

Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus – Sociology 102: Contemporary Social Problems, CRN-20542

Basic Course Information

Semester	Spring 2014	Instructor Name	Abril T. Diaz, MBA/MA
Course Title & #	Sociology 102: Contemporary Social Problems	Email	abril.diaz@imperial.edu
CRN #	CRN-20542	Webpage (optional)	N/A
Room	Bldg. 800, Room 810	Office	Room 809
Class Dates	01/23/2014-05/15/2014	Office Hours	Appointment Only
Class Days	Thursdays	Office Phone #	N/A
Class Times Units	6:30- 9:40 pm 3 units	Office contact if student will be out or emergency	Email Instructor in case of an emergency

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

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.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

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.

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

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

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

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

Student Grade Evaluation

Participation	100 points
Midterm Exam	100 points
Written Assignment	100 points
Projects (Brochure, Posterboard, Powerpoint Presentation)	300 points
Quizzes	100 points
In Class Assignments	100 points
Final Exam	<u>200 points</u>
Total Points	1000 points

The grade distribution is based on the following percentage points:

A	1000-900	90%
B	899-800	80%
C	799-700	70%
D	699-600	60%
F	Under 599	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.

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.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.
- You are required to attend class every session. 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.

Classroom Etiquette

- Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class unless otherwise directed by the instructor. Please turn your cell phones off during class. No texting is allowed. 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
- Food and Drink are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed.
- Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog. 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.
- Children in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.
- 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

Academic Honesty

- 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 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, or assisting others in using materials, which are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or 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. 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: (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) use of a commercial term paper service

Additional Help

- Blackboard support center: <http://bbcrm.edusupportcenter.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8543>
- Learning Labs: There are several ‘labs’ on campus to assist you through the use of computers, tutors, or a combination. Please consult your college map for the Math Lab, Reading & Writing Lab, and Learning Services (library). Please speak to the instructor about labs unique to your specific program
- Library Services: There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the learning center, study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

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. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313 if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

Student Counseling and Health Services

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee. We now also have a fulltime mental health counselor. For information see <http://www.imperial.edu/students/student-health-center/>. The IVC Student Health Center is located in the Health Science building in Room 2109, telephone 760-355-6310.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities please refer to the IVC General Catalog available online at http://www.imperial.edu/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=4516&Itemid=762

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to help students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. Students can access tutorials at <http://www.imperial.edu/courses-and-programs/divisions/arts-and-letters/library-department/info-lit-tutorials/>

Anticipated Class Schedule / Calendar

SOCIOLOGY 102 COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Due	
Week 1	01/23	Course Overview- Syllabus Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems	Chapter 1	Syllabus	
Week 2	01/30	Problems of Health and Healthcare Problems of Mental Illness and Treatment*	Chapter 2 Chapter 3	Quiz #1	
Week 3	02/06	Alcohol and Other Drugs	Chapter 4	Brochure	
Week 4	02/13	Crime and Violence	Chapter 5	Class Assignment	
Week 5	02/20	Poverty Amid Affluence*	Chapter 6	Quiz #2	
Week 6	02/27	Racism, Prejudice & Discrimination	Chapter 7	Writing Assignment	
Week 7	03/06	Midterm Exam	Chapters 1-7	Midterm Exam	
Week 8	03/13	Gender & Sexuality	Chapter 8	Class Assignment	
Week 9	03/20	An Aging Society	Chapter 9	Quiz #3	
Week 10	03/27	The Changing Family*	Chapter 10	Class Assignment	
Week 11	04/03	Problems of Education	Chapter 11	Poster board	
Week 12	04/10	Problems of Work and the Economy	Chapter 12	Quiz #4	
Week 13	04/17	Population and Immigration	Chapter 13	Quiz #5	
Week 14	04/24	Spring Break- No Class Today	Chapter 14		
Week 15	05/01	Technology and the Environment	Chapter 14	Quiz #6	
Week 16	05/08	War and Global Insecurity	Chapter 15	Group Presentations	
Week 17	05/15	Final Exam	Chapter 8-15	Final Exam	

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.

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

**Extra Credit opportunities will be announced during the course.*