
**IMPERIAL VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**Sociology 102: CRN-20154
Contemporary Social Problems Spring 2013**

INSTRUCTOR: Alondo C. Campbell, PhD
OFFICE HOURS: MW: 7:30-8:30 am 807F
CLASS LOCATION: Bldg. 400 rm. 402

CLASS SCHEDULE: MW 4:45—6:10 pm
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Required Texts

Kornblum, William & Julian, Joseph. Social Problems, (2009) 13th Ed. Pearson/Prentice Hall

Course Description

Sociology 102 deals with contemporary social problems and will cover those areas that are currently being defined by our society as problem issues. Emphasis will be given to understanding these problems on the societal level, the group level, and from the standpoint of the individual. Discussion topics include physical health and mental illness, alcohol and other drug abuse, crime, criminals, violence, poverty, social theory, culture, socialization, social interaction and social structures, deviance, social class, racial, ethnic and gender stratification, and various social institutions, i.e. family, religion, and the economy.

Course Objectives

- Define a social problem and be familiar with the key components of the definition.
- Identify health care as a social problem and explain what constitutes adequate health care in society.
- Analyze the extent of mental illness in America and the nature of mental illness as a social problem.
- Analyze alcohol use and abuse in the United States, as well as other patterns of drug use.
- Apply the sociological imagination to a specific social problem.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Recognize the types of crime and criminals in addition to the conditions and causes of crime.
- Describe the extent of poverty in American society and identify the relationship.
- Identify the origins of prejudice and discrimination and the consequences of each.
- Describe the significance of world population growth and immigration that stress the environment.
- Describe the changing family structure in America and the effects on society.
- Analyze the success and failures of the American educational system and compare it to other countries.

IVC's Institutional Learning Outcomes

ILO1: Communication Skills, ILO2: Critical Thinking Skills, ILO3: Personal Responsibility

ILO4: Information Literacy, ILO5: Global Awareness

Student Grade Evaluation

Participation		100
Group email	5	
Submit Presentations advance	5	
Writing Assignment on time	5	
Group Evaluation	5	
Promptness to class	25	
In class	55	
Midterm Exam		100
Written Assignment Blackboard Submission		50
In Class		150
Exercises (5 @ 10 points)	50	
Quizzes (5 @ 10 points)	50	
Presentation (1 @ 50 points)	50	
Final Exam		100
Total Points		500

The grade distribution is based on the following percentage points:

A	500 – 460	90%
B	459 – 400	80%
C	399 – 350	70%
D	349 – 300	60%
F	under 299	59% or less

Participation: Participation includes *active listening*. I take notice of how attentive the class is when somebody has the floor. It is as important to participate by respectful interaction such as volunteering your opinion. Students can earn participation points only in-class. All students should have joined in class discussion by the end of the third week of the semester. Your participation should add value to the discussion and be on topic. I will facilitate to prevent vocal students from dominating the airwaves.

Midterm Exam: There is one in-class midterm exam. The exam must be taken on the scheduled day it is administered in class. There are NO make-up exams without a compelling medical reason verified by a medical provider. Any make up exam is at the discretion of the instructor.

In-class Exercises: Includes video reaction papers and projects on current events. Penmanship is essential and must be legible. A project may be a reaction to an assigned reading, video clip, or group activity and often includes low-stakes writing. Projects may include team assignments.

Quizzes: There are five quizzes; each covers the two chapters of the last two weeks unless otherwise announced.

Presentations: Students will form groups, complete an outside of class project and present findings in class.

Final Exam: regularly assigned classroom. The format is to be announced. There are no makeup exams without a documented verification of a compelling reason.

Incomplete Grade: Students seeking an “Incomplete” grade must consult with me no later than the week prior to finals. Incompletes will only be considered for unforeseeable, emergency and justifiable reasons at the end of the term, and only upon agreement of conditions for completing coursework.

Classroom Expectations and Behavior: Students are responsible for knowing the material and announcements presented during lectures *and* recitations whether or not you attend class. Please arrange with another student for missed notes and announcements. Please do not disrupt other students’ ability to hear lectures. Prepare to take notes before lectures begin, do not talk during lecture, sit in a seat, do not begin packing your belongings before class ends).

Late arrival/early departure: Students are subjected to loss of participation points for arriving late or leaving early

Cell Phones and Pagers: Out of consideration for others, please turn your cell phones and pagers to the silent mode. If they do not have a silent or vibratory mode, please turn them off. No texting is allowed while class is in session. These items tend to distract the other students during class discussions and activities.

Use of laptop computers in-class: This class seldom requires students to use their laptop computers in class. Laptop computers should only be used in the classroom with the permission of the instructor.

Attendance: You are required to attend class. Remember the student is responsible for obtaining all information and material when absent. The student is responsible for dropping the class. It is the instructor’s prerogative to drop students in the first two weeks for lack of attendance but the student is responsible for dropping.

Notify me in advance via email for consideration of credit.

All email must have the class and CRN number on the subject bar.

Students with Disabilities: Any student with a registered need for special educational accommodation should notify Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) or contact me as soon as possible. Visit or call DSP&S, Mel Wendrick Access Center, Rm 2117, (760)355-6312.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic honesty is highly valued at Imperial Valley College. You must always submit work that represents your original words or ideas. If any words or ideas used in a class postings or assignment submission do not represent your original words or ideas, you must cite all relevant

sources and make clear the extent to which such sources were used. Words or ideas that require citation include but are not limited to, all hard copy or electronic publications, whether copyrighted or not, and all verbal or visual communication when the content of such communication clearly originates from an identifiable source.

APA Format: American Psychological Association (APA) format is required for written assignments. This website is helpful <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>.

All items submitted must have name, class, and date unless instructed differently.

Course Outline

	Date	Topic	Reading	Due		
Monday	01/14	Course Overview	Syllabus		5	
Wednesday	01/16	Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems	Chap 1	Syllabus Quiz 1	10	
Monday	01/21	Martin Luther King Day Campus Closed				
Wednesday	01/23	Problems of Health and Healthcare	Chap 2	In-class exercise 1	10	
Monday	01/28	Problems of Mental Illness & Treatment	Chap 3		5	
Wednesday	01/30			Quiz 2	10	
Monday	02/04	Alcohol and Other Drugs	Chap 4		5	
Wednesday	02/06			In-class exercise 2	10	
Monday	02/11	Crime and Violence	Chap 5		5	
Wednesday	02/13	Group Email		Quiz 3	15	
Monday	02/18	President's Day Campus Closed				
Wednesday	02/20	Poverty Amid Affluence	Chap 6	Writing Assignment	55	
Monday	02/25	Racism, Prejudice, & Discrimination	Chap 7		5	
Wednesday	02/27	MIDTERM EXAM	Chapters 1-7		100	
Monday	03/04	Gender and Sexuality	Chap 8		5	
Wednesday	03/06			In-class exercise 3	10	
Monday	03/11	An Aging Society	Chap 9		5	
Wednesday	03/13			Quiz 4	10	
Monday	03/18	The Changing Family	Chap 10		5	
Wednesday	03/20			In-class exercise 4	10	
Monday	03/25	Problems of Education	Chap 11		5	
Wednesday	03/27			Quiz 5	10	
Monday	04/01	Spring Break Campus CLOSED				
Wednesday	04/03	Spring Break Campus CLOSED				
Monday	04/08	Life at Home	Chap 12	Presentation	5	
Wednesday	04/10			In-class exercise 5	10	
Monday	04/15	Recreation and Leisure	Chap 13	Presentation	5	
Wednesday	04/17			Presentation	5	
Monday	04/22	Health and Illness	Chap 14	Presentation	5	
Wednesday	04/24			Presentation	5	
Monday	04/29	Social Change: Looking Toward Tomorrow	Chap 16	Presentation	5	
Wednesday	05/01			Presentation	5	
Monday	05/06	Review	Chap 8-16			
				Group Evaluation	5	
Wednesday	05/08	Final	Chaps. 8-16		100	
		Group Presentation Score			50	

NOTE: This course outline should be considered tentative since some minor changes may be made according to the needs of class. If a date or assignment needs to be changed, I will announce it in class before the date it is listed in the syllabus.