

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Winter 2026	Instructor Name:	Barbara Reyes
Course Title & #:	Contemporary Social Problems SOC 102	Email:	Barbara.reyes@imperial.edu
CRN #:	15073	Campus Office Hours:	By appointment only.
Class Dates:	January 5 to February 4	Class Format:	Asynchronous Online Class
Units:	3		

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 Published: June 2020
ISBN (Digital): 978-1-4533-9216-4

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

This course is asynchronous, or traditional online course. All course activity occurs online; there are no required real-time or on campus meetings. All content will be delivered in Canvas. I use different teaching methods, such as pre-recorded lectures, plenty of discussions boards, videos, and many participation activities that can be completed at any

time before the due date. 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.

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 February 16, 2022, **to submit their introduction discussion in order 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.**

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.

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.**

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!

Financial Aid

Your Grades Matter! To continue receiving financial aid, you must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement. Making SAP means that you are maintaining a 2.0 GPA, you have successfully completed 67% of your coursework, and you will graduate on time. If you do not maintain SAP, you may lose your financial aid. If you have questions, please contact financial aid at finaid@imperial.edu.

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 (January 5 – January 9)

- Orientation Module
- Read Chapter 1- Understanding Social Problems

Assignments

- Practice Quiz & Introductions Discussion (*Must Complete by January 7 to stay in Class!*)
- Chapter Participation Discussions (*Due by Fridays 11:59pm Pacific time & two replies due by Sundays 11:59 Pacific Time*)
- Quiz 1 (*Due by Sunday 11:59pm Pacific Time*)

Week # 2 (January 12 – January 16)

- Read Chapter 2- Poverty
- Read Chapter 3- Race and Ethnicity

Assignments

- Chapter Participation Discussions (*Due by Fridays 11:59 Pacific time & two replies due by Sunday 11:59 Pacific Time*)
- Quiz 2 (*Due by Sunday 11:59 Pacific Time*)

Week # 3 (January 19 – January 23)

- Read Chapter
- Read Chapter 4- Gender Inequality

Assignments

- Chapter Participation Discussions (*Due by Fridays 11:59pm Pacific time & two replies due by Sundays 11:59 Pacific Time*)
- Quiz 3 (*Due by Sunday 11:59pm Pacific Time*)

Week # 4 (January 26 to January 30)

- Read Chapter 8- Crime and Criminal Justice
- Read Chapter 10- Changing Family
- Read Chapter 11- Schools and Education

Assignments

- Chapter Participation Discussions (*Due by Fridays 11:59pm Pacific time & two replies due by Sunday 11:59 Pacific Time*)
- Quiz 4 (*Due by Sunday 11:59pm Pacific Time*)

Week 5 (February 2 to February 4)

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

Assignments

- Chapter Participation Discussions (*Due by Last Day of Semester February 4 by 11:59pm Pacific time*)
- Quiz 5 (*Due by Last day of Winter Semester February 4 11:59pm Pacific Time*)
- Final Research Paper (*Due by Last day of Winter semester February 4 11:59 Pacific Time*)

*****This is a tentative schedule and subject to change*****

