



COURSE OUTLINE

Sociology 162 Social Problems

Winter, 2009

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00PM to 1:30PM and Thursday 1:00PM to 1:30PM
or by appointment
Lecture: Tuesday 1:30PM to 2:50PM and Thursday 1:30PM to 2:50PM

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*** 2nd Canadian Edition.
Pearson Education Canada.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

This course consists of two lectures 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)

	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Midterm Exam 1	February 5th	20%
Midterm Exam 2	March 12th	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 Feb 5th, 2009. 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 March 12th, 2009. 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 6 to week 9*.

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 week 1 to week 14**, 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:

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	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 E-1.5 at **camosun.ca** for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

<i>Temporary Grade</i>	<i>Description</i>
I	<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.
IP	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. <i>(For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3rd course attempt or at the point of course completion.)</i>
CW	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.</i>

PROCEDURE CHANGES

In order to deal with the day-to-day management of the course, new procedures or revisions to procedures may be implemented from time to time throughout the semester. Such procedures and revisions will be announced in class for two consecutive sessions before they are implemented. It is the responsibility of each student to keep informed of such developments.

All matters that are not covered by this course outline are governed by official college policies and procedures

Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

Students are encouraged to utilize support services available at the Writing Centre to prepare for their essay exams.

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, Registrar's Office or the College web site at <http://www.camosun.bc.ca>

ACADEMIC CONDUCT POLICY

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

www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

WEEK	DATE	TOPICS	READINGS
1	Jan 6	Class Introduction	
	Jan 8	What is Sociology	
2	Jan 13	What are Social Problems	Chapter 1
	Jan 15	How do we study Social Problems?	Chapter 1
3	Jan 20	Social Theory	Chapter 1
	Jan 22	Qualitative Research Methods	Chapter 1
4	Jan 27	Quantitative Research Methods Handout: Childfree by Choice Handout: Qualitative vs. Quantitative Research Methods Discussion Review 1	Chapter 1 Handouts
	Jan 29	Racism Video: "Pride & Prejudice: Human Rights vs. Racism" 20 mins	Chapter 3
5	Feb 3	Sexism and Homophobia Video: "The Marrying Kind" 15 mins	Chapter 4 & 6
	Feb 5	MIDTERM EXAM 1 <i>Covers all material from Weeks 1- 5</i>	
6	Feb 10	Technology Video: "Big Brother is Listening" 5 mins Handout: Social Movements, Social Change & Technology	Handout Material
	Feb 12	The Internet – social issues Video: "Tropical Paradise" 10mins Discussion Review 2	Handout Material
7	Feb 17	The Sex Industry in Canada	Chapter 7
	Feb 19	Cyber Sex Video: "Cyber Sex Addiction" 6mins	Chapter 7
8	Feb 24	Wealth and Poverty Video: "Poverty in Camden NJ" 9 mins	Chapter 2
	Feb 26	Wealth and Poverty Video: "East Side Showdown" 24 mins	Chapter 2
9	Mar 3	Health Handout: Genetically Modified Organisms"	Chapter 10 Handout
	Mar 5	Illness Video: "AIDS in Black America" 7 mins	Chapter 10
10	Mar 10	No lecture – Independent Discussion Review 3	
	Mar 12	MIDTERM EXAM 2 <i>Covers all material from weeks 6-10</i>	
11	Mar 17	Alcohol	Chapter 8
	Mar 19	Drugs Video: "FIX: the Story of an Addicted City" 25 mins	Chapter 8
12	Mar 24	Crime	Chapter 9
	Mar 26	Criminal Justice Discussion Review 4	Chapter 9
13	Mar 31	The Changing Family Video: The Mommy Mystique" 6 mins	Chapter 11
	April 2	Family and Diversity Video: "Life with Dad" 15 mins	Chapter 11
14	April 7	The Ageing Population in Canada	Chapter 5
	April 9	Impacts of a Growing Population	Chapter 5
	FINAL EXAM	Scheduled during exam week <i>Accumulative: Covers all material from Weeks 1-14</i>	