

Reviewed by: S. J.Murguía
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Revised: Fall 2022
Textbook Update: Fall 2022
C G & E Approved: May 11, 2023
Board Approved: June 14, 2023
Semester effective:

Sociology (SOC) 2120 American Social Problems (3 Units) CSU: UC
[formerly Sociology 2]

Advisory: Eligibility for English 1500 or 1501 strongly recommended

Hours and Unit Calculations:

48 hours lecture. 96 Outside-of-class Hours (144 Total Student Learning Hours) 3 Units

Catalog Description: This course includes identification and analysis of contemporary social problems including (1) the role of power and ideology in the definition of social problems, (2) their causes and consequences, (3) evaluations of proposed solutions, and (4) methods of intervention. C-ID: SOCI 115

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Texts such as:

Atkinson, Maxine, Kathleen Odell Korgen, Mary Nell Trauter (eds.) *Social Problems: Sociology in Action*, 2nd Edition. Sage Publications, New York, 2022

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of major social problems concerning the U.S.;
2. Place local, regional, and national social problems in global context;
3. Identify and distinguish between causes and consequences of social problems;
4. Analyze social problems using sociological approaches and concepts;
5. Analyze and interpret qualitative and quantitative information about social problems;
6. Identify and evaluate policies that address social problems and assess the policies' impact on society.

Course Student Learning Outcomes:

#1 - Evaluate American social problems using other countries for comparison and provide solutions.

General Education Learning Outcomes:

Communication and Analytical Thinking

- Student demonstrates the ability to communicate knowledge, information, ideas, and feelings,

and enhance the ability to evaluate, problem solve, and make decisions.

Humanities

- Student develop an awareness of ways in which people through the ages and in different cultures respond to the world around them through artistic and cultural creations.
- Student to demonstrate an understanding of human diversity and tolerance for different perspectives, ideas, and values.
- Students to describe how through the arts, literature, philosophy, foreign languages, or religion reflect the historical, intellectual context and aesthetic tastes of various cultures using value judgements.

Social and Behavioral Science

- Discuss the influence of major social, cultural, economic, and political forces on human behavior and institutions using the major concepts, models, and concerns developed through the social sciences in contemporary as well as historical settings and in a variety of cultural contexts.
- Explain the methodologies employed in social scientific inquiry.
- Explain the principles, concepts, models, value systems, and ethics employed in social scientific inquiry.

Course Scope and Content:

Unit I The Social Construction and Consequences of Social Problems

- A. Different theoretical perspectives on the process of defining social problems
- B. The roles of social movements in creating social problems
- C. Consequences of social problems
 - a. Institutional Inequality
 - i. Racial
 - ii. Economic
 - iii. Gender
 - iv. Environment
 - v. Education

Unit II The Role of Power and Ideology in the Definition of Social Problems.

- A. Different theoretical perspectives on inequality
- B. The role of the media in defining social problems

Unit III Causes of Social Problems

- A. Individual
- B. Cultural
- C. Social

Unit IV Evaluation and Consideration of Proposed Solutions to Social Problems

- A. Ways to strengthen social institutions as a means to solve social problems
- B. The criteria for evaluating the claims made about social problems

- C. Critical analysis of competing visions of social problem solutions

Unit V Consideration of Methods of Research and Analysis

- A. Methods used by sociologists to study social problems
- B. Statistical literacy – understanding the social construction of statistics and their use in public discourse of social problems

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

- 1. Studying
- 2. Answering questions
- 3. Completing required reading
- 4. Completing written work
- 5. Working on:
 - a. Application project(s)
 - b. Field notes
 - c. Research project

Methods of Instruction:

- 1. Lectures
- 2. Class discussions
- 3. Audiovisual presentations
- 4. Group and/or individual activities
- 5. Guided application project

Method of Evaluation:

- 1. Substantial writing assignments including:
 - a. Essay exams
 - b. Research paper using ASA or a generally accepted Social Science format
- 2. Objective examinations/quizzes
- 3. Application exercises
- 4. Research project
- 5. Field journal
- 6. Oral presentations
- 7. Reflection and discussion
- 8. Small group activities

Supplemental Data:

TOP Code:	220800: Sociology
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SAM Priority Code:	E: Non-Occupational
Distance Education:	Online; Offline
Funding Agency:	Y: Not Applicable(funds not used)
Program Status:	1: Program Applicable
Noncredit Category:	Y: Not Applicable, Credit Course
Special Class Status:	N: Course is not a special class
Basic Skills Status:	N: Course is not a basic skills course
Prior to College Level:	Y: Not applicable
Cooperative Work Experience:	N: Is not part of a cooperative work experience education program

Eligible for Credit by Exam:	E: Credit By Exam
Eligible for Pass/No Pass:	C: Pass/No Pass
Taft College General Education:	CSD: CSU Area D IG4J: IGETC Area 4J LSBS: Local GE Social/Behavioral Sci
Discipline	Sociology