



School of Arts & Science  
SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT

SOC 162-001  
Social Problems  
2007W

## SOCIOLOGY 162 - SOCIAL PROBLEMS

### CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

A critical discussion of the nature of social problems in modern society. Issues at the regional, national and global levels will be analyzed, as chosen by the instructor. Various theoretical approaches will be considered and alternative solutions addressing these issues will be presented.

### 1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Dr. Josephine MacIntosh		
(b)	Office Hours:	Tues 11:30-12:30pm; Tues & Thurs 4:00pm by appt		
(c)	Location:	Paul 233		
(d)	Phone:	370-3370	Alternative Phone:	721-7577
(e)	Email:	<a href="mailto:jmm@uvic.ca">jmm@uvic.ca</a> (see note on page 4 RE: e-mail protocol)		
(f)	Website:	<a href="http://web.uvic.ca/~jmm/">http://web.uvic.ca/~jmm/</a>		

### 2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Critically assess the major theoretical perspectives on social problems.
2. Apply various sociological theories to the analysis of contemporary social problems, to see patterns and processes rather than isolated facts, and to interpret events in the broader framework of societal structure.
3. Demonstrate an ability to think critically and to communicate ideas effectively in writing.

### 3. Required Materials

(a)	Texts	Dianna Kendall, Vicki Nygaard and Edward Thompson, <i>Social Problems in a Diverse Society</i> . 2004. Pearson Education Canada. ISBN: 0-205-36518-3
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#### 4. Course Content and Schedule

(Can include: class hours, lab hours, out of class requirements and/or dates for quizzes, exams, lectures, labs, seminars, practicums, etc.)

##### Class Time/Place:

Tu 2:30PM - 03:50PM, Young, Room 227

Th 2:30PM - 03:50PM, Fisher, Room 200

### **REVISED COURSE OUTLINE**

WEEK		TOPIC	Required Reading <sup>1, 2</sup>
Jan 9	T	Intro to course	Ch 1
Jan 11	Th	Intro to Social Problems	
Jan 16	T	Sociological Imagination, Critical Thinking	Ch 1
Jan 18	Th	Social Research Methods	
Jan 23	T	Wealth & Poverty	Ch 2
Jan 25	Th	Wealth & Poverty	
Jan 30	T	Race & Ethnicity	Ch 3
Feb 1	Th	Race & Ethnicity	
<b>Feb 6</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>Exam 1 (20%)</b>	<b>Ch 1 – 3</b>
<b>Feb 8</b>	<b>Th</b>	<b>Reading break</b>	
Feb 13	T	Gender	Ch 4
Feb 15	Th	Gender	
Feb 20	T	Age	<del>Ch 5</del>
Feb 22	Th	Sexual Orientation	
Feb 27	T	Sexual Orientation	Ch 6
Mar 1	Th	Sex Industry	Ch 7
Mar 6	T	Sex Industry	Ch 7
Mar 8	Th	Drugs	Ch 8
<b>Mar 13</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>Exam 2 (20%) plus Research Paper DUE (30%)</b>	<b>Ch 4,(no 5),6,7,8</b>
<b>Mar 15</b>	<b>Th</b>	<b>Research Presentations BEGIN (10%)</b>	
Mar 20	T	Crime + presentations	Ch 9
Mar 22	Th	Health + presentations	Ch 10
Mar 27	T	Global Issues + presentations	Ch 13
Mar 29	Th	Media + presentations	Ch 14
Apr 3	T	Resolutions? + presentations	Ch 18
Apr 5	Th	Resolutions? + presentations	
Apr 6	T	Review + final presentations	
Apr 13	Th	Review + final presentations	
<b>Apr ?</b>		<b>FINAL EXAM (20%)</b>	<b>Ch 9,10,13,14,18</b>

<sup>1</sup> Readings are to be completed BEFORE class.

<sup>2</sup> Additional readings maybe assigned at the discretion of the instructor

## 5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

(Should be linked directly to learning outcomes.)

<b>REVISED EVALUATION SCHEDULE (28/2/07)</b>			<b>Value</b>	<b>Covers</b>
Feb 6	T	Exam 1	20%	Ch 1 – 3
Mar 13	T	Research Paper DUE	30%	Social issue of choice
Mar 13	T	Exam 2	20%	Ch 4,(no 5),6,7,8,9
Beginning Mar 15	Th	Presentations	10%	Your research topic
Apr ?		Final Exam	20%	Ch 10,13,14,18

## 6. Grading System

(No changes are to be made to this section, unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through EDCO for approval.)

### Standard Grading System (GPA)

<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Grade Point Equivalency</b>
95-100	A+		9
90-94	A		8
85-89	A-		7
80-84	B+		6
75-79	B		5
70-74	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D		1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

### Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca) or information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

<b>Temporary Grade</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>I</b>	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
<b>IP</b>	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that are designed to have an anticipated enrollment that extends beyond one term. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course.
<b>CW</b>	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca) for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

## 7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

### LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services or the College web site at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca).

### STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AS APPROPRIATE OR AS REQUIRED

#### **\*\*\* E-MAIL PROTOCOL \*\*\***

*BEFORE e-mailing check this syllabus, WebCT, the textbook &/or the college regulations for the answers to your questions. Keep your messages short and concise, and DO NOT ask me to explain assignment requirements over e-mail... I do that in class... so be there! If you have questions specific to your assignment, please see me during office hours, after class or by appointment. If you do e-mail...*

#### **ALWAYS put SOC 162 in the SUBJECT line**

*Otherwise, your e-mail could be deleted as spam or directed to a junk mail file.*

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### **In-class presentation      BEGIN Thurs March 15<sup>th</sup>      10%**

One of the fine arts of research is learning how to summarize the important points of a well thought out (and often long) research paper on a few overheads or PowerPoint slides for a short (10-15 min) presentation. For this assignment each student will create a presentation using (5+ Ppt slides or overhead equivalent) summarizing their research findings and give a 10-15 minute in-class presentation. Class discussion will follow. Presentations begin Thursday March 15. Grading will depend on clarity of points and depth of analysis.

### **Research paper DUE: In class, Tuesday March 13<sup>th</sup>      30%**

TOPIC: Each student will complete their own research paper on an issue that has been framed as a social problem. You are free to choose any topic of interest as long as it is relevant to the course content. If you have trouble narrowing your topic, please see me for assistance.

BASIC FORMAT: Your research paper (and *all* assignments for that matter) must be written in college-level English and presented in proper academic format and include a formal title page with:

- a) Title of the assignment
- b) Your name and student number
- c) My name, course name and number
- d) Name of school and date

Assignments must be typed, double-spaced, printed with a 1-inch margin on all sides, in 12 point Times New Roman or Arial font with pages numbered. Carefully document quotes and paraphrases, and include a word count at the end of the paper.

*Note: Word counts do NOT include references.*

LITERATURE REVIEW: You are required to consult and cite *at least* four (4) different sources, three of which must be primary sources published since 2001. It is important that you learn to reference sources used for your research paper in the appropriate style for sociology papers, which is ASA (see style link on WebCT). *Note: Avoid using APA, MLA, Turbian or other styles.*

These sources must include:

- a) Two articles from a sociological journal (primary)
- b) One chapter from a sociological work that is either edited or multi-authored (primary)
- c) One sociological book that is held by the library (primary or secondary)

*Note: Primary sources include peer-reviewed journal articles, monographs and chapters in edited books; secondary sources include textbooks.*

LENGTH: Essentially, long enough to cover the subject, short enough to be interesting. The expectation is that your paper should be 1250-2000 words long (5 to 8 pages), not including references. A short, concise paper that makes one or two well-articulated points will be graded higher than a long, rambling paper that makes a similar number of points, a paper that makes too many points to adequately address, or one that keeps me guessing what the point actually is!

GRADING: Grading takes into consideration content, depth of sociological analysis, structure, grammar, spelling, writing style, and the appropriate use of citations. Please see the "*grading criteria explained*" file posted on WebCT.

*Be forewarned:* I loathe poor writing skills and even a brilliant and insightful paper will receive a low grade if there are excessive grammatical and/or spelling errors. Proofread, spell check, and proofread again. If you are uncertain about your writing skills, I encourage you to schedule an appointment at the Writing Centre well ahead of the time you need it. Each Camosun student is entitled to schedule one 30 minute appointment per day, up to two appointments per week OR per assignment, and up to ten appointments per semester. You can sign-up in person at Dawson 207 (sheets are posted on the door up to two weeks in advance), phone 370-3491, e-mail [writingcentre@camosun.bc.ca](mailto:writingcentre@camosun.bc.ca) or drop in (first come, first served basis).

Exams

Feb 6, Mar 13, Apr ?

3 @ 20% each

60%

**EXAM 2 DATE CHANGE: TUESDAY MARCH 13 (not Mar 8)**

There will be two in-class exams and a final during the final exam period. Exams may include true/false, multiple choice, short answer and/or essay questions. While the exams are not designed to be cumulative, the discipline has built upon itself so an integration of earlier material will improve your chances of scoring well on later assignments and exams. *If you are unable to attend an exam due to illness or family emergency you must contact me to make alternate arrangements BEFORE the exam and supply appropriate documentation before writing a make-up. During exams no notes are allowed, all electronic devices must be off and stored. Remember to bring your student ID, pencil(s) and an eraser.*