



**CAMOSUN COLLEGE**  
**School of Arts & Science**  
**Department of Social Sciences**

**SOC-162-001**  
**Social Problems**  
**Winter 2018**

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## **COURSE OUTLINE**

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### **Course Description:**

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: This outline will not be kept indefinitely. It is recommended students keep this outline for their records, especially to assist in transfer credit to post-secondary institutions.

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### **1. Instructor Information**

<b>(a) Instructor</b>	Dr. Peter Ove
<b>(b) Office hours</b>	Wednesdays and Fridays 1-2pm or by appointment
<b>(c) Location</b>	Paul 230
<b>(d) Phone</b>	250-370-3369 <b>Alternative:</b> n/a
<b>(e) E-mail</b>	ovep@camosun.ca
<b>(f) Website</b>	<a href="https://online.camosun.ca/">https://online.camosun.ca/</a>

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### **2. Intended Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course a 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**

(a) Textbook: *Power and Resistance: Critical Thinking about Canadian Social Issues*. 2017. Eds. Wayne Antony, Jessica Antony, and Les Samuelson. 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. Halifax: Fernwood. (available in the bookstore)

(b) 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
<b>The sociological study of social problems</b>	Text: Chapter 1 Heiner: pp. 7-12 from <i>Social Problems</i> Fleras: pp. 21-29 from <i>Social Problems in Canada</i>	Jan. 9, 11, 16 and 18	
<b>The contemporary context of social problems</b>	Text: Chapters 8 and 9 Naiman: "Neoliberalism and Globalization" from <i>How Societies Work</i>	Jan. 23, 25, 30 and Feb. 1 and 6	<b>Exam 1: Feb. 8</b>
<b>Poverty and social inequality</b> Case studies: Poverty in Canada; Social determinants of health	Text: Chapters 6 and 7	Feb. 20, 22 and 27	<b>Presentations start: Feb. 22</b>
<b>Racism and ethnocentrism</b> Case studies: First Nations; Canadian immigration	Text: Chapters 3 and 4	Mar. 1, 6, and 8	
<b>Sexism and Patriarchy</b> Case study: Sexual assault on campus	Text: Chapter 11	Mar. 13 and 15	<b>Discussion 1 Due: Mar. 13</b> <b>Exam 2: Mar. 20</b>
<b>Homophobia and Heteronormativity</b> Case study: Sexual minority youth	Text: Chapter 13	Mar. 22 and 27	
<b>Sustainability and environmental collapse</b> Case studies: Alberta tar sands; Politics of food	Text: Chapters 10 and 15	Mar. 27, 29 and Apr. 3 and 5	
<b>Crime and Deviance</b> Case studies: Crime in Canada; Drug use	Text: Chapters 5 and 14	Apr. 5, 10 and 12	<b>Discussion 2 Due: April 12</b>
<b>Exam 3 in Final Exam Period</b>			

#### 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 will be provided in class prior to the first exam.
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(b) Case Study Presentations (20%)	Presentation (10%): Twice during the term, you must 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. Each presentation is worth 5% of your final grade.
	Participation (10%): You will receive participation marks for taking part in each of the case study presentations (1% each).
(c) Social Problem Discussions (20%)	Twice during the term, you must submit a discussion on a social problem covered in class. Each discussion will be between 500-700 words and will focus on a way to address the problem. More information on this assignment will be provided in class. Each discussion is worth 10% of your final grade.

### Missed Assignment Policy

If you miss an exam or presentation or do not hand in a discussion 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 discussion will be penalized at 5% per day.

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

### 6. Grading System

- Standard Grading System (GPA)
- Competency Based Grading System

### 7. Recommended Materials to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

N/A

### 8. College Supports, Services and Policies

#### Immediate, Urgent, or Emergency Support

If you or someone you know requires immediate, urgent, or emergency support (e.g. illness, injury, thoughts of suicide, sexual assault, etc.), **SEEK HELP**. Resource contacts @ <http://camosun.ca/about/mental-health/emergency.html> or <http://camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence/get-support.html#urgent>

#### College Services

Camosun offers a variety of health and academic support services, including counselling, dental, disability resource centre, help centre, learning skills, sexual violence support & education, library, and writing centre. For more information on each of these services, visit the **STUDENT SERVICES** link on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/>

#### College Policies

Camosun strives to provide clear, transparent, and easily accessible policies that exemplify the college's commitment to life-changing learning. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of College policies. Policies are available on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/>. Education and academic policies include, but are not limited to, Academic Progress, Admission, Course Withdrawals, Standards for Awarding Credentials, Involuntary Health and Safety Leave of Absence, Prior Learning Assessment, Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal, Sexual Violence and Misconduct, Student Ancillary Fees, Student Appeals, Student Conduct, and Student Penalties and Fines.

## A. GRADING SYSTEMS <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html>

The following two grading systems are used at Camosun College:

### 1. 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		1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

### 2. Competency Based Grading System (Non GPA)

This grading system is based on satisfactory acquisition of defined skills or successful completion of the course learning outcomes

Grade	Description
COM	The student has met the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.
DST	The student has met and exceeded, above and beyond expectation, the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.
NC	The student has not met the goals, criteria or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.

## B. 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 at <http://www.camosun.bc.ca/policies/E-1.5.pdf> 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 are designed to have an anticipated enrollment that extends beyond one term. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course.
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.