



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 and Thursdays 1:00pm – 2:00pm or by appointment
- (c) Location: Paul 230
- (d) Phone: 250-370-3369 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 used 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>	Jan. 10, 12, 17, and 19	
	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>	Jan. 24 and 16	
The national context of social problems Case studies: Privatization of health care and higher education	Text: Chapter 14 and 15	Jan. 31 and Feb. 2	
Poverty and economic inequality Case study: Poverty in Canada	Text: Chapter 5	Feb. 7 and 9	Case study discussions start – Feb. 9
Exam 1 – Feb. 21			
Interdisciplinary Project on Homelessness	Readings: TBD	Feb. 23, 26*, and 28	*Special session on Sunday, Feb. 26 from 12:00-4:30
Racism and ethnocentrism Case studies: First Nations residential schools; Canadian immigration	Text: Chapter 7 and 8	Mar. 2, 7, and 9	
Sexism and patriarchy Case studies: Violence against women; Obesity and body image	Text: Chapter 3 and 9	Mar. 14, 16, and 21	
Exam 2 – Mar. 23			
Sustainability and environmental collapse Case studies: Alberta Tar Sands; Politics of food	Text: Chapter 12 and 11	Mar. 28, 30, and Apr. 4	Research paper outline – Mar. 27 Research paper draft – Apr. 3 (Bonus)
Crime and Deviance Case studies: Crime in Canada	Text: Chapter 16	Apr. 6 and 11	Research paper – Apr. 10
Exam 3 – April 13			

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

(a) Exams (50%):

There will be three in-class exams; the first two exams are worth 20% each and the final exam is worth 10%. 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 in class on the dates listed above. Written questions will be handed out the week prior to the exam to allow you to prepare. More information will be provided in class prior to the first exam.

(c) Project on Homelessness (15%)

Preparation assignment (5%): Each student must submit an assignment on the homelessness readings and preparatory class for the special session. This assignment will require attendance on Feb. 23. More information about this will be provided in class.

Post-session assignment (10%): Each student must submit

a reflection assignment on the special session. This assignment will require attendance on Feb. 26 and Feb. 28. More information about this will be provided in class.

(b) Case Study Discussions (12%)

Facilitation (6%): You will prepare a summary and assessment of one of the case studies covered in class. You will present this to a small group of students and then facilitate a discussion of the case study. More information on this assignment will be provided in class. This assignment is worth 6% of your final grade.

Participation (6%): You will receive participation marks for taking part in each of the case study discussions.

(d) Research Paper (23%)

Final research paper (20%): Each student must submit a 1500-word research paper discussing ways of addressing the social problem related to one of the case studies. More information on this assignment will be provided in class. This assignment is worth 20% of your final grade.

Research Paper Outline (3%): Each student must submit a research paper outline consisting of title, thesis statement, point-form argument, and list of sources. More information on this assignment will be provided in class. This assignment is worth 5% of your final grade.

(BONUS) Research paper draft (1%): Completing a draft of the research paper can earn you one bonus mark. 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 papers will be penalized at 10% per day.

If you do not complete all required work for this course (exams, presentation, and paper), you may be denied a passing 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
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.