

SOC-2010: SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: SOC-2010 : Social Problems

Board of Trustees:

December 2021

Academic Term:

Fall 2022

Subject Code

SOC - Sociology

Course Number:

2010

Title:

Social Problems

Catalog Description:

Exposure to numerous social problems prevalent in society by emphasizing the process through which social problems are identified, legitimized, and addressed across cultural contexts and time. Emphasis is given to the impact of social structures on creating and perpetuating social problems. Applying major theoretical perspectives and methodological frameworks to evaluate, analyze, and propose solutions to social problems.

Credit Hour(s):

3

Lecture Hour(s):

3

Lab Hour(s):

0

Other Hour(s):

0

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

ENG-0995 Applied College Literacies, or appropriate score on English Placement Test; or departmental approval.

Note: ENG-0990 Language Fundamentals II taken prior to Fall 2021 will also meet prerequisite requirements.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

Apply major sociological theories and concepts to analyze the scope of social problems.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Analyze micro, macro, and mid-level social issues.
2. Explain ways in which social problems are identified, legitimized, and addressed across cultural contexts and time.
3. Describe the link between personal problems and public issues.
4. Compare and contrast specific social problems in cross-cultural context.
5. Explain how major sociological theoretical perspectives and methodological frameworks are used to evaluate and analyze social problems and develop proposals for addressing social problems.

6. Compare both qualitative and quantitative sociological research methods used to examine the scope of social problems.
7. Describe the ethical issues that may arise when studying various social problems.

Course Outcome(s):

Evaluate local, state, national and cross-cultural solutions to social problems in the United States.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Discuss limitations of current and historical methods of social control and their impact on social problems.
2. Discuss the role of diversity in the identification and approach to social problems.
3. Describe the limitations of research and data in the field.
4. Analyze the social, ethical, and moral issues related to social problems, social control, and social engineering.
5. Discuss the manifest and latent consequences of various attempts to resolve specific social problems in society.
6. Identify the effects of social structure and culture on social policy and the role of social policy in resolving and/or exacerbating social problems.
7. Describe the impact of social structure in generating social problems, including structures of inequality, the political system, and the economy.
8. Analyze the influence of social movements and social policies on maintaining and/or eliminating social problems.

Methods of Evaluation:

Methods of evaluation may include any of the following:

1. Small and large group activities
2. Group discussions
3. Quizzes and examinations
4. Journal and/or periodical critiques
5. Personal journals and portfolios
6. Participant observation reports
7. Critical thinking exercises, written and oral
8. Research activities
9. Analysis of mass media
10. Cooperative learning activities
11. Service learning

Course Content Outline:

1. Sociology and the study of social problems
 - a. Defining social problems
 - b. History of social problems and their study
 - c. Interdisciplinary approaches to studying social problems
2. Theoretical explanations of social problems
 - a. Structural-functionalism
 - b. Conflict theory
 - c. Symbolic interactionism
 - d. Cross-cultural perspectives
3. Social scientific research methods to study social problems
 - a. The research process
 - b. Limitations of research and data in the field
4. Mechanisms of social control and their efficacy
 - a. Government regulation
 - b. Government protection
 - c. Social order
 - d. Social control
 - e. Influence of media
5. Values, social policies, programs, and dilemmas

- a. Influence of cultural values on defining and responding to social problems
- b. Social activism and social movements
- c. Cross-cultural solutions
- 6. Examination of specific social problems, including their scope, definitions, and potential solutions
 - a. Poverty and affluence
 - b. Racial, ethnic and immigration inequality
 - c. Gender and sexual orientation inequality
 - d. Age inequality
 - e. Physical, mental and emotional health inequalities
 - f. Environmental social problems
 - g. Issues of crime and criminal justice
 - h. Social problems related to structures such as the education system, religion, family, politics, and media

Resources

Diana Kendall. (2019) *Social Problems in a Diverse Society*, Boston: Pearson.

Karen Seccombe and William Kornblum. (2020) *Social Problems*, Pearson.

Benjamin Drury. (2022) *Sage Readings for Social Problems*, Sage.

A. Javier Trevino. (2021) *Investigating Social Problems*, Sage.

Ira Silver. (2020) *Seeing Social Problems: The Hidden Stories Behind Contemporary Issues*, Sage.

Joel Best. (2020) *Social Problems*, W.W. Norton.

Resources Other

1. *Social Problems*. Society for the Study of Social Problems.
2. *Social Forces*. Chapel Hill: Univ. of North Carolina Press
3. *American Sociological Review*. Washington, DC: American Sociological Association
4. *American Journal of Sociology*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press
5. *Contexts*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press
6. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. Washington, DC: American Sociological Association
7. The U.S. Census Bureau website
8. The American Sociological Association website
9. The Society for the Study of Social Problems website
10. Social sciences electronic databases
11. Supplemental Blackboard website

Instructional Services

OAN Number:

Ohio Transfer 36 TMSBS and Transfer Assurance Guide OSS025

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Key: 4047