

Sociology 104

Social Problems

3 units; 3 hours lecture

Recommended Preparation: Sociology 101 AND eligibility for English 1A

Degree applicable Transfer CSU, UC

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.

Course Objectives:

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

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

1. Sociological Theoretical Perspectives

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.

2. Sociological Concepts

Students will define and demonstrate an understanding of sociological concepts, such as deviance, crime, racism, and globalization by applying them to social scenarios.

ADA Statement:

El Camino College is committed to providing educational accommodations for students with disabilities upon the timely request by the student to the instructor. A student with a disability, who would like to request an academic accommodation, is responsible for identifying herself/himself to the instructor and to the Special Resource Center. To make arrangements for academic accommodations, contact the Special Resource Center.

Student Code of Conduct

<https://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/2019-policies/AP%205500%20Student%20Conduct%20.pdf>

Student Rights and Grievances Procedure 5530

<https://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/boarddocs/AP%205530%20STUDENT%20%20RIGHTS%20AND%20GRIEVANCES.pdf>