

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2024	Instructor Name:	Barbara Reyes
Course Title & #:	Contemporary Social Problems SOC 102	Email:	Barbara.reyes@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10327	Campus Office Hours:	Tuesday 1pm to 2:30pm
Class Dates:	October 7 – December 7	Online Office Hours	By appointment only
Units:	3	Class Format:	Hybrid Modality Tuesday 9:40am – 11:05am Room 2725

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) (C-ID: SOCI 115) (CSU/UC)

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

This course has not prerequisites/corequisite.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. *Compare and contrast the different major sociological theoretical perspectives that explain social behavior. (ILO2, ILO4, ILO5)*
2. *Assess both macro social influences and micro social influences in understanding a particular social issue. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4, ILO5)*

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.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Contemporary Social

[Social Problems: Continuity and Change v2.0](#)

By: Steven E. Barkan

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Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Introduction Discussion-First Day Attendance Assignment. 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 introduce yourself to the class. Students will have until the end of Wednesday October 9, 2024, **to submit their introduction discussion to stay in class**, please plan accordingly. It should take anywhere from 5 to 10 minutes. **No late submissions will be accepted.**

Quizzes. 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. 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 and to stay on top of the due dates. **No make-up quizzes or retakes!**

Chapter Participation Activities. Participation is a very important part of this course. There will be weekly participation activities in the form of discussions, creative writing, small projects, etc. related to the chapters.

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!

Final Research Module and 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.). You will receive an assignment guide and support throughout the semester so that you are successful.

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.**

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 Based	Total
Introductions Discussion/First Day Assignment	25
Chapter Participation Activities	325
Quizzes	150
Research Paper Module	45
Final Research Paper	100

Possible Total Points = 645

Late Work/Free Pass Policy

Late work interrupts the flow of learning in this course and could cause serious problems. Discussions are designed to be interactive--the feedback you give to and get from your peers is just as valuable as any feedback you will receive from me. For this reason, late work will not be accepted! I do understand that life may get in the way of your academic goals, therefore, I provide one "Free Pass" that may be used to submit a discussion, paper, or exam late. However, there are some conditions that need to be considered before requesting the Free Pass. Please read below:

- Students will email me to request the Free Pass. I will let you know how to go about submitting your late work.
- The Free Pass will be used for assignments, discussion, and/or exams that are no more than two weeks old. (Follow due dates)
- Students will have up to two weeks to submit the late assignment.
- The Free Pass CAN NOT be use for the Final Project.
- The Free Pass can only be use for once in the semester, NO EXCEPTIONS!

Course Policies

Attendance Policy

- 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.

What does it mean to "attend" an online class?

Attendance is critical to student success and for IVC to use federal aid funds. Acceptable indications of attendance are:

- Student submission of an academic assignment
- Student submission of an exam
- Student participation in an instructor-led Zoom conference
- Documented student interaction with class postings, such as an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction via modules
- A posting by the student showing the student's participation in an assignment created by the instructor.
- A posting by the student in a discussion forum showing the student's participation in an online discussion about academic matters.
- An email from the student or other documentation showing that the student has initiated contact with a faculty member to ask a question about an academic subject studied in the course.
- **Logging onto Canvas alone is NOT adequate to demonstrate academic attendance by the student.**

Netiquette Policy

What is netiquette? Netiquette is internet manners, online etiquette, and digital etiquette all rolled into one word. Basically, netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online.

- Students are to comply with the following rules of netiquette: (1) identify yourself, (2) include a subject line, (3) avoid sarcasm, (4) respect others' opinions and privacy, (5) acknowledge and return messages promptly, (6) copy with caution, (7) do not spam or junk mail, (8) be concise, (9) use appropriate language, (10) use appropriate emoticons (emotional icons) to help convey meaning, and (11) use appropriate intensifiers to help convey meaning [do not use ALL CAPS or multiple exclamation marks (!!!!)].
- “**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.

Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence -AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

Other Course Information

Student-Instructor Communication

Good communication is essential to building a team and critical to learning. In this class, you will be encouraged to communicate with your peers and with me. The best ways to contact me:

Messages/Email: I try to answer all emails within 24 hours, Mon-Fri. Saturday and Sunday are family days for me and I do not reply to emails!

My email is barbara.reyes@imperial.edu , but the best way to send me a message is to use the Canvas "Inbox." The Inbox will send a message to my conversations within Canvas and sends a copy to my IVC email account.

Pronto is one of my favorite ways to communicate with the class. It is very similar to the Facebook Messenger application. We can have discussions and live sessions as a class. Please try to download it to your phone during the first week of the semester. You will really enjoy it!

It's important to be respectful of one another. When sending emails, always include the following information:

A salutation (Dear Professor Reyes...)

Your full name (First and Last!) your email address does not always give enough clues about who you are.

Class name/number (SOC 101..102..110..)

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

Week # 1 (October 7 to October 13)

- Orientation Module

Assignments

- Practice Quiz & Introductions Discussion due by Wednesday October 9, 2024

Week # 2 (October 14 to October 20)

- Chapter 1- Understanding Social Problems

Assignments

- Chapter 1 Participation Activity (APA Essay) due by October 27, 2024.

Week # 3 (October 21 to October 27)

- Chapter 2- Poverty

Assignments

- Chapter Participation Activity & Quiz # 1 (***Due by Sunday 11:59pm Pacific Time***)

Week # 4 (October 28 to November 3)

- Chapter 3- Race and Ethnicity
- Chapter 4- Gender Inequality

Assignments

- Chapter Participation Activities & Quiz 2 (***Due by Sunday 11:59pm Pacific Time***)

Week 5 (November 4 to November 10)

- Chapter 7- Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Chapter 8- Crime and Criminal Justice

Assignments

- Chapter Participation Activity & Quiz 3 (***Due by Sunday 11:59pm Pacific Time***)

Week 6 (November 11 to November 17)

- Chapter 10- Changing Family
- Chapter 11- Schools and Education

Assignments

- Chapter Participation Activity & Quiz #4 (***Due by Sunday 11:59pm Pacific Time***)

Week 7 (November 18 to November 24)

- Chapter 13 Health and Healthcare
- Chapter 15 Population and the Environment

Assignments

- Chapter Participation Activity & Quiz # 5 (***Due by Sunday 11:59pm Pacific Time***)

(November 25 to December 1) Happy Thanksgiving Break!

Week 8 (December 2 to December 7)

- Complete the Research Module

Assignments

- Final Research Paper Due by December 7. No exceptions!

*****Class Calendar subject to change without prior notice******