SOC-201H: HONORS SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: SOC-201H : Honors Social Problems

Board of Trustees:
January 2022

Academic Term:
Fall 2022

Subject Code
SOC - Sociology

Course Number:
201H

Title:
Honors Social Problems

Catalog Description:
In-depth sociological analysis of contemporary social problems in the United States, cross-cultural solutions and their implications for individuals, social institutions and society. Emphasis on application of sociological imagination, sociological theories and multiple research methods to understand social forces that promote social inequalities and their consequences, based on race/ethnicity, gender, social class and other factors. Course culminates in student's clarification and appraisal of personal values, and formulation of personal strategy to influence social policy and affect change regarding a specific social problem examined in the course.

Credit Hour(s):
3

Lecture Hour(s):
3

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite
Eligibility for ENG-101H Honors College Composition I.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):
Apply major sociological theories and concepts to analyze the scope, antecedents and consequences 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 the historical and contemporary forms and functions of social problems.
2. Contrast the advantages and limitations of interdisciplinary approaches to the study of social problems and issues.
3. Analyze and appraise C. Wright Mills' sociological imagination as a theoretical means to link personal problems or troubles and public issues in a socio-cultural context.
4. Analyze and appraise the micro, macro, and global-level typology as a means to differentiate social problems and issues.
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. Describe the impact of technology and post-industrial society on the study of 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.

Cultural Sensitivity: Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of cultures within and beyond the United States.

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. Discuss manifest and latent consequences of various efforts of local, state and national governments and groups to resolve specific social problems.
4. Analyze the limitations of existing research and data in the field.
5. Analyze the social, ethical, and moral issues related to social problems, social control, and social engineering.
6. Analyze and appraise solutions to social problems used by comparable post-industrialized societies.
7. Identify the effects of social structure and culture on social policy and the role of social policy in resolving and/or exacerbating social problems.
8. Describe the impact of social structure in generating social problems, including structures of inequality, the political system, and the economy.
9. Analyze the influence of social movements and social policies on maintaining and/or eliminating social problems.

Course Outcome(s):

Analyze and appraise personal values and advocate for social policy to alleviate specific 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.

Civic Responsibility: Analyze the results of actions and inactions with the likely effects on the larger local and/or global communities.

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):

1. Write critical analysis of at least one social problem including micro and macro-level efforts to resolve the problem.
2. Critique own personal values relative to a specific social problem and interrelated social problems; analyze personal efforts to resolve the problem.
3. Formulate a plan that reflects own personal values to publicly advocate specific action to resolve a specific social problem.

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Group discussions
2. Written critiques of academic journal articles
3. Participant observation reports
4. Research activities
5. Service-Learning

Course Content Outline:

1. Sociology and the study of social problems
    a. The sociological imagination, private troubles and public issues
    b. Defining social problems
    c. History of social problems and their study
    d. Interdisciplinary approaches to studying social problems
    e. Micro, macro and global-level social problems
2. Theoretical explanations of social problems and their resolution
    a. Structural-functionalism
    b. Conflict theory
    c. Symbolic interactionism
    d. Theoretical variants
    e. Cross-cultural perspective
3. Social scientific research methods to study social problems

   a. The research process
   b. Surveys
   c. Participant observation
   d. Experiments
   e. Case studies
4. Problems of inequality
   a. Poverty and affluence
   b. Racial, ethnic and immigration inequality
   c. Gender, sexual orientation and gender identity inequality
   d. Age inequality
   e. Physical, mental and emotional health inequalities
5. Problems of social institutions
   a. Changing families
   b. Crises in education
   c. Economy and work changes in structure
   d. Government regulation, protection, social order and social control
   e. Health care delivery
6. Behavioral social problems
   a. Crime, violence, delinquency and social justice issues
   b. Alcohol and substance abuse
   c. Sexual behavior and sex trade issues
7. Problems of the environment and population growth
   a. Urbanization and related housing issues
   b. Population changes
   c. Climatic and ecosystem changes
   d. Hunger and starvation
   e. Pollution and resource depletion
   f. Technological changes
   g. Critical demography
   h. Environmental justice
8. Values, social policies, programs, and dilemmas
   a. Cultural values influence on definition and responses to social problems
   b. Social activism and social movements
   c. Cross-cultural solutions
9. Future of social problems and their study

Resources

Mooney, Linda A. and David Knox. (2017) *Understanding Social Problems*, Cengage.

Leon-Guerrero, Anna. (2018) *Social Problems: Community, Policy, and Social Action*, Sage.

Drury, Benjamin. (2021) *SAGE Readings for Social Problems*, Sage.

Chirico, JoAnn. (2018) *Global Problems, Global Solutions*, Sage.

Best, Joel. (2021) *Social Problems*, W. W. Norton.

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

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 Assocation
7. The U.S. Census Burearu 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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