



IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2021	Instructor Name:	Barbara Reyes
Course Title & #:	Contemporary Social Problems SOC 102	Email:	Barbara.reyes@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20638 & 21046	Office Hours:	Thursdays 12 - 1 pm
Class Dates:	12 February – 11 June 2021	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

Social Problems: Continuity and Change

Copyright Year: 2016

ISBN 13: 9781946135230

Publisher: University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing (Links to an external site.)

This class is a Zero Textbook Cost/ Free Online Educational Resources. It is free and you are able to download just follow the link: <https://open.lib.umn.edu/socialproblems/>



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 (25 points). 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 Thursday **February 18, 2021 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 (240 Points) 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 Reflection Discussions (260 Points): Discussions are an important part of this course. The discussions require a response to specific questions that result in collaborative conversations with classmates, which builds and expands your learning and knowledge of the subject matter. You will be expected to stay on top of the current social problems affecting our society. You will post in a discussion board for your classmates to see and respond to.

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!

News Articles Posts (50 Points) News articles posts are really important component of this course as it will push you to become aware of how social problems are impacting different communities locally and around the world. You will be required to submit three world news articles, two national news articles and one local news article. You will have until the week before the end of the semester (June 4, 2021) to post. More information will be provided.

Final Research Module and Paper (125): 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 Reflection Discussions (13) @ 20	260
Quizzes (6) @ 40 Points	240
News Articles Discussion Posts (5) @ 10	50
Research Paper Module	25
Final Research Paper	100
Possible Total Points	= 700

Late Work Policy

Late work interrupts the flow of learning in this course and could cause serious problems. Discussions, in particular, 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.

How am I expected to act in an online "classroom" (especially Zoom)?

Attending a virtual meeting can be a challenge when there are many students on one conference call.

Participating in such meetings may count as class attendance, but disruptive behavior may also result in you not being admitted to future meetings. Follow the tips below for best results:

1) Be RESPECTFUL

- a. Your written, verbal, and non-verbal communications should be respectful and focused on the learning topics of the class.

2) Find a QUIET LOCATION & SILENCE YOUR PHONE (if zooming)

- a. People walking around and pets barking can be a distraction.

3) EAT AT A DIFFERENT TIME.

- a. Crunching food or chugging drinks is distracting for others.
- b. Synchronous zoom times are set in advance so reserve meals for outside class meetings.

4) ADJUST YOUR LIGHTING SO THAT OTHERS CAN SEE YOU

- a. It is hard to see you in dim lighting so find a location with light.
- b. If your back is to a bright window, you will be what is called "backlit" and not only is it hard on the eyes (glare) but you look like a silhouette.

5) POSITION THE CAMERA SO THAT YOUR FACE AND EYES ARE SHOWING

- a. If you are using the camera, show your face; it helps others see your non-verbal cues.
- b. You may be at home but meeting in pajamas or shirtless is not appropriate so dress suitably. Comb your hair, clean your teeth, fix your clothes, etc. before your meeting time to show self-respect and respect for others.

6) Be READY TO LEARN AND PAY ATTENTION

- a. Catch up on other emails or other work later.
- b. If you are Zooming, silence your phone and put it away.
- c. If you are in a room with a TV – turn it off.

7) USE YOUR MUTE BUTTON WHEN IN LOUD PLACES OR FOR DISTRACTIONS

- a. Pets barking, children crying, sneezing, coughing, etc. can happen unexpectedly. It's best if you conference in a private space, but if you can't find a quiet place, when noises arise **MUTE** your laptop.

8) REMEMBER TO UNMUTE WHEN SPEAKING

- a. Follow your instructor's directions about using the "**raise hand**" icon or chat function to be recognized and to speak, but make sure you have unmuted your device.
- b. Do not speak when someone else is speaking.

9) REMAIN FOCUSED AND PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING

- a. Especially when the camera is on YOU, we can all see your actions. Engage in the meeting. Look at the camera. Listen to instruction. Answer questions when asked.
- b. Do not use the Zoom meeting to meet with your peers or put on a "show" for them.

10) PAUSE YOUR VIDEO IF MOVING OR DOING SOMETHING DISTRACTING

- a. Emergencies happen. If you need to leave the room or get up and move about, stop your video.

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 is family day for me. 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 also 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!

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

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1 February 12-19	Welcome and introduction to Class	Complete Orientation Module *Submit First Day Introduction Discussion by February 18 by 11:59 pm to stay in Class!
Week 2 February 22- 26	Chapter 1-Understanding Social Problems	Complete all assignments in Module # 1
Week 3 March 1- 5	Chapter 2 – Poverty	Complete all assignments in Module # 2 Quiz # 1
Week 4 March 8 – 12	Chapter 3-Racial and Ethnic Inequality	Complete all assignments in Module # 3
Week 5 March 15-19	Chapter 4- Gender Inequality	Complete all assignments in Module # 4 Quiz # 2
Week 6 March 22 - 26	Chapter 5 – Sexual Orientation and Inequality	Complete all assignments in Module # 5
Week 7 March 29- April 2	Chapter 6_– Aging and Ageism	Complete all assignments in Module # 6 Quiz # 3
<i>April 5 to April 9 Spring Break! Enjoy!</i>		
Week 8 April 12-16	Chapter 7 -Alcohol and Other Drugs	Complete all assignments in Module # 7
Week 9 April 19- 23	Chapter 8 -Crime and Criminal Justice	Complete all assignments in Module # 8 Quiz # 4
Week 10 April 26- 30	Chapter 10 – The Changing Family	Complete all assignments in Module # 9
Week 11 May 3- 7	Chapter 11 – Schools and Education	Complete all assignments in Module # 10 Quiz # 5
Week 12 May 10-14	Chapter 13- Health and Health Care	Complete all assignments in Module # 11
Week 13 May 17- 21	<i>Research Paper Week!</i>	Complete all assignments in Research Module
Week 14 May 24- 28	Chapter 12- Work and the Economy	Complete all assignments in Module # 12
Week 15 May 31- June 4	Chapter 15 – Environment and Population	Complete all assignments in Module # 13 <i>Last Week to Submit News Article Posts</i> Quiz # 6
Week 16 June 7-11	Final Research Paper Week	Final Research Due by June 11 11:59 pm

All quizzes are due by Sundays 11:59 pm Pacific Time.

*****Subject to change without prior notice*****