



COURSE OUTLINE

Sociology 162 Social Problems

Fall 2015

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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.

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*** 6th 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, a group presentation, and a final exam** (see more details below)

	Due Date	Weight
Midterm Exam 1	October 6 th	25%
Midterm Exam 2	November 10 th	25%
Annotated Bibliography	November 17 th	10%
Group Presentation	Last class	20%
Final Exam	Exam week	20%

Mid term Exam 1 (25%):

The mid-term examination will be held in class on October 6th, 2015. The exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. 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 10th, 2015. The exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. You will be tested on all material including assigned readings, lecture material, class discussions, and video presentations **covered from week 6 to week 9**. 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.

Final Examination (20%):

The final examination will be held during examination week. The exam will consist of multiple choice questions, and short answer questions. You will be tested **on all material covered in the course from 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.

Annotated Bibliography (10%):

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, articles, and other documents i.e. policy papers, research studies, the Internet. Each citation is followed by a brief (usually 150 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph, the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited. Creating an annotated bibliography calls for the application of a variety of intellectual skills: concise exposition, succinct analysis, and informed library research.

First, locate and record citations to books, periodicals, and documents that may contain useful information and ideas on your topic. Briefly examine and review the actual items. Then choose those works that provide a variety of perspectives on your topic.

Write a concise annotation that summarized the central theme and scope of the book, article, research study etc., Include one or more sentences that (s) evaluate the authority or background of the author, (b) comment on the intended audience, (c) compare or contrast this work with another you have cited, or (d) explain how this work illuminates your bibliography topic.

The annotated bibliography must contain 10 references and is due in Class on November 17th

Group Presentations (20%):

Students are required to give an in-class presentation on the last class **December 8th**. Students are required to work in groups and the presentation requirements are as follows:

1. The length should be approximately 10-15 minutes (shared equally among group members)
2. Do not copy every single word used by the author. Stress important points, and give reasons why you support or do not support the authors perspectives
3. Speak clearly, slowly, and articulately
4. Avoid continual reading from your notes, and make eye contact with the audience
5. Act like a presenter (including how you dress)
6. Ask and answer questions
7. Present with confidence and be yourself

Final Exam (20%):

The final examination will be held during exam week. The exam will consist of multiple choice questions, and short answer. You will be tested on all material including assigned readings, lecture material, class discussions, and video presentations *Covers all course material from Weeks 1 –14.*

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

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/2-8

TENTATIVE 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 and Developing Political Viewpoints (Positionality) Social Inequality and Social Justice	Chapter 1 Handouts
3	Sept 22	Research Methods	Chapter 1 Handouts
4	Sept 29	Crime, Deviance and the Criminal Justice System Video: Secrets of Alcatraz 48 mins	Chapter 6
5	Oct 6	MIDTERM EXAM 1 <i>Covers all material from Weeks 1- 4</i>	
6	Oct 13	War and Terrorism	Chapter 17
7	Oct 20	Wealth and Poverty Video: "Poverty in Camden NJ" 9 mins Video: "East Side Showdown" 24 mins	Chapter 2
8	Oct 27	Physical and Mental Health Handout: "Genetically Modified Organisms" Food Matters- Corporate Ownership of the Food Industry	Chapter 9 Handout
9	Nov 3	Alcohol and Drugs Video: "FIX: the Story of an Addicted City" 25 mins	Chapter 8
9	Nov 10	MIDTERM EXAM 2 <i>Covers all material from weeks 6-9</i>	
11	Nov 17	Racial and Ethnic Inequality Video: "Pride & Prejudice: Human Rights vs. Racism" 20 mins **Annotated Bibliography is due	Chapter 3
12	Nov 24	Sexuality: Body Politics, Gender Binary, Sexism and homophobia The Internet and the Sex Industry Video: "Tropical Paradise" 10mins Video: "Cyber Sex Addiction" 6mins	Chapter 7
13	Dec 1	Family Life and Diversity Video: "The Mommy Mystique" 6 mins Video: "Life with Dad" 15 mins Video: "The Marrying Kind" 15 mins	Chapter 12
14	Dec 8	Group Presentations	
	FINAL EXAM	Scheduled during exam week <i>Comprehensive Exam: Covers all material from Weeks 1-14</i>	