



## COURSE OUTLINE

### Sociology 162 Social Problems

Fall, 2008

---

Instructor: Jacqueline M. Quinless  
Office: Paul 228  
Email: Quinless@Camosun.bc.ca  
Phone: 370-3105  
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 5:00 PM to 5:45 PM *or by appointment*  
Lecture: Tuesdays, 6:00 PM – 8:50 PM

#### **CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**

This class will involve a critical introduction to the nature of social problems in modern society. Issues at the regional, national and global levels will be discussed, as chosen by the instructor. Various sociological theories will be considered and possible solutions addressing these issues will be discussed.

#### **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

A major aim of the class will be to assist students to develop a capacity for independent, critical thinking with respect to social issues. This ability should aid students in understanding the ways in which social problems are interrelated and how they are connected to power relations in Canadian society. The intended learning outcomes of the class are three fold:

- (a) Critically assess the major theoretical perspectives on social problems.
- (b) Apply various sociological theories to the analysis of contemporary social problems.
- (c) Demonstrate an ability to think critically and to communicate ideas effectively in writing.

#### **REQUIRED TEXT(S):**

Kendall, Diane, et. al, *Social Problems in a Diverse Society* 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Edition.  
Pearson Education Canada.

### **METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:**

This course consists of one 3 hour lecture per week. Students are expected to complete assigned readings on time, and to come to class prepared to discuss those readings. Occasional film presentations are scheduled. The course will be based on a series of lectures, followed, at times, by seminar-type discussions in which the students are urged to participate.

### **STUDENT EVALUATION:**

The final grade for this course will be based on 4 components which include: **two separate mid-term examinations, discussion reviews, and a final examination** (see more details below)

	<b><u>Due Date</u></b>	<b><u>Weight</u></b>
Midterm Exam 1	October 7th	20%
Midterm Exam 2	Nov 18th	20%
4 Group Discussion Reviews	See Schedule of Topics	20%
Final Examination	Exam Week	40%

### **Mid term Exam 1 (20%):**

The mid-term examination will be held in class on Oct 7th, 2008. The exam will consist of true/false, multiple choice questions, and short answer. You will be tested on all material including assigned readings, lecture material, class discussions, and video presentations covered *from week 1 to week 5*.

### **Mid term Exam 2 (20%):**

The mid-term examination will be held in class on November 18th, 2008. The exam will consist of true/false, multiple choice questions, and short answer. You will be tested on all material including assigned readings, lecture material, class discussions, and video presentations *covered from week 7 to week 11*.

### **Group Discussion Reviews (20%):**

In talking about social problems, it is inevitable that we will discuss issues or topics that some may deem to be controversial. While an effort will be made to get students to participate in class discussions on many of these issues, it has been the experience of this Instructor that most students feel intimidated by the prospect of speaking up in class; this is very understandable; making one's opinions heard in a class of 40 or so students can be a daunting experience.

In order to alleviate this concern, the class will be broken up into small groups where students can more comfortably express their opinions on a given topic. During the course of the term, four such discussion groups will be held, the approximate dates of which are cited in the course schedule; these discussions will require the students to

work collaboratively to answer questions as a group, present those ideas and submit a review of their discussion at the end of class. Each discussion review is worth 5% of your overall grade.

### **Final Examination (40%):**

The final examination will be held during examination week. The exam will consist of true/false, multiple choice questions, and short answer questions. You will be tested **on all material covered in the course**, including assigned readings, lecture material, class discussions, and video presentations. Students must contact the instructor before the exam period if they are unable to take the exam and shall write it at the time agreed between the instructor and the student.

### **GRADES:**

Letter grades for the course will be as follows:

95 - 100%	A+
90 - 94%	A
85 - 89%	A-
80 - 84%	B+
75 - 79%	B
70 - 74%	B-
65 - 69%	C+
60 - 64%	C
50 - 59%	D
0 - 49%	F

### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:**

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, the following acts:

- (i) giving, receiving, or obtaining unauthorized information during any type of examination or test;
- (ii) obtaining or providing unauthorized questions or answers relating to any examination or test prior to the time of the examination or test;
- (iii) asking or arranging for another person to take any examination or test in one's place;
- (iv) plagiarizing, that is, appropriating the work of another or parts or passages of another's writing, or the ideas or language of the same, and passing them off as a product of one's own mind or manual skill.

Academic misconduct will result in a grade of "F" for the entire course. The students should note that in accordance with the college policy quoted above, mere access to unauthorized information (for example, texts or lecture notes) constitutes academic misconduct. It is not necessary for the instructor to prove that the information has been used by the student.

### COURSE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>
1	Sept 2	Class Introduction What are Social Problems?	Chapter 1
2	Sept 9	How to investigate a Social Problem: Social Theory and Research Methodologies	Chapter 1
3	Sept 16	Racism, Sexism and Homophobia Video: "Articles of faith" 12mins Video: "Pride & Prejudice: Human Rights vs. Racism" 20mins Video: "The Marrying Kind" 15mins <b>Discussion Review</b>	Chapter 3 Chapter 4 Chapter 6
4	Sept 23	Problems with Technology Video: "Big Brother is listening" 5mins	Handout Material
5	Sept 30	The Sex Industry Video: "Tropical Paradise" 10mins Video: "Cyber Sex Addiction" 6mins <b>Discussion Review</b>	Chapter 7
<b>6</b>	<b>Oct 7</b>	<b>MIDTERM EXAMINATION 1</b> <i>Covers all material from Lecture 1 to 5</i>	
7	Oct 14	Poverty Video: "Poverty in Camden NJ" 9mins Video: "East Side showdown" 24mins <b>Discussion Review</b>	Chapter 2
8	Oct 21	Crime and Deviance	Chapter 9
9	Oct 28	Alcohol and Drugs Video: "FIX: The Story of an Addicted City" 25mins	Chapter 8
10	Nov 4	Health and Illness Video: "AIDS in Black America" 7mins	Chapter 10
11	<b>Nov 11</b>	<b>Remembrance Day – No class</b>	
<b>12</b>	<b>Nov 18</b>	<b>MIDTERM EXAMINATION 2</b> <i>Covers all material from Lecture 7 to Lecture 11</i>	
13	Nov 25	Family Video: "The Mommy Mystique" 6mins Video: "Life with Dad" 15mins <b>Discussion Review</b>	Chapter 11
14	Dec 2	Ageism – The Aging Population in Canada	Chapter 5
	EXAM WEEK	<b>FINAL EXAMINATION</b> – covers all material from week 1 to week 14 (Cumulative)	