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

Advisory: Eligibility for English 1500 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:

[*Social Problems: Continuity and Change*. University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing, 2016.](#)
(ZTC)

Henslin, James M. *Social Problems: A Down-To-Earth Approach*, 11th ed., Allyn & Bacon, 2013.

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 Level Learning Outcomes

1. Explain social problems as social constructions
2. Explain social problems as a product of both structure and agency
3. Analyze social problems through intersectional contexts

Local General Education Student Learning Outcomes

1. Analyze 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.
2. Apply research methodologies employed in social scientific inquiry.
3. Demonstrate the principles, concepts, models of value systems, and ethics framework 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 addressing, resolving, and at times, contributing to ~~creating~~ social problems
- C. Consequences of social problems
 - a. Institutional Inequality
 - i. Racial
 - ii. Economic
 - iii. Gender
 - iv. Environmental
 - v. Educational

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

- A. Different theoretical perspectives on inequality
 - Structural Functionalism
 - Conflict
 - Symbolic Interactionism (Social Psychology)
- B. The role of the media in defining social problems
- C. The role of politics in defining social problems

Unit III Interpretational 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. Qualitative Literacy – understanding the social construction of narratives and their use in public discourse in relation to social problems
- C. ~~Statistical~~ Quantitative literacy – understanding the social construction of statistics and their

use in public discourse in relation to 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
 - d. Project Based Learning

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 APA 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
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