



COURSE OUTLINE

Course Description (from calendar)

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.

Ω Please note: the College electronically stores this outline for five (5) years only. It is **strongly recommended** you keep a copy of this outline with your academic records. You will need this outline for any future application/s for transfer credit/s to other colleges/universities.

1. Instructor Information

- (a) Instructor: Dr. Peter Ove
- (b) Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:00pm – 4:00pm or by appointment
- (c) Location: Paul 320
- (d) Phone: 250-370-3348 Alternative Phone: n/a
- (e) Email: ovej@camosun.ca
- (f) Website: <https://online.camosun.ca/>

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

Text: *Power and Resistance: Critical Thinking about Canadian Social Issues*. 2012. Eds. Les Samuelson and Wayne Antony. 5th Ed. Halifax: Fernwood. (available in the bookstore and online)

Additional readings: As listed below and available for download from the course website.

4. Course Content and Schedule

(subject to change with appropriate notice to students; please check course website for up-to-date information)

TOPIC	READINGS	CLASS	ASSIGNMENTS
The sociological study of social problems	Text: Chapter 1		
	Heiner: pp. 7-12 from <i>Social Problems</i>	Sept. 3, 5, 10, and 12	
	Fleras: pp. 21-29 from <i>Social Problems in Canada</i>		

	Text: Chapter 6		
The global context of social problems Case study: The Great Recession	Naiman: "Neoliberalism and Globalization" from <i>How Societies Work</i>	Sept. 17, 19, and 24	
The national context of social problems Case studies: Privatization of health care and higher education	Text: Chapter 14 and 15	Sept. 26 and Oct. 1	
Poverty and economic inequality Case study: Poverty in Canada	Text: Chapter 5	Oct. 8 and 10	Exam 1 – Oct. 3 Presentations start – Oct. 10
Racism and ethnocentrism Case studies: First Nations residential schools; Canadian immigration	Text: Chapter 7 and 8	Oct. 15, 17, 22 and 24	
Sexism and patriarchy Case studies: Violence against women; Obesity and body image	Text: Chapter 3 and 9	Oct. 29, 31 and Nov. 5	Exam 2 – Nov. 7
Homophobia and heteronormativity Case study: Homosexuality and high school	Text: Chapter 4	Nov. 12 and 14	
Sustainability and environmental collapse Case studies: Alberta Tar Sands; Politics of food	Text: Chapter 12 and 11	Nov. 19, 21, 26, and 28	Paper outline (Bonus) – Nov. 21
Deviance and dissent Case studies: Crime in Canada	Text: Chapter 16	Dec. 3 and 5	Research paper due – Dec. 5 Exam 3 – Final exam period

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

- (a) Exams (60%): There will be three in-class exams; each exam is worth 20% of your final grade. Exams will consist of multiple-choice, short answer, and long answer questions and will test your knowledge of assigned readings and lecture material. The exams will be held at the beginning of class on the dates listed above. More information, along with some practice questions, will be provided in class prior to the first exam.
- (b) In-class discussions (10%): During every week, there will be a group discussion assignment for you to complete. In groups of three to four students, you will complete an assignment together (you will generally have about 20 minutes to do this). These assignments will be handed-out and handed-in during the same class. It is the responsibility of the group to finish the assignments in the allotted time. After every class, the assignment will be graded either satisfactory or unsatisfactory, and all group members will receive the same grade. All the discussion assignments together will add up to 10% of your final grade, which makes each assignment worth a little under 1%.
- (c) Case study analysis (30%):
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| Presentation (10%)
(Group component) | In groups of 4-5, students, you will prepare an in-class presentation on one of the case studies covered in class. This presentation will last between 15 and 20 minutes. More |
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information on this assignment will be provided in class. This assignment is worth 10% of your final grade, and all group members will receive the same grade (provided you are present).

Research paper (20%)
(Individual component)

Each student must submit a 1000-1500 word research paper discussing the social problem related to your presentation. More information on this assignment will be provided in class. This assignment is worth 20% of your final grade.

(BONUS) Paper Outline (2%): You may submit an outline for your research paper to receive up to 2% bonus marks. More information about this will be provided in class.

6. Grading System

Missed Assignment Policy

If you miss an exam or presentation or do not hand in the paper on time and you have a reasonable excuse (illness, accident, family affliction, religious obligations, etc.), please contact me as soon as possible to schedule a make-up assignment or to arrange a new due date for the missed assignment. If you do not have a reasonable excuse, a missed exam or presentation will receive a grade of zero and late paper will be penalized at 5% per day.

If you miss handing in a group discussion assignment and you have a reasonable excuse, please email me or talk to me the following class. You will not be required to make up the discussion assignment; the missed assignment will simply be removed from the calculation of your grade (making all your other group discussion assignments worth slightly more). If you do not have a reasonable excuse, any missed group discussion assignment will receive a grade of zero.

Failure to complete required work for this course (exams, presentation, and paper) may result in a failing grade.

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.

Temporary Grade	Description
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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	<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.

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.

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 the College web site in the Policy Section.