

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: SOC-162: Social Problems

CLASS SECTION: 001

TERM: Fall 2021

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): Face to Face

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.

Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

For COVID-19 information please visit <https://legacy.camosun.ca/covid19/index.html>.

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable explanation in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Peter Ove

EMAIL: ovep@camosun.bc.ca

OFFICE: Paul 226A

HOURS: Wednesdays 1:00 – 3:00pm or by appointment (Office hours are virtual unless by appointment)

As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.

CALENDAR 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.

PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

- C+ in English 12
- C in Camosun Alternative

CO-REQUISITE(S):

Not Applicable

EXCLUSION(S):

Not Applicable

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

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.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

1. 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)
2. Additional readings as listed below (available for download from the course website).

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

| WEEK or DATE RANGE | ACTIVITY or TOPIC | Readings |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Sept. 7, 9, 14, 16, and 21 | The sociological study of social problems | Chapter 1 plus Heiner and Fleras |
| Sept. 21, 23, 28, and Oct 5 | The contemporary context of social problems Case Studies: Democracy as a relationship (Sept. 28); Corporatizing public universities (Oct. 5) | Chapters 8 and 9 plus Naiman |
| Oct. 7 | Exam #1 | |
| Oct. 12, 14, and 19 | Poverty and Social Inequality Case studies: Persistent poverty in Canada (Oct. 14); Social determinants of health (Oct. 19) | Chapters 6 and 7 |
| Oct. 21, 26, and 28 | Racism and Ethnocentrism Case studies: Impacts of colonialism (Oct. 26); Immigration (Oct. 28) | Chapters 3 and 4 |
| Nov. 2 and 4 | Sexism and Patriarchy / Homophobia and Heteronormativity Case study: Sexual assault on campus (Nov. 4) | Chapter 11 |
| Nov. 9 | Exam #2 | |
| Nov. 16 and 18 | Homophobia and Heteronormativity Case Study: Gender and sexual minority youth (Nov. 18) | Chapter 13 |
| Nov. 23, 25, and 30 | Sustainability and Environmental Collapse Case studies: Alberta tar sands (Nov. 25); Food for social change (Nov. 30) | Chapters 10 and 15 |

| WEEK or DATE RANGE | ACTIVITY or TOPIC | Readings |
|--------------------|---|-------------------|
| Dec 2, 7, and 9 | Crime and Deviance Case studies: Crime as a social problem (Dec. 7); Politics of drug policy (Dec. 9) | Chapters 5 and 14 |
| Exam Period | Exam #3 | |

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced notice is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html). <http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

| DESCRIPTION | | WEIGHTING |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Exams | There will be three in-person 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. | 60 |
| Case Study Presentations | Twice during the term, you must prepare a summary and assessment of one of the case studies (i.e. book chapters) covered in class. You will present this to a small group of students and then facilitate a small group discussion. More information on this assignment will be provided in class. Each presentation is worth 10% of your final grade. | 20 |
| Participation | Throughout the term, there will be graded small group discussion assignments during class time (linked to the Case Study Presentations). These discussions must be completed in class and cannot be completed alone. More information on this assignment will be provided on the course website. Each discussion is worth a little under 2% of your final grade. Before each of these small group discussions, you must submit a reflection about the course material in preparation for the in-class discussion. More information on this assignment will be provided on the course website. Completing this reflection is a requirement for receiving a group grade for your in-class discussion. | 20 |
| | TOTAL | 100% |

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information. <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

Class Attendance

There is no mandatory attendance in this class. However, attendance in class is expected and a significant portion of your grade is linked to your participation in small group discussions. As in regular semesters, medical or other legitimate reasons for missing class will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Please contact me directly if you have to miss a class where there is a participation mark (see below for the procedure for missed assignments).

I am unable to waive your attendance during the entire semester due to medical or other reasons; being able to attend class (including in-person exams) is a requirement for registering in this class. This follows college policy and is designed to ensure your success in the course.

Missed Exam or Assignment Procedure

If you miss an exam or do not hand in your case study presentation 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 exam or assignment will receive a grade of zero.

If you miss the in-class group discussion and you have a reasonable excuse, please let me know and 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).

Please note: If you do not complete all required work for this course, you may be denied a passing grade.

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

Since I am currently the Chair of Social Sciences, you are welcome to bring up any concerns with the course directly with Dean or Associate Dean of the School of Arts and Science.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Academic Advising | http://camosun.ca/advising |
| Accessible Learning | http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning |
| Counselling | http://camosun.ca/counselling |
| Career Services | http://camosun.ca/coop |
| Financial Aid and Awards | http://camosun.ca/financialaid |
| Help Centres (Math/English/Science) | http://camosun.ca/help-centres |
| Indigenous Student Support | http://camosun.ca/indigenous |
| International Student Support | http://camosun.ca/international/ |
| Learning Skills | http://camosun.ca/learningskills |
| Library | http://camosun.ca/services/library/ |
| Office of Student Support | http://camosun.ca/oss |
| Ombudsperson | http://camosun.ca/ombuds |
| Registration | http://camosun.ca/registration |
| Technology Support | http://camosun.ca/its |
| Writing Centre | http://camosun.ca/writing-centre |

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started:

<http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/>

Academic Integrity

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf> for policy regarding academic expectations and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Progress

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <http://camosun.ca/learn/fees/#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Mandatory Attendance for First Class Meeting of Each Course

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable reason in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student. For more information, please see the "Attendance" section under "Registration Policies and Procedures" (<http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/procedures.html>) and the Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>.

Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal. Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.8.pdf> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence or misconduct occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence and Misconduct Policy: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/sexual-violence. To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-3703841

Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Changes to this syllabus: Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.