



## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Sociology 162 Social Problems

Fall, 2009

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Instructor: Jacqueline M. Quinless  
Office: Paul 228  
Email: [Quinless@Camosun.bc.ca](mailto:Quinless@Camosun.bc.ca) or [jmquinless@yahoo.ca](mailto:jmquinless@yahoo.ca)  
Phone: 370-3105  
Office Hours: Tuesday 5:00PM to 5:45PM *or by appointment*  
Lecture: Tuesday 6:00 PM to 8:50PM Young Building Room 300

#### **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 evening 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 6 <sup>th</sup>	25%
Midterm Exam 2	November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	25%
4 Discussion Reviews	See Schedule of Topics	25%
Final Examination	Exam Week	25%

### **Mid term Exam 1 (25%):**

The mid-term examination will be held in class on October 6th, 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 4**. 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.

### **Mid term Exam 2 (25%):**

The mid-term examination will be held in class on November 3rd, 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 8**. 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.

### **Discussion Reviews (25%):**

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, 4 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 approximately 6% of your overall grade for a total weight of 25%.

## **Final Examination (25%):**

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 from week 10 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)**

<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Grade Point Equivalency</b>
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](http://camosun.ca) for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

<b><i>Temporary Grade</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>
<b>I</b>	<i>Incomplete: 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.</i>
<b>IP</b>	<i>In progress: 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. (For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3<sup>rd</sup> course attempt or at the point of course completion.)</i>
<b>CW</b>	<b>Compulsory Withdrawal: 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.</b>

## **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-](http://www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-)

## TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

WEEK	DATE	TOPICS	READINGS
1	Sept 8	Class Introduction What is Sociology? What are Social Problems	Chapter 1
2	Sept 15	Social Theory	Chapter 1
3	Sept 22	Qualitative Research Methods	Chapter 1
4	Sept 29	Quantitative Research Methods Handout: Childfree by Choice Handout: Qualitative vs. Quantitative Research Methods <b>Discussion Review 1</b>	Chapter 1 Handouts
<b>5</b>	<b>Oct 6</b>	<b>MIDTERM EXAM 1</b> <i>Covers all material from Weeks 1- 4</i>	
6	Oct 13	Racism, Sexism and Homophobia Video: "Pride & Prejudice: Human Rights vs. Racism" 20 mins Video: "The Marrying Kind" 15 mins	Chapter 3, 4, 6
7	Oct 20	Technology: The Internet and the Sex Industry Video: "Big Brother is Listening" 5 mins Video: "Tropical Paradise" 10mins Video: "Cyber Sex Addiction" 6mins Handout: Social Movements, Social Change & Technology <b>Discussion Review 2</b>	Handout Material Chapter 7
8	Oct 27	Wealth and Poverty Video: "Poverty in Camden NJ" 9 mins Video: "East Side Showdown" 24 mins	Chapter 2
<b>9</b>	<b>Nov 3</b>	<b>MIDTERM EXAM 2</b> <i>Covers all material from weeks 6-8</i>	
10	Nov 10	Health and Illness Handout: Genetically Modified Organisms" Video: "AIDS in Black America" 7 mins Guest Lecture <b>Discussion Review 3</b>	Chapter 10 Handout
11	Nov 17	Substance Abuse: Alcohol and Drugs Video: "FIX: the Story of an Addicted City" 25 mins	Chapter 8
12	Nov 24	Crime, Deviance and the Criminal Justice System Video: Secrets of Alcatraz 48 mins <b>Discussion Review 4</b>	Chapter 9
13	Dec 1	Family Diversity Video: The Mommy Mystique" 6 mins Video: "Life with Dad" 15 mins	Chapter 11
14	Dec 8	Impacts of an Aging Population	Chapter 5
	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>Scheduled during exam week</b> <i>Covers all material from Weeks 10-14</i>	

