

SOC 220 Social Problems

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: ENG 002 or DRE 097; 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:

Upon completing requirements for this course, the student will be able to:

1. Recognize and apply the sociological imagination to analyze social problems and to generate and evaluate proposed solutions.
2. Recognize and assess the theoretical frameworks and assumptions (sociological or otherwise) used to explain and develop solutions for social problems.
3. Become familiar with and evaluate the data and evidence used in public discourse surrounding social problems and their solutions.
4. Understand how social problems are created, reproduced, and changed.

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 MATERIAL:

The textbook and other instructional material will be determined by the instructor.