communication skills, critical thinking skills, personal responsibility, information literacy and global awareness.

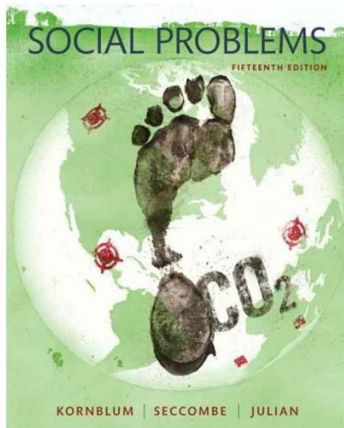
1. Define and apply the basic concepts of sociology including culture, status, roles, norms, institutions, social class, race, gender. (ILO2, ILO3, ILO4, ILO5)
2. Distinguish different major sociological theoretical perspectives that explain social behavior. (ILO2, ILO4, ILO5)
3. Read, summarize and 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. To critically think about and gain knowledge of the main theories and concepts of each of the various social problems that affect the world today
2. To leave this course with a basic understanding of how contemporary social problems affect our daily lives

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Kornblum, William; Seccombe, Karen; Julian, Joseph. Social Problems 15th Ed.
ISBN 978-0-13-397458-4



Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

We will meet on Zoom weekly on Wednesdays at 6:30. If there are any changes to this schedule, you will be informed through Canvas. I will send out the meeting link through Canvas. We will also have weekly assignments which will count as part of your participation grade. These assignments will each refer to some aspect of the chapter they are covering, and are designed to help you apply the concepts to social life in our society and culture.

Tests are multiple choice/true-false and are done online on Canvas on specified dates. If you know you are going to be unable to take an exam on its scheduled date, please notify the professor **one week before** to make arrangements. This must be done before the test day. If you miss the exam day without making arrangements, there will be no make-ups.

The Sociology Project is a project that is completed during the second half of the semester. Details about the project are located on the last page of the syllabus.

Out of Class Assignments: The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. WASC has adopted a similar requirement.



Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Grading Process

A: 90-100%	4 Exams @ 100 pts.	400 pts.
B: 80-89%	Project:	50 pts.
C: 70-79%	Assignments:	50 pts.
D: 60-69%	Total Points:	500 pts.
F: 59% and lower		

Course Policies

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.

Please make arrangements with the instructor or a fellow student to keep up with all assignments in case you cannot attend a class session for any reason. Please notify me if you cannot attend class for any reason. Lecture notes can be found on Canvas. If you need any assistance with this, please ask me **anytime**. I will also put study guides on Canvas a week before the test is scheduled.

Participation is part of your grade, and you must be in class to participate.

Please check your e-mail and Canvas regularly so you are informed of any changes to the class, for example if the instructor will be unable to make it to class. This will help you stay informed about the status of the class.

Please note that participation means being fully engaged in class discussion. This means you are listening attentively, involving yourself in class activities and discussion, and most importantly, not disrupting your fellow students.

Participation points WILL BE taken away from you each time you disrupt class in any way.

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 importance 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. 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.

IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1 Feb. 17	Syllabus & Introduction Chapter 1 Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems	Pages 1-27
Week 2 Feb. 24	Chapter 1 continued	Pages 1-27
March 3	Chapter 2 Problems of Health and Health Care	Pages 28-58
March 10	Chapter 3 Problems of Mental Illness and Treatment	Pages 59-88
March 17	Exam 1	(Ch. 1-3)



Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
March 24	Chapter 4 Alcohol and Other Drugs	Pages 89-118
March 31	Chapter 5 Crime and Violence	Pages 119-150
April 7	Spring Break	
April 14	Chapter 6 Poverty Amid Affluence	Pages 151-181 Projects due!
April 21	Exam 2	(Ch. 4-6)
April 28	Chapter 7 Racism, Prejudice, and Discrimination	Pages 182-210 Projects due!
May 5	Chapter 8 Sex and Gender	Pages 211-238 Projects due!
May 12	Chapter 10 The Changing Family	Pages 275-306 Projects due!
May 19	Exam 3	(Ch. 7,8, and 10)
May 26	Chapter 11 Problems of Education	Pages 307-338 Projects due!
June 2	Chapter 12 Problems of Work and the Economy	Pages 339-363 Projects due!
June 9	Final	Ch. 11-12

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

Other Course Information

SOCIOLOGY PROJECT ON SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Introduction

Understanding social problems in a variety of societies and communities is integral to this course. It is especially important to understand the origin and depth of social problems in our own communities as well. As part of your research project, you should show how various demographic communities are affected by a social problem and describe the problem as it presents itself in society.

Prompt

Document a selected social problem and describe how various groups/demographic communities are affected by it. The documentation should be a photographic power-point or slideshow (PowerPoint, Google Slides, etc...) presentation illustrating aspects of your research of the social problem. Where does the problem originate? What are some possible solutions? How is your chosen social problem related to other social problems? **Select which theoretical perspective will help to explain the documented social problem.**

Required Content

- Introduce and explain the chosen social problem
- Document and describe existence how social problem affects various **demographic populations**
- Document existence of social problem in **wider society** (at the state, national, or global level)
- The documentation should be a **15 slide** minimum (PowerPoint, Google Slides, etc...) presentation illustrating aspects of your chosen topic.
- Include **visual aids** that help to illustrate your information (pictures, videos, graphs, etc...)
- Select which **theoretical perspective** will help to explain the situation of your chosen topic.
- What are some **possible solutions** that have been put forth by government, organizations, nonprofits, or individuals to solve this social problem?
- Include Works Cited page at the end, and cite sources within presentation as you use them

TOPIC EXAMPLES

1. Health (Obesity, chronic disease, allergies, asthma, etc...)
2. Environmental (water pollution, air pollution, loss of biodiversity, environmental racism, etc...)
3. Poverty (homelessness, lack of affordable housing, unemployment, etc...)
4. Alcohol/drug abuse (DUI, violence, divorce, etc...)
5. Teen pregnancy (costs, education, etc...)
6. Crime (violent crime, property crime, hate crimes, etc...)
7. Immigration (DACA, undocumented immigrants, population growth, family separation, etc...)

The assignment is worth 50 points

Rubric:

Content, Knowledge, Validity of Information and Project Organization: 10 points

Discussion of social problem as it applies to or affects particular demographic communities (age, race/ethnicity, sex, socioeconomic status, etc...) :10 points

Discussion of social problem as it applies to wider society and resources available:10 points

Meet 15-slide requirement: 5 points

Effectively apply sociological theory: 5 points

Turned in on Time (submit to assignment before or on due date): 5 points

Discussion of possible solutions: 5 points

Below are some project ideas. Choose one of these or choose your own:

Only one person may choose a particular topic

Maternal death rates in the U.S.

Environmental Racism

The costs of diabetes to society and the individual

Population Growth and Environmental Sustainability

Allergies, asthma and air quality

Teens and Stress

Health and water quality

The difficulty of surviving on minimum wage

Environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity

Voter Disenfranchisement

Homelessness

The Hunger Crisis in the U.S.

Lack of affordable housing

Wealth and Inequality

Unemployment and underemployment

Employment Discrimination

Alcoholism

Bullying and Cyberbullying at School

Drug abuse (choose a specific drug to focus on)

Cuts to funding in education

Domestic violence

Lack of access to veterans' services

Teen pregnancy

The rising cost of higher education

Violent crime (specify crime)

Climate change

Cyber crime

Plastic pollution

Domestic terrorism

Police brutality

The cost of corporate crime

Dating violence among college students

Lack of access to healthcare

Standardization in education

Lack of access to mental healthcare

The opioid crisis/heroin addiction



Rising suicide rates	The impact of family separation at the border
White Privilege	Covid 19 and Prison/Jail
Racial Profiling in the Criminal Justice System	Lack of funding to infrastructure
Vaping and related health problems	Violence directed toward the LGBTQ community
Housing discrimination	Tobacco/Nicotine addiction in the U.S.
Abuse of immigrants at ICE facilities	Debt due to Illness and Medical Costs
The Increase in Hate crimes	The Gender Wage Gap