

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

SOCIOLOGY 130 – CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL PROBLEMS

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

Identification and analysis of contemporary social problems including the role of power and ideology in the definition of social problems, their causes and consequences, evaluations of proposed solutions, and methods of intervention. Additional topics will vary.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) The social construction and consequences of social problems.
- 2) The role of power and ideology in the definition of social problems.
- 3) The causes of social problems.
- 4) Evaluation and consideration of proposed solutions to social problems.
- 5) Consideration of methods of research and analysis.
- 6) Additional topics may vary.

Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate understanding of major social problems concerning the U.S.
- 2) Place local, regional, and national social problems in global context.
- 3) Identify, and distinguish between, causes and consequences of social problems.
- 4) Analyze social problems using sociological approaches and concepts.
- 5) Analyze and interpret qualitative and quantitative information about social problems.
- 6) Identify and evaluate policies that address social problems and assess the policies' impact on society.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Quizzes and exams that measure students' ability to recognize, describe, explain and provide examples of social problems and their roles in causing and resolving social conflict.
- 2) Written analysis of controversial issues in which students are required to analyze, interpret and weigh the validity of causes of social discord.
- 3) Group or individual projects or research papers that require students to solve practical real-world social issues using classroom and textbook information.
- 4) Interactive group activities in which students analyze, discuss and draw conclusions about contemporary social issues and concerns.
- 5) Field-based exercises requiring students to report how scientific research methodology is applied to contemporary sociological studies.

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture and discussion
- 2) Group activities
- 3) Multimedia presentations

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Reading assignments
- 2) Writing assignments
- 3) Field-based exercises

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative examples):
 - a. Eitzen, Zinn & Smith. *Social Problems*. 13th edition. Pearson, 2014.
 - b. Macionis, John. *Social Problems*. 6th edition. Pearson, 2015,
 - c. Best, Joel. *Social problems*. 3rd edition. Norton, 2016.
- 2) Supplemental: None

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Apply sociological theoretical perspectives to national and international social problems.
- 2) Employ the tools of social scientific research when explaining social problems.
- 3) Evaluate possible solutions to selected social problems in American society and the world.