

**Imperial Valley College
Department of Sociology
Sociology 102: CRN-10827
Contemporary Social Problems
Fall 2013**

INSTRUCTOR: Abril T. Diaz, MBA/MA **CLASS SCHEDULE:** Wednesday 6:30-9:40 pm
EMAIL: abril.diaz@imperial.edu **CLASS LOCATION:** Bldg. 400, Room 413
OFFICE HOURS: Appointment Only

Required Texts:

Kornblum, William & Julian, Joseph. *Social Problems*, (2012) 14th Ed. Pearson/Prentice Hall

Recommended:

Durkheim, Emile (1964). *SUICIDE* Glenco, IL Free Press.

Mead, George Herbert (1934). *MIND, SELF AND SOCIETY*. Chicago University Chicago Press.

Mills, C. Wright (1956). *THE POWER ELITE*. New York Oxford University Press.

Course Description:

Sociology 102 examines contemporary social problems and the process by which competing groups make claims to define phenomena as social problems. Emphasis will be given to 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 (SLOs)

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

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:

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

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 Format: This course will consist of a combination of lectures, class discussion, presentations, assigned readings, group and individual projects and performance on quizzes and exams.

Student Grade Evaluation

Participation	100
Midterm Exam	100
Written Assignment	100
In Class Assignments (Exercise, Quizzes, Presentation)	200
Final Exam	<u>100</u>
Total Points	600

The grade distribution is based on the following percentage points:

A	600-540	90%
B	539-480	80%
C	479-420	70%
D	419-360	60%
F	Under 359	59% or less

Grading Rubrics: In addition to the percentages and points listed above the following grading rubric will be used when grading student assignments. The description that best fits your work will be the assigned grade.

General Grading Rubric for Assignments	
A	Focused and clearly organized. Contains advanced critical thinking and analysis. Convincing evidence is provided to support conclusions. Clearly meets or exceeds assignment requirements.
B	Generally focused with some development of ideas, but may be simplistic or repetitive. Evidence is provided to support conclusions. Occasional grammatical errors. Meets assignment requirements, but does not exceed.
C	Unfocused, underdeveloped, or rambling, but has some coherence. Minimal evidence is provided to support conclusions. Several grammatical errors. Meets minimum assignment requirements.
D	Unfocused, underdeveloped, and/or rambling. Limited evidence is used to support conclusions. Serious grammatical errors that impede overall understanding. Does not address the assignment requirements
F	Unfocused, underdeveloped, and/or rambling. Incomplete or too brief. No evidence is used to support conclusions. Serious grammatical errors that block overall understanding. Does not meet assignment requirements. Minimal to no student effort.

Students are expected to arrive to class on time, complete the assigned readings/assignments and be ready to participate!

Participation: Participation includes *active listening*. It is as important to participate by respectful interaction such as volunteering your opinion. Students can earn participation points in class or by participating in the online Blackboard Discussion Portal.

Midterm Exam: There is one in-class midterm exam. There are NO make-up exams. Any make up exam is at the discretion of the instructor.

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

Quizzes: There are ten quizzes; each is worth 10 points.

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

Final Exam: The format is to be announced in class.

Incomplete Grade: 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 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, and do not begin packing your belongings before class ends.

Late arrival/early departure: Arriving late or leaving early from class may subject you from a loss in participation points. Students are expected to remain in the classroom throughout the entire class session. Students leaving the class early, or just briefly, without prior instructor approval, will have points deducted from their class points

Cell Phone Use: Please turn your cell phones off during class. No texting is allowed.

Use of laptop computers in-class: This class does not require students to use their laptops computers in class. Please consult with me in the event that you need to use a computer in the classroom.

Attendance: You are required to attend class every session. Any student who misses the first class will be dropped. Students may be dropped at instructor discretion if they miss more than a week of class hours continuously. Please make arrangements to keep up with all assignments in case you cannot attend a class session for any reason. Remember the student is responsible for obtaining all information and material when absent.

Disruptive Students: Most of you are here to learn but some students are not serious. To preserve a productive learning environment, students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with Sergio Lopez, Campus Disciplinary Officer, before returning to continue with coursework. Mr. Lopez will follow disciplinary procedures as outlined in the General Catalog.

Students with Disabilities: 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. Visit or call DSP&S, Mel Wendrick Access Center, Room 2117, (760) 355-6312

Cheating and Plagiarism: IVC expects honesty and integrity from all students. A student found to have cheated on any assignment or plagiarized will receive a zero for the assignment and sent to Disciplinary Officer Sergio Lopez. A second occurrence of cheating or plagiarism may result in dismissal from class and expulsion from IVC as outlined in the General Catalog.

- ***Plagiarism*** is to take and present 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 clearly understand how to correctly 'cite a source', 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, which are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question. Anyone caught cheating will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, the incident will be reported to the division dean and the dean of Student Affairs, and a document may be placed in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General School Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to the following:
 - plagiarism
 - copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment;
 - communicating test information with another person during an examination;
 - allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment
 - use of a commercial term paper service

APA Format: American Psychological Association (APA) format is required for written assignments.

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

SOC 102 Course Outline

	Date	Topic	Reading	Due	
Wed	08/21	Course Overview- Syllabus Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems Problems of Health and Healthcare	Chapter 1 Chapter 2	Syllabus	
Wed	08/28	Problems of Mental Illness and Treatment	Chapter 3	In-class Exercise 1	
Wed	09/04	Alcohol and Other Drugs	Chapter 4	Quiz1	
Wed	09/11	Crime and Violence	Chapter 5	In-class exercise 2 Quiz 2	
Wed	09/18	Poverty Amid Affluence	Chapter 6	Quiz 3	
Wed	09/25	Racism, Prejudice & Discrimination	Chapter 7	Quiz 4 Writing Assignment	
Wed	10/02	Gender & Sexuality	Chapter 8	Quiz 5	
Wed	10/09	Midterm Exam	Chapters 1-7		
Wed	10/16	An Aging Society	Chapter 9	In-class exercise 3 Quiz 6	
Wed	10/23	The Changing Family	Chapter 10	Quiz 7	
Wed	10/30	Problems of Education	Chapter 11	In-class exercise 4 Quiz 8	
Wed	11/06	Problems of Work and the Economy	Chapter 12	Quiz 9	
Wed	11/13	Population and Immigration	Chapter 13	In Class Exercise 5 Quiz 10	
Wed	11/20	Technology and the Environment	Chapter 14	Presentations	
Wed	11/27	War and Global Insecurity	Chapter 15	Presentations	
Wed	12/04	Final Exam	Chapter 8-15		

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.

*Extra Credit opportunities will be announced during the course.

Social Problems in the 21st Century

Listed below are examples of contemporary social problems:

- Abortion
- Affirmative Action
- Ageism / Age Discrimination
- Airport Screening Procedures
- Alcoholism
- Animal Rights
- Anti-Muslim Discrimination
- Binge Drinking
- Birth Control
- Bullying
- Campus Crime
- Capital Punishment / Death Penalty
- Child Labor
- Classism
- Cloning
- Corporate Downsizing
- Date Rape
- Domestic Violence
- Drinking and Driving
- Drug Abuse / Drug Addiction
- Eating Disorders
- Embryonic Stem Cell Research
- Environmental Pollution
- Environmental Racism
- Euthanasia / Assisted Suicide
- Gang Violence
- Gay Rights
- Genetic Engineering
- Gentrification
- Global Warming
- Gun Control
- Hate Crimes
- Hazing
- Health Care Reform
- HIV / AIDS
- Home Foreclosures
- Homelessness
- Human Trafficking
- Hunger
- Identify Theft
- Illegal Immigration
- Legalization of Marijuana
- Legalization of Prostitution

- Mass Murder
- NRA
- National Rifle Association
- Obesity
- Organ and Body Donation
- Outsourcing Jobs
- Polygamy
- Pornography
- Poverty
- Prayer in Schools
- Prison Rape
- Racial Disparities in Health Care
- Racial Disparities in Sentencing
- Racial Profiling
- Racism
- Recycling and Conservation
- Same-Sex Marriage
- Sex Trade
- Sexism
- Sexual Harassment
- Sexting
- Single Parenting
- Smoking / Tobacco Use
- Social Networking and Privacy
- Steroid Use in Sports
- Stereotyping
- Sweat Shops
- Teen Pregnancy
- Terrorism
- Unemployment
- Violence in Schools
- Violence in Music Videos
- Violence in Video Games