

SOC 251 – SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND SOCIAL WELFARE STRATEGIES

SYLLABUS

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COURSE DELIVERY:

Print-Based Correspondence Course

CREDIT HOURS:

Three Semester Hours

PREREQUISITES:

SOC 201: The Sociological Imagination and LS 225: Research Skills for the Behavioral Sciences

COURSE MATERIALS:

Required Textbook:

Coleman, James and Harold Kerbo (9th Edition: 2006). *Social Problems* Pearson. ISBN: 0-13-154053-X

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This course covers information about Social Problems in the United States. It gives information about, and critiques the content of, important social issues and the problems that have arisen in our country. This course will examine the major issues in the political and economic systems in the U.S. that have society-wide impacts. Further, the course will take a look at the issues of inequality and injustice that have challenged basic American values for decades. And, the course considers how well the various American institutions have worked.

From this the reader will have gained more complete information and a better understanding of what our social problems are. The student will learn what corruption, distortions and biases are in play that make it possible for one power group to take advantage at the expense of another group. Critical thinking will be advanced on both sides of the issues so that the student can form his/her own opinion about the appropriate plans, supports and actions to be taken to resolve conflicts about social problems.

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The course teaches about seventeen social problems. They help bridge the gap between principles and theories and the real world of social problems. The material is covered in a concise and logical way so that the student is able to gain a coherent understanding of our social problems.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The student will:

- Discuss the nature and severity of selected social problems facing society using a sociological perspective.
- Identify the multiple causes and consequences of social problems.
- Critically evaluate the effectiveness of various social welfare strategies to alleviate the causes and consequences of social problems.
- Develop effective writing skills.
- Learn what our social problems are: what the various social movements have been, what the foundations of sociological approaches to social problems are, and how to use good critical thinking regarding social problems.
- Examine the distribution of wealth, diplomacy, and the degree of influence American workers have on politics and the economy.
- Know how inequalities affect social structure with an emphasis on wealth, racial/ethnic/gender inequality and the vulnerability of the ill and disabled.
- Identify the dynamics of conformity and defiance with regards to sexual behavior, drug use, crime and violence.
- Critically evaluate the problems faced by our society with regard to the problems of a changing world, such as urbanization, population, the environment, the global divide, and terrorism.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This course has a total of 300 points. There are two 100 point exams and one 100 point written paper assignment for this course. The paper assignment is to write a double spaced 10 - 15 page written paper that is based on the text and your research of professional literature. The topic is to come from one of the eighteen topics covered by the text in its eighteen chapters. The two exams are objective exams that have 45 matching definitions; 15 true/false; and 40 multiple choice items. Exam One covers chapters 1 – 10 of the text. Exam Two covers chapters 11-18 of the text. The proctored exams are closed book and must be completed within the two-hour time limit.

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GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:

In alignment with ASC academic policies, no D may apply to a major or minor field.

Grade Distribution:

| | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Written paper | 100 points each |
| 2 Exams | <u>100 points each</u> |
| Total Points | 300 points |

Scale:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 90-100% | A |
| 80-89% | B |
| 70-79% | C |
| 60-69% | D |
| 59% and below | F |

ADA STATEMENT:

Students who need special accommodation to complete this class should contact the instructor and the Office of Student Affairs, 719.587.7221 as soon as possible.