

ILLINOIS VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



COURSE OUTLINE

DIVISION: Humanities, Fine Arts Social Sciences

COURSE: SOC 2001 - Social Problems

Date: Jan 6 2011

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisite(s): none

Delivery Method: **Lecture** **0 Contact Hours (1 contact = 1 credit hour)**
 Seminar **0 Contact Hours (1 contact = 1 credit hour)**
 Lab **0 Contact Hours (2 contact = 1 credit hour)**
 Clinical **0 Contact Hours (3 contact = 1 credit hour)**
 Online
 Blended

Offered: **Fall** **Spring** **Summer**

IAI Equivalent –**Only for Transfer Courses**-go to <http://www.itransfer.org>: S7 901

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This course will acquaint the student with society and its social problems. While an emphasis is placed on the social problems within the United States a global perspective of how our social problems affect the larger global community will be explored. Various perspectives on viewing social problems such as using "victim blame" and "system blame" approach will be explored. This class will also work to develop within the student the kind of critical thinking skills needed to begin to devise ways to reduce or ameliorate the problems facing society. Some of the topics discussed may include but are not limited to; homelessness/poverty, racism/prejudice, affluence/over consumption, environmental degradation, and gender socialization/sexuality issues.

GENERAL EDUCATION GOALS ADDRESSED

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able:

- To apply analytical and problem solving skills to personal, social and professional issues and situations.**
- To communicate orally and in writing, socially and interpersonally.**
- To develop an awareness of the contributions made to civilization by the diverse cultures of the world.**
- To understand and use contemporary technology effectively and to understand its impact on the individual and society.**
- To work and study effectively both individually and in collaboration with others.**
- To understand what it means to act ethically and responsibly as an individual in one's career and as a member of society.**
- To develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle physically, mentally, and spiritually.**
- To appreciate the ongoing values of learning, self-improvement, and career planning.**

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES AND RELATED COMPETENCIES:

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- 1. Comprehend the specific approach of sociologists in understanding and ameliorating social problems and the social movements that follow.**
- 2. Be able to recognize, define and research social problems within societies across the globe.**
- 3. Be able to utilize a holistic problem solving approach that incorporates sociological theories and takes into accounts ethical concerns.**
- 4. Articulate and defend policy and social implications surrounding potential solutions to social problems.**

[Outcomes related to course specific goals.]

- 1.1 Explore the sub-fields of sociology and their interconnectedness.**
- 1.2 Apply sociological theory to understanding social problems.**
- 1.3 Demonstrate awareness of the differences in systems blame and victim blame.**

- 2.1 Recognize critical social problems in the US and their global consequences.**
- 2.2. Recognize critical social problems globally.**
- 2.3 Understand the need for the use of the scientific method in the study social problems.**

- 3.1. Be able to consider the various social problems from both a macro and micro level.**
- 3.2 Application of major theoretical perspectives in approaching social problems.**
- 3.3 Address the many ethical concerns involved in researching social groups, social behavior and social problems. This includes but not limited to; the importance of IRB approval, cultural relativity and respect to people and their environments.**

- 4.1 Use various means of communication, written , oral, and non-verbal to express positions.**

- 4.2 Compare and evaluate past and proposed policy approaches to social problems.**
- 4.3 Understand and predict the latent and manifest effects of the various proposed solutions.**

COURSE TOPICS AND CONTENT REQUIREMENTS:

Some of these topics include:

Homelessness, Environment, Gender/Sexuality, Race, Health Care/Health
Terrorism/War, Education, Incarceration, Media and Globalization, but can include other current or past social problems of interest.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:

Lecture
Films / Educational video clips
Group Discussion / Collaborative Activities
Class Discussion
Experiential learning
Research papers/presentations

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:

Various: Can include but not limited to individual books that address the various issues. Such as Rachel and Her Children (homelessness) Fast Food Nation (health) The Rich get Richer and the Poor get Prison (incarceration).

Textbooks can include but not limited to: Social Problems and the Quality of Life, Lauer, J. (2011). Social Problems; A Down to Earth Approach. Henslin, J. (2011).

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS AND METHODS OF EVALUATION:

Research Papers
News Analysis
International research
Quizzes
Tests
Experiential learning
Portfolio
Class participation
Presentations / Wiki presentation

OTHER REFERENCES

Rigging the Game, Schwalbe M. (2008).

Sickness and Wealth, Fort, M. (2004).

Videos such as: Tough Guise, As we Sow, The Story of Stuff, XXXY, The History of Alcoholism.

Course Competency/Assessment Methods Matrix

Course Prefix, Number and Name	Assessment Options																															
<p>For each competency/outcome place an "X" below the method of assessment to be used.</p>	Assessment of Student Learning	Article Review	Case Studies	Group Projects	Lab Work	Oral Presentations	Pre-Post Tests	Quizzes	Written Exams	Artifact Self Reflection of Growth	Capstone Projects	Comprehensive Written Exit Exam	Course Embedded Questions	Multi-Media Projects	Observation	Writing Samples	Portfolio Evaluation	Real World Projects	Reflective Journals	Applied Application (skills) Test	Oral Exit Interviews	Accreditation Reviews/Reports	Advisory Council Feedback	Employer Surveys	Graduate Surveys	Internship/Practicum /Site Supervisor Evaluation	Licensing Exam	In Class Feedback	Simulation	Interview	Written Report	Assignment
	Direct/ Indirect	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	I	I	I	I	D	D						
<p>Assessment Measures – Are direct or indirect as indicated. List competencies/outcomes below.</p>							X	X																							X	
<p>Explore the sub-fields of sociology and their interconnectedness</p>																																
<p>Apply sociological theory to understanding social problems.</p>			X					X											X													
<p>Demonstrate awareness of the differences in systems blame and victim blame.</p>		X																							X						X	
<p>Recognize critical social problems in the US and their global consequences.</p>		X											X				X															
<p>Recognize critical social problems globally.</p>													X			X												X	X			
<p>Understand the need for the use of the scientific method in the study social problems.</p>			X					X								X																
<p>Be able to consider the various social problems from both a macro and micro level.</p>															X				X												X	

