

## SOC 220 SOCIAL PROBLEMS

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: ENG 090 and RED 090, or satisfactory score on placement test

Corequisites: None

This course provides an in-depth study of current social problems. Emphasis is on causes, consequences, and possible solutions to problems associated with families, schools, workplaces, communities, and the environment. Upon completion, students should be able to recognize, define, analyze, and propose solutions to these problems. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement for the general education core requirement in social/behavioral sciences.* Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3. Semester Hours Credit, 3.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The student will be able to:

- a. Explain the difference between personal and social problems.
- b. Understand the distinctiveness of the sociological approach to social life.
- c. Know the various theoretical explanations of social problems.
- d. Distinguish between myth and fact in information about social problems.
- e. Describe the steps of social science research.
- f. Describe how social science research has been used to study social problems.
- g. Identify the political and economic factors that contribute to the problems of war.
- h. Explain the kinds of attitudes and ideologies that legitimate war.
- i. Understand the nature of the ecosystem.
- j. Explain the social structural and social psychological factors that underlie our ecological problems.
- k. Discuss the extent of poverty in the United States.
- l. Discuss the ways in which social institutions contribute to poverty.
- m. Understand both the biological and social meaning of aging.
- n. Show the importance of social roles, norms, and institutions to the well-being of the aged.
- o. Discuss the issue of biological versus social bases for gender differences.
- p. Explain the significance of the traditional female role, socialization, and social institutions of sex and gender inequality.
- q. Understand the extent and origin of the race problem.
- r. Explain how work and the workforce are changing in America.
- s. Explain how inequalities, the lack of expected payoff, and mediocrity make education a problem.
- t. Discuss the ways in which the American family is changing.
- u. Discuss the functions of the family.
- v. Discuss reasons why individuals become homosexual.
- w. Learn the types and effects of various drugs, including tobacco and alcohol.
- x. Understand the meaning and extent of physical and mental illness.
- y. Explain the ways in which we obtain data on crime, and describe the problems inherent in official records.
- z. Discuss the amount and distribution of crime in the United States.
- aa. Gain a sense of the extent of violence in the United States and understand the human consequences of violent behavior.

## **OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:**

- I. Introduction and foundations
  - A. Understanding social problems
  - B. Methods of sociological research
- II. Problems of social institutions
  - A. The world of work
  - B. Education
  - C. Marriage and the family
- III. Problems of inequality
  - A. Social stratification and social mobility
  - B. Life course and ageism
  - C. Men, women, and sexism
  - D. Ethnicity and racism
- IV. Problems of crime and social deviance
  - A. What is social deviance?
  - B. Sexual variance
  - C. Substance abuse
  - D. Physical and mental illness
  - E. Crime and delinquency
  - F. Violence in society
- V. Global social problems
  - A. War and terrorism
  - B. Urbanism, environment, and population growth
  - C. Technology and social changes

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS:**

To be selected by instructor

## **STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Counselors can be contacted by calling 686-3652 or by visiting the Student Development Office in the Phail Wynn Jr. Student Services Center, room 1309.