

# Course Syllabus

**Department:** Social Science

**Date:** December 2012

**I. Course Prefix and Number:** SOC 200

**Course Name:** Social Problems

**Credit Hours and Contact Hours:** 3 credit hours and 3 contact hours

**Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites**

A sociological examination of the causes, consequences and extent of persisting social problems. Special attention will be given to an examination of our economic and political structure along with an examination of various forms of social inequality. Social and political policy considerations will also be studied as they bear upon possible solutions to social problems under study. Prerequisite: SOC 100 or Permission of Instructor.

**Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum including SUNY Gen Ed designation if applicable:**

Course is a social science general elective and is a 200 level course option in the Liberal Arts A. A. degree sociology advisement area. In addition, this course is required in the Human Services A.S. degree and in the Chemical Dependency Counseling A.A.S. degree.

**II. Course Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students will:

- Identify social problems in American society.
- Describe the extent, causes and consequences of persisting social problems.
- Apply core sociological concepts in the analysis of social problems.
- Evaluate social and political policy alternatives.
- Recognize how values and priorities influence how conditions in society come to be defined as social problems.
- Recognize larger global issues that impact persisting social problems.
- Assess how large scale social problems impact our local communities and demonstrate a knowledge of approaches that can be used at a local level to find solutions to various social problems.

**College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> writing           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> computer literacy     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> oral communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> ethics/values                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> reading           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> citizenship           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mathematics                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> global concerns       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> critical thinking | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> information resources |

**III. Assessment Measures (Summarize how the college and student learning outcomes will be assessed):** *For each identified outcome checked, please provide the specific assessment measure.*

List identified College Learning Outcomes(s)	Specific assessment measure(s)
Writing, Computer Literacy and Information Resources	Students will complete a research paper with opportunities for drafting and revision. Students will use appropriate computer applications and identify, locate, evaluate, use and share information in the course of completing their research papers.
Course Content Based Learning Outcomes	Closed book, in-class quizzes and examinations
Critical Thinking	Embedded multiple choice and/or essay questions in quizzes and examinations
Citizenship	Embedded multiple choice and/or essay questions in quizzes and examinations and/or reaction/summary essays on selected articles
Global Concerns	Embedded multiple choice and/or essay questions in quizzes and examinations
Reading	Embedded multiple choice and/or essay questions in quizzes and examinations

#### **IV. Instructional Materials and Methods**

##### **Types of Course Materials:**

Required textbooks and ancillaries assigned (handouts, podcasts, readers, etc.)

##### **Methods of Instruction**

May include: Lecture, discussion, small group collaborative learning activities, videos/podcasts/lecture capture, active learning, research workshops and online activities.

#### **V. General Outline of Topics Covered:**

**Defining social problems, historical perspectives, public perceptions**

**Economic structure and social problems**

**Political structure and social problems**

**Social inequality in the U.S. and global stratification**

**Social and political policy**

**Particular social problems which may include –**

**War and militarism**

**The environment and environmental sustainability**

**The workplace**

**Family problems**

**Crime**

**Substance abuse**

**Education**

**Healthcare**

\*Note that Cross Cultural and Sustainability concerns are embedded throughout course.