

Social Problems

Course Outcome Summary FALL 2008

Course Information

Organization	Mercer County Community College
Developers	Gianna Durso-Finley
Course Number	SOC 102
Instructional Level	100 Level
Division	Liberal Arts
Department	Social Science
Potential Hours of Instruction	3
Total Credits	3

Description

This course is designed to give the student an introduction to sociological theory and methods and a background in the nature, causes of, and possible solutions to major social problems facing large, complex societies. Among the possible topics discussed are poverty and inequality, drug addiction, crime, health care, racial and minority group issues, and environmental concerns.

Types of Instruction

Instruction Type	Contact Hours	Credits
Lecture	3	3
Internet Activities		

Textbooks

Diana M. Kendall. *Social Problems: Custom text for MCCC*. Allyn and Bacon. 2004. **Edition:** 2nd. **Pages:** 410+. **ISBN:** 0-536-29742-8. **Source:** College Bookstore or any vendor.

And other Readings as assigned.

Learner Supplies

MySockKit - online Social Problems lab. **Manufacturer:** Allyn and Bacon. **Price:** Free with text. **Source:** Internet.

Prerequisites

Students must be academically eligible for college level work

Exit Learning Outcomes

General Education Outcomes

- A. Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving: Students will use critical thinking and problem solving skills in analyzing information.
- B. Ethical Decision-Making: Students will recognize, analyze and assess ethical issues and situations.
- C. Information Literacy: Students will recognize when information is needed and have the knowledge and skills to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information for college level work.
- D. Collaboration and Cooperation: Students will develop the interpersonal skills required for effective performance in group situations.
- E. Intra-Cultural and Inter-Cultural Responsibility: Students will demonstrate an awareness of the responsibilities of intelligent citizenship in a diverse and pluralistic society, and will demonstrate cultural, global, and environmental awareness.
- F. Written and Oral Communication in English: Students will communicate effectively in speech and writing, and demonstrate proficiency in reading. *USE CORE COMPETENCY A.
- G. Social Science: Students will critically evaluate behavioral or societal issues using theories and concepts from a social science.
- H. Diversity and Global Perspective: Students will analyze the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples.

Competencies

1. **Appreciate the "journey" that a social condition makes - through perceived harm - in order to become identified as a social problem, emphasizing the role of the social construction of reality**

General Education Outcomes

Social Science: Students will critically evaluate behavioral or societal issues using theories and concepts from a social science.

You will demonstrate your competence:

- o by developing a flowchart of the process of moving from social condition to social problems

Your performance will be successful when:

- o flowchart depicts all of the items in the process
- o flowchart shows the relationship of one step to another
- o flowchart shows a clear understanding of the topic

Learning Objectives

- a. Examine the ways in which sociologists study and understand social problems
- b. Appreciate the value of sociology versus common sense
- c. Acquaint self with the concept of the sociological imagination

2. Identify the magnitude and impact of major social problems in the US and global context

General Education Outcomes

Collaboration and Cooperation: Students will develop the interpersonal skills required for effective performance in group situations.

Intra-Cultural and Inter-Cultural Responsibility: Students will demonstrate an awareness of the responsibilities of intelligent citizenship in a diverse and pluralistic society, and will demonstrate cultural, global, and environmental awareness.

Social Science: Students will critically evaluate behavioral or societal issues using theories and concepts from a social science.

Diversity and Global Perspective: Students will analyze the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples.

You will demonstrate your competence:

- o by participating in the class

Your performance will be successful when:

- o you enter into class discussions
- o you offer questions or comments during class
- o you offer questions or comments
- o you attend class regularly
- o you arrive for class on time
- o you listen attentively during class

Learning Objectives

- a. Describe social problems in the US and global context
- b. Describe the impact of social problems in sociological and personal terms

3. Describe the Sociological Imagination as it applies to social problems - the links between and the differences between private troubles and social problems

General Education Outcomes

Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving: Students will use critical thinking and problem solving skills in analyzing information.

Intra-Cultural and Inter-Cultural Responsibility: Students will demonstrate an awareness of the responsibilities of intelligent citizenship in a diverse and pluralistic society, and will demonstrate cultural, global, and environmental awareness.

Social Science: Students will critically evaluate behavioral or societal issues using theories and concepts from a social science.

You will demonstrate your competence:

- o by preparing a reflection paper on the sociological imagination

Your performance will be successful when:

- o reflection describes learning goals
- o reflection presents a realistic picture of the learner's skill prior to the learning experience
- o reflection accurately describes the learner's new skill level
- o reflection includes strategies for continued improvement

Learning Objectives

- a. Apply the sociological imagination to social problems to explore causes and effects
- b. Demonstrate your understanding of problems with blaming the victim
- c. Discuss ways in which your understanding of social problems may have changed in light of the sociological imagination

4. Apply the three sociological perspectives (conflict functional and symbolic) to understanding and developing possible solutions to social problems using the three analytic levels (micro, mezo and macro)

General Education Outcomes

Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving: Students will use critical thinking and problem solving skills in analyzing information.

Ethical Decision-Making: Students will recognize, analyze and assess ethical issues and situations.

Collaboration and Cooperation: Students will develop the interpersonal skills required for effective performance in group situations.

Intra-Cultural and Inter-Cultural Responsibility: Students will demonstrate an awareness of the responsibilities of intelligent citizenship in a diverse and pluralistic society, and will demonstrate cultural, global, and environmental awareness.

Social Science: Students will critically evaluate behavioral or societal issues using theories and concepts from a social science.

Diversity and Global Perspective: Students will analyze the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples.

You will demonstrate your competence:

- o by writing a problem/solution report about social problems

Your performance will be successful when:

- o report includes a definition of the problem
- o report sketches the history of the problem
- o report includes an analysis of the problem
- o report includes a description of viable solutions
- o report identifies the solution most likely to solve the problem
- o report includes an explanation of why the solution is the best
- o report is well organized
- o report evidences correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling

Learning Objectives

- a. Acquaint self with the three sociological perspectives - conflict, functionalism, and interactionism
- b. Apply the three perspectives to social problems
- c. Apply the three sociological perspectives to solving social problems
- d. Acquaint self with the three levels of analysis - macro, mezo and micro
- e. Apply the three analytic levels to solving social problems
- f. Assign sample solutions to the proper theoretical perspective and level

5. Investigate a social problem of relevance to the student

General Education Outcomes

Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving: Students will use critical thinking and problem solving skills in analyzing information.

Ethical Decision-Making: Students will recognize, analyze and assess ethical issues and situations.

Information Literacy: Students will recognize when information is needed and have the knowledge and skills to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information for college level work.

Collaboration and Cooperation: Students will develop the interpersonal skills required for effective performance in group situations.

Social Science: Students will critically evaluate behavioral or societal issues using theories and concepts from a social science.

You will demonstrate your competence:

- o by completing a research paper on social problem of your choice

Your performance will be successful when:

- o research paper topic is directly relevant to the project assigned and is approved by the instructor
- o research paper contains an introductory paragraph
- o research paper contains clearly written main points
- o each main point is supported with evidence
- o direct quotes are documented correctly
- o evidence is included in the Works Cited Page
- o Works Cited page is formatted correctly according to APA documentation style
- o research paper includes a conclusion
- o research paper evidences correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling

Learning Objectives

- a. Acquaint self with electronic resources available through MCCC library
- b. Investigate social problems of interest and select one for focus

6. Develop proposed solutions to the chosen social problem that reflect each of the three sociological perspectives and the three levels of sociological analysis

General Education Outcomes

Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving: Students will use critical thinking and problem solving skills in analyzing information.

Ethical Decision-Making: Students will recognize, analyze and assess ethical issues and situations.

Collaboration and Cooperation: Students will develop the interpersonal skills required for effective performance in group situations.

Intra-Cultural and Inter-Cultural Responsibility: Students will demonstrate an awareness of the responsibilities of intelligent citizenship in a diverse and pluralistic society, and will demonstrate cultural, global, and environmental awareness.

Social Science: Students will critically evaluate behavioral or societal issues using theories and concepts from a social science.

Written and Oral Communication in English: Students will communicate effectively in speech and writing, and demonstrate proficiency in reading. *USE CORE COMPETENCY A.

You will demonstrate your competence:

- o by writing a problem/solution report about a social problem of your choice

Your performance will be successful when:

- o research paper topic is directly relevant to the project assigned and is approved by the instructor
- o research paper contains an introductory paragraph
- o research paper contains clearly written main points
- o each main point is supported with evidence
- o direct quotes are documented correctly
- o evidence is included in the Works Cited Page
- o Works Cited page is formatted correctly according to APA documentation style
- o research paper includes a conclusion
- o research paper evidences correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling

Learning Objectives

- a. Apply the three perspectives to your chosen social problem
- b. Apply the three sociological perspectives to solving your chosen social problem
- c. Apply the three analytic levels to solving your chosen social problem

7. Evaluate their own understanding of social problems by operationalizing (as much as possible) a student-directed solution to a chosen social problem

General Education Outcomes

Social Science: Students will critically evaluate behavioral or societal issues using theories and concepts from a social science.

Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving: Students will use critical thinking and problem solving skills in analyzing information.

Information Literacy: Students will recognize when information is needed and have the knowledge and skills to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information for college level work.

You will demonstrate your competence:

- o by writing a problem/solution report about your topic

Your performance will be successful when:

- o report includes a definition of the problem
- o report sketches the history of the problem
- o report includes an analysis of the problem
- o report includes a description of viable solutions
- o report identifies the active solution most likely to solve the problem
- o report includes an explanation of why the solution is the best
- o report clearly defines the student role
- o report evidences correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling

Learning Objectives

- a. Appraise your growth as a student of social problems through reflection on your course materials and student-generated products
- b. Assess through a reflection paper
- c. Develop and operationalize (be specific) a plan to solve the social problem you have investigated

Schedule

Session	Target Competencies	Notes
Unit 1 - Understanding Social Problems Week 1	Appreciate the "journey" that a social condition makes - through perceived harm - in order to become identified as a social problem, emphasizing the role of the social construction of reality Identify the magnitude and impact of major social problems in society	Chapter 1
Week 2	Describe the Sociological Imagination as it applies to social problems - the links between and the differences between private troubles and social problems Apply the three sociological perspectives (conflict functional and symbolic) to social problems	Chapter 1
Unit 2 - Social Solutions Week 3	Apply the three sociological perspectives (conflict functional and symbolic) to understanding and developing possible solutions to social problems using the three analytic levels (micro, mezo and macro)	Chapter 18
Unit 3 - Social Problems in Inequality Week 4	Apply the three sociological perspectives (conflict functional and symbolic) to understanding and developing possible solutions to social problems using the three analytic levels (micro, mezo and macro) Evaluate their own understanding of social problems	Chapter 2 Exam 1
Week 5	Identify the magnitude and impact of major social problems in the US and global context Investigate a social problem of relevance to the student	Chapter 3
Week 6	Evaluate their own understanding of social problems by operationalizing (as much as possible) a student-directed solution to a chosen social problem	
Week 7	Identify the magnitude and impact of major social problems in the US and global context Apply the three sociological perspectives (conflict functional and symbolic) to understanding and developing possible solutions to social problems using the three analytic levels	Chapter 4
Week 8	Identify the magnitude and impact of major social problems in the US and global context Apply the three sociological perspectives (conflict functional and symbolic) to understanding and developing possible solutions to social problems using the three analytic levels	Chapter 6

Unit 4 - Social Problems in Institutions Week 9	Identify the magnitude and impact of major social problems in the US and global context Apply the three sociological perspectives (conflict functional and symbolic) to understanding and developing possible solutions to social problems using the three analytic levels	Chapter 9 Exam 2
Week 10	Investigate a social problem of relevance to the student	Library session
Week 11	Investigate a social problem of relevance to the student Evaluate their own understanding of social problems by operationalizing (as much as possible) a student-directed solution to a chosen social problem	Chapter 11
Week 12	Identify the magnitude and impact of major social problems in the US and global context Apply the three sociological perspectives (conflict functional and symbolic) to understanding and developing possible solutions to social problems using the three analytic levels	Chapter 13
Week 13	Identify the magnitude and impact of major social problems in the US and global context Apply the three sociological perspectives (conflict functional and symbolic) to understanding and developing possible solutions to social problems using the three analytic levels	Chapter 14
Week 14	Develop proposed solutions to the chosen social problem that reflect each of the three sociological perspectives and the three levels of sociological analysis Evaluate their own understanding of social problems by operationalizing (as much as possible) a student-directed solution to a chosen social problem	Chapter 18 Term Projects due
Week 15	Evaluate their own understanding of social problems by operationalizing (as much as possible) a student-directed solution to a chosen social problem	Exam