



CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Department of Social Sciences

SOC-162-D01
Social Problems
Fall 2020

COURSE OUTLINE

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.

1. Instructor Information

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|-------------------------|--|
| (a) Instructor | Dr. Peter Ove |
| (b) Office hours | Thursdays 11:30-12:30 and 2:30-3:30 or by appointment (virtual only) |
| (c) Location | n/a |
| (d) Phone | n/a |
| (e) E-mail | ovep@camosun.ca |
| (f) Website | https://online.camosun.ca/ |

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. 6th Ed. Halifax: Fernwood. (available in the bookstore)

(b) Additional readings as listed below (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.

| TOPICS | READINGS | DISCUSSIONS |
|---|---|--|
| The sociological study of social problems | Text: Chapter 1 | Introduction (Sept 10) |
| The critical constructionist approach to social problems | Heiner: pp. 7-12 from <i>Social Problems</i> Fleras: pp. 21-29 from <i>Social Problems in Canada</i> | Lectures 1 and 2 (Sept 17) |
| The contemporary context of social problems Case Studies: Democracy as a relationship; Corporatizing public universities | Naiman: "Neoliberalism and Globalization" from <i>How Societies Work</i> Text: Chapters 8 and 9 | Chapter 8: Democracy as a relationship (Sept 24) Chapter 9: Corporatizing public universities (Oct 1) |
| Poverty and Social Inequality Case studies: Persistent poverty in Canada; Social determinants of health | Text: Chapters 6 and 7 | Chapter 6: Persistent poverty in Canada (Oct 8) Chapter 7: Social determinants of health (Oct 15) |
| Racism and Ethnocentrism Case studies: Impacts of colonialism; Immigration | Text: Chapters 3 and 4 | Chapter 3: Impacts of colonialism (Oct 22) Chapter 4: Immigration (Oct 29) |
| Sexism and Patriarchy Case study: Sexual assault on campus | Text: Chapter 11 | Chapter 11: Sexual assault on campus (Nov 5) |
| Homophobia and Heteronormativity Case study: Gender and sexual minority youth | Text: Chapter 13 | Chapter 13: Gender / sexual minority youth (Nov 12) |
| Sustainability and Environmental Collapse Case studies: Alberta tar sands; Food for social change | Text: Chapters 10 and 15 | Chapter 10: Alberta tar sands (Nov 19) Chapter 15: Food for social change (Nov 26) |
| Crime and Deviance Case studies: Crime as a social problem; Politics of drug policy | Text: Chapters 5 and 14 | Chapter 5: Crime as a social problem (Dec 3) Chapter 14: Politics of drug policy (Dec 10) |

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| (a) Lecture Quizzes (30%): | Once per week (starting week 2), you must complete an online quiz with questions about the recorded lectures. Each quiz is worth a little over 2% of your final grade (there are 14 quizzes, but the lowest grade will be dropped). More information about this assignment will be provided on the course website. |
| (b) Case Study Assignments (55%) | Once per week (starting week 3), you must complete an assignment in preparation to talk about each book chapter (i.e. case study). You will use this in your discussion with a small group every week. Each assignment is worth 5% of your final grade (there are twelve assignments, but the lowest grade will be dropped). More information about this assignment will be provided on the course website. |
| (c) Small Group Discussions (15%) | Once per week, you will meet virtually to discuss the lecture and book chapter with your fellow students. During this discussion, you will have an assignment to complete. Each assignment is worth about 1% of your final grade, and all students in the group receive the same grade. More information about this assignment will be provided on the course website. |

Missed Assignment Policy

If you miss a quiz or do not hand in your case study preparation assignment on time and you have a reasonable excuse (illness, accident, family affliction, religious obligations, etc.), please contact me as soon as possible to discuss options to make up your work. If you do not have a reasonable excuse, a missed quiz or assignment will receive a grade of zero. If you miss the group discussion and you have a reasonable excuse, your participation in that week's discussion will be waived (it will not count for or against you and the remaining discussions will simply be worth a little more out of the total 15%).

Please note: If you do not complete all required work for this course, 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

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. |