

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2026	Instructor Name:	Barbara Reyes
Course Title:	SOC 102 Social Problems	Email:	Barbara.reyes@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20331	Office #:	1715
Class Dates:	October 6 to December 6	Office Hours:	Thursday 1pm – 2pm & appt.
Class Days	Online	Online Office Hours:	Monday & Wednesday 1pm to 2pm & appt.
Units:	3	Office Phone #:	(760) 355-6283
Class Format/Modality:	Online Hybrid 8 Weeks	Emergency Contact:	Krista Bird 760-355-6323

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

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Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

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 the second day of the semester, to **submit their introduction discussion 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 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. **No late extra credit will be accepted.**

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Grading Based	Total
Introductions Discussion	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. 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** will be considered to have excessive absences and will 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.

Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence -AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to the instructor for clarification.

Accessibility Statement

Imperial Valley College is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students, regardless of course modality. Every effort has been made to ensure that this course complies with all state and federal accessibility regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. However, if you encounter any content that is not accessible, please contact your instructor or the area dean for assistance. If you have specific accommodations through **DSPS**, contact them for additional assistance. We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.

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:

The best ways to contact me:

- Canvas Inbox: 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.
- I will not reply to personal emails. Make sure to use your student email.
- **Pronto is** one of my favorite ways to communicate with the 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 to receive 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 – February 17

Welcome & Introduction to Class

-  Review **Orientation Module**
 - ✓ Assignments: Mandatory Introduction Discussion (Must be completed to stay in class)
- Start Chapter 1 – Understanding Social Problems
 - o ✓ Start or complete all assignments in **Module #1**

Week 2 – February 23

- Chapter 1 -Understanding Social Problems
- Chapter 2 – Poverty
 - o ✓ Complete all assignments in **Module #2 (Due by Sunday 11:59pm)**

Week 3 – March 2

- Chapter 3- Race and Ethnicity
- Chapter 4- Gender Inequality
 - o ✓ Complete all assignments in Module # 3 (*Due by Sunday 11:59pm Pacific Time*)

Week 4 – March 9

- Chapter 5 – Sexual Orientation and Inequality
- Chapter 6- Age and Ageism
 - o ✓ Complete all assignments in Module # 4 (*Due by Sunday 11:59pm Pacific Time*)

Week 5 – March 16

- Chapter 7- Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Chapter 8- Crime and Criminal Justice
 - o ✓ Complete all assignments in Module # 5 (*Due by Sunday 11:59pm Pacific Time*)

Week 6 – March 23

- Chapter 10- Changing Family
- Chapter 11- Schools and Education
 - o ✓ Complete all assignments in Module # 6 (*Due by Sunday 11:59pm Pacific Time*)

Week 7 – March 30

- Chapter 13 Health and Healthcare
- Chapter 15 Population and the Environment
 - o ✓ Complete all assignments in Module # 7 (*Due by Sunday 11:59pm Pacific Time*)

Spring Break April 5 to April 11

Week 8 – April 13

- Complete the Research Module
 - o ✓ Final Research Paper Due by **April 17**. No exceptions!

****Class Calendar subject to change without prior notice*****