



El Camino College

COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD - Official

I. GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Subject and Number: Sociology 104
Descriptive Title: Social Problems

Course Disciplines: Sociology

Division: Behavioral and Social Sciences

Catalog Description: In this course students explore various social problems from a sociological perspective. Students apply sociological theories and concepts to examine social problems related to race, gender, sexuality, age, and social class. Problems experienced in our social institutions such as the family educational system, criminal justice system, healthcare, media, and environment are analyzed. Using a 'sociological imagination,' students explore potential solutions and strategies to address contemporary social problems at both micro and macro levels.

Conditions of Enrollment: Recommended Preparation

Sociology 101
AND

Eligibility for
English 1A

Course Length: Full Term Other (Specify number of weeks):
Hours Lecture: 3.00 hours per week TBA
Hours Laboratory: 0 hours per week TBA
Course Units: 3.00

Grading Method: Letter
Credit Status Associate Degree Credit

Transfer CSU: Effective Date: Prior to July 1992
Transfer UC: Effective Date: Prior to July 1992

General Education:

El Camino College: 2C – Social and Behavioral Sciences – General
Term: _____ Other: _____

CSU GE: D10 - Sociology and Criminology
Term: _____ Other: _____

II. OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES

A. COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (The course student learning outcomes are listed below, along with a representative assessment method for each. Student learning outcomes are not subject to review, revision or approval by the College Curriculum Committee)

- Sociological Theoretical Perspectives**
1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the purpose of theoretical perspectives and apply sociological perspectives such as functionalism, conflict theory, and interactionism to social problems.
- Sociological Concepts**
2. Students will define and demonstrate an understanding of sociological concepts, such as deviance, crime, racism, and globalization by applying them to social scenarios.
- Strategies for Assessing Social Problems**
3. Students will analyze causes, consequences, and solutions to social problems as they exist in contemporary society.

The above SLOs were the most recent available SLOs at the time of course review. For the most current SLO statements, visit the El Camino College SLO webpage at <http://www.elcamino.edu/academics/slo/>.

B. Course Student Learning Objectives (The major learning objective for students enrolled in this course are listed below, along with a representative assessment method for each)

1. Explain the term *sociological imagination* and discuss its relevance to the study of social problems.
Essay exams
2. Differentiate between objective and subjective elements of social problems.
Matching Items
3. Analyze how and why members of a society define a social condition as a social problem.
Term or other papers
4. Describe and assess the basic premises of the structural functionalist, conflict, and symbolic interactionist theoretical perspectives.
Essay exams
5. List the stages for conducting a research study and describe methods of data collection.
Completion
6. Select research methods based on their effectiveness for describing and evaluating a specific social problem.
Multiple Choice
7. Identify and assess social problems related to deviance, such as substance abuse and crime.
Reading reports
8. Identify and evaluate social problems related to inequality based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, and income.

Term or other papers

9. Identify and discuss social problems related to the social institutions of a society, such as the health care system, the family, the economy, and the education system.

Written homework

10. Identify and discuss social problems resulting from modernization such as urbanization, population growth, environmental issues, changes in science and technology, and international conflict.

Essay exams

11. Evaluate explanations given by the structural functionalist, conflict, and symbolic interactionist perspectives concerning causes and consequences of social problems related to deviance, inequality, social institutions, and modernization.

Multiple Choice

12. Assess strategies for addressing social problems related to deviance, inequality, social institutions, and modernization.

Reading reports

III. OUTLINE OF SUBJECT MATTER (Topics are detailed enough to enable a qualified instructor to determine the major areas that should be covered as well as ensure consistency from instructor to instructor and semester to semester.)

Lecture or Lab	Approximate Hours	Topic Number	Major Topic
Lecture	3	I	Introduction to Social Problems A. The Sociological Imagination B. Defining a Social Problem 1. Objective and Subjective Elements of Social Problems C. Theoretical Perspectives 1. Structural Functionalism 2. Conflict 3. Symbolic Interactionism D. Research Studies 1. Research Methods 2. Stages on Conducting a Research Study 3. Data Collection
Lecture	6	II	Social Problems Related to Deviance A. Substance Abuse 1. Types of Drugs 2. Incidence and Prevalence of Substance Abuse in the United States and Globally 3. Theoretical Perspectives 4. Societal Consequences of Substance Abuse 5. Strategies for Addressing Substance Abuse B. Crime 1. Types of Crime 2. Incidence and Prevalence of Crime in the United States and Globally 3. Theoretical Perspectives 4. Societal Consequences of Crime 5. Strategies for Addressing Crime
Lecture	15	III	Social Problems Related to Inequality A. Racial and Ethnic Inequality 1. Social Construction of Race 2. Prejudice and Discrimination Against Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the United States and Globally 3. Theoretical Perspectives

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Societal Consequences of Problems Related to Racial and Ethnic Inequality 5. Strategies for Addressing Prejudice, Discrimination and Racism B. Gender Inequality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gender Stratification in the United States and Globally 2. Structural and Cultural Sexism 3. Theoretical Perspectives 4. Societal Consequences of Problems Related to Gender Inequality 5. Strategies for Addressing Gender Inequality C. Sexual Orientation Inequality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. United States and Global Laws Pertaining to Homosexuality 2. Incidence and Prevalence of Sexual Orientation Identities 3. Biological and Social Explanations of Sexual Orientation 4. Heterosexism, Homophobia, and Biphobia 5. Theoretical Perspectives 6. Societal Consequences of Problems Related to Sexual Orientation 7. Strategies for Addressing Problems Related to Sexual Orientation D. Age Inequality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Problems Relating to Childhood, Adulthood, and Elderhood in the United States and Globally 2. Theoretical Perspectives 3. Societal Consequences of Problems Related to Age 4. Strategies for Addressing Problems Facing Youth and the Elderly E. Income Inequality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Definitions and Prevalence of Poverty in United States and Globally 2. Social Problems Related to Poverty 3. Theoretical Perspectives 4. Societal Consequences of Poverty 5. Strategies for Addressing Poverty
Lecture	15	IV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Problems Related to Social Institutions A. Health Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social Problems Related to Health Care in the United States and Globally 2. Theoretical Perspectives 3. Societal Consequences of Problems Related to Health Care 4. Strategies for Addressing Problems of Health Care B. The Family <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. United States and Global Family Problems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Violence b) Abuse c) Divorce 2. Theoretical Perspectives 3. Societal Consequences of Family Problems 4. Strategies for Addressing Family Problems C. The Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Economic Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Socialism b) Capitalism 2. Social Problems Related to the Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Unemployment b) Underemployment c) Dissatisfaction

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Theoretical Perspectives 4. Societal Consequences of Problems Related to the Economy 5. Strategies for Addressing Problems of the Economy <p>D. Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Problems in United States and Global Educational Systems 2. Theoretical Perspectives 3. Societal Consequences of Problems Related to Education 4. Strategies for Addressing Problems in Education
Lecture	15	V	<p>Social Problems Related to Modernization</p> <p>A. Urbanization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urbanization in the United States and Globally 2. Cities and Social Problems 3. Theoretical Perspectives 4. Societal Consequences of Problems Related to Urbanization 5. Strategies for Addressing Urban Problems <p>B. Population</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Population Growth in United States and Globally 2. Social Problems Related to Population Growth 3. Theoretical Perspectives 4. Societal Consequences of Problems Related to Population Growth 5. Strategies for Addressing Problems Related to Population Growth <p>C. Environmental Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social Problems Related to the Environment 2. Theoretical Perspectives 3. Societal Consequences of Problems Related to the Environment 4. Strategies for Addressing Problems Related to the Environment <p>D. Science and Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Technological Revolution 2. Technology and the Transformation of Society 3. Theoretical Perspectives 4. Societal Consequences of Changes in Science and Technology 5. Strategies for Addressing Problems Related to Science and Technology <p>E. International Conflict</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Causes of War 2. Social Problems Associated with War and Militarism 3. Terrorism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Transnational b. Domestic 4. Theoretical Perspectives 5. Societal Consequences of International Conflict 6. Strategies for Addressing International Conflict
Total Lecture Hours	54		
Total Laboratory Hours	0		
Total Hours	54		

IV. PRIMARY METHOD OF EVALUATION AND SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS

A. PRIMARY METHOD OF EVALUATION:

Substantial writing assignments

B. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENT USING PRIMARY METHOD OF EVALUATION:

After reading the assigned article, *Boys on a Tightrope* (LA Times, Jan 2017), address the following questions in a two- to three-page essay:

1. What is a stereotype? Is this stereotype harmful to the individuals in this article? Explain why or why not.
2. Is the example of stereotyping in this article individual or institutional discrimination? Explain your answer.
3. What does the title *Growing Up On a Tightrope* mean?
Be prepared to present your answers to the class, and the reasoning behind your answers.

C. COLLEGE-LEVEL CRITICAL THINKING ASSIGNMENTS:

1. THE AIDS EPIDEMIC

In a three- to four-page essay, examine the current AIDS epidemic from each of the theoretical perspectives discussed in class: structural functionalism, conflict, and symbolic interactionism. Analyze and assess how each of these theoretical perspectives could be used to explain the causes and consequences of this particular social problem. Be sure to cite your sources in your essay and in a works cited page, using the correct MLA or APA format.

2. DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE AMONG STUDENTS

Analyze the social problem of alcohol and other drugs on college campuses. Utilize current research by consulting at least three outside sources in addition to the textbook. In a three- to five-page research paper answer the following questions:

1. Are more college students abusing alcohol and other drugs today than in the past? Cite statistics to substantiate your answer.
2. What factors influence abuse among college students?
3. What are the consequences of alcohol/drug abuse for college students?
4. Evaluate what is currently being done to address this social problem. Are

these programs/policies successful at reducing the rate of alcohol/drug abuse among college students?

5. Formulate your own strategies to address this social problem. Why do you think these strategies would be effective?

Be sure to cite your sources in your essay and in a works cited page, using the correct MLA or APA format.

D. OTHER TYPICAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION METHODS:

Essay exams

Reading reports

Written homework

Term or other papers

Multiple Choice

Completion

Matching Items

True/False

V. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Discussion

Lecture

Multimedia presentations

Note: In compliance with Board Policies 1600 and 3410, Title 5 California Code of Regulations, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Sections 504 and 508 of the Americans with Disabilities Act, instruction delivery shall provide access, full inclusion, and effective communication for students with disabilities.

VI. WORK OUTSIDE OF CLASS

Study

Answer questions

Required reading

Written work

Estimated Independent Study Hours per Week: 6

VII. TEXTS AND MATERIALS

A. UP-TO-DATE REPRESENTATIVE TEXTBOOKS

Anna Leon-Guerrero. Social Problems: Community, Policy, and Social Action. 5th ed.

Sage Publications, 2016.
 A. Javier Trevino. Investigating Social Problems. SAGE Publications, Inc., 2015.

- B. ALTERNATIVE TEXTBOOKS
- C. REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS
- D. OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS

VIII. CONDITIONS OF ENROLLMENT

A. Requisites (Course and Non-Course Prerequisites and Corequisites)

Requisites	Category and Justification
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B. Requisite Skills

Requisite Skills

C. Recommended Preparations (Course and Non-Course)

Recommended Preparation	Category and Justification
Course Recommended Preparation AND Sociology-101	
Course Recommended Preparation English-1A	

D. Recommended Skills

Recommended Skills
<p>Students who have successfully completed Sociology 101 prior to taking other sociology courses will have a strong foundation in sociological concepts and theoretical perspectives, ensuring a greater level of student success in other sociology courses. SOCI 101 - Identify and describe key theoretical perspectives in sociology, including functionalism, conflict, and interactionism. Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of each perspective relative to a variety of social situational circumstances.</p> <p>SOCI 101 - Describe major social institutions and evaluate their impact on individuals and groups in American society. Discuss historical and contemporary changes in these institutions.</p>
<p>A student needs college-level reading skills to understand, analyze, and interpret sociological concepts and theoretical perspectives discussed in assigned readings. In addition, students will need to demonstrate college-level research and writing skills in a variety of written assignments. ENGL A - Read and apply critical thinking skills to college-level expository prose for the purposes of writing and discussion.</p> <p>ENGL 84 - Select and employ reading strategies to interpret the content of a college-level textbook, with special focus on constructing a thesis statement and providing valid support.</p> <p>ENGL A - Apply appropriate strategies in the writing process including prewriting, composing, revising, and editing techniques.</p> <p>ENGL 84 - Identify an implied main idea (thesis), and support with major and minor details, from a longer text or novel.</p>

E. Enrollment Limitations

Enrollment Limitations and Category	Enrollment Limitations Impact
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Course created by Sociology Department on 11/01/1974.

BOARD APPROVAL DATE:

LAST BOARD APPROVAL DATE: 12/18/2017

Last Reviewed and/or Revised by Kassia Wosick on 10/16/2017

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