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Course Outline for SOC 6

SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Effective: Fall 2005

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

SOC 6 — SOCIAL PROBLEMS — 3.00 units

This course takes an in-depth look at selected social problems from a sociological perspective. Topics will vary from semester to semester. Each class will cover at least one of each of the following: a social problem dealing with social inequality, a social problem of national concern, and a social problem of global concern. Current topics include: the current trend of "wilding" behavior by individuals and institutions, the growth of inner cities, the social consequences of the globalization of labor, and terrorism.

3.00 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

Letter Grade

Discipline:

	<u>MIN</u>
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	54.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. define the complexity of the selected social problems;
2. describe the debates surrounding the selected social problems;
3. apply sociological thinking to current events;
4. conduct a research project based on one of the many sociological methodologies available.

V. CONTENT:

A. Wilding behavior

1. Individual wilding such as academic cheating, drunk driving, etc.
2. Ultimate wilding such as infanticide, patricide, spousal killings
3. Corporate wilding such as institutional abuses and responsibility, e.g. Enron
4. Institutional wilding such as the current crisis of the Catholic Church's handling of abusive priests
5. Public policy wilding such as tax cuts and deteriorating infrastructure and education systems
6. Government wilding:
 - a. the war in Iraq
 - b. war and world systems theory
7. Challenging the wilding trend:
 - a. the importance of civic participation
 - b. gender as a component of wilding

B. Growth of inner cities

1.
 - a. History of urbanization and suburbanization in the U.S.
 - b. The impact of globalization on the working class in the U.S.
 - c. The impact of globalization on cities
 - d. The development of "new urban poverty"
 - e. Why Black Americans are disproportionately affected
 - f. The current trend of class polarization
 - g. The impact of middle class flight from urban areas
 - h. The development of a jobless culture
 - i. Inner city residents and job discrimination "zip code discrimination"
 - j. Welfare reform debates
 - k. Educational reform debates
 - l. Potential government policies

C. The Globalization of Labor

1. Current U.S. class trends
2. Dependency theory
3. World Systems Theory: periphery, semi-periphery, core

4. Impact of globalization on global politics
5. Impact of globalization on workers in both the core and periphery
6. Impact of global migration: push and pulls, immigration in the U.S.
7. Economic consequences of globalization in core and periphery
- D. Social Consequences of Globalization
 1. Current global financial crises
 2. The problem of global debt
 3. The World Bank and the IMF
 4. Human suffering
 - a. Peripheral working conditions
 - b. Child labor
 - c. Weakening of core working classes
 5. Political instabilities
 - a. Rise of fascism
 - b. Rise of terrorism
 - c. Problem of repressive governments in the periphery
 6. Global solutions
- E. Terrorism
 1. Ways of classifying terrorism
 - a. By method
 - b. By motivation\
 2. State terrorism
 - a. Cambodia – Khmer Rouge
 - b. U.S. – the branch of Davidians
 3. Domestic terrorism
 - a. Turkey – Kurdish rebellions
 - b. U.S. – militias, patriot movements, environmental and anti-abortion terrorism
 4. International terrorism
 - a. IRA
 - b. Al Qaeda
 - c. The U.S. - the question of Panama
 5. Terrorism and world systems theory

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Lecture** -
- B. Video/web page visitation
- C. **Discussion** -

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Reading assignments 1. Read pages 300-365 in Greider's *One World Ready or Not* B. Web visitation a. Go to www.worldbank.org - What is the World Bank's mission? C. Group research project 1. Using scenario building methodologies predict the various futures of a chosen social problem.

VIII. EVALUATION:

- A. **Methods**
 1. Exams/Tests
- B. **Frequency**
 1. Frequency of Evaluation:
 - a. Midterm exam
 - b. Final exam
 - c. Term project assignment

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Greider, William *One World Ready or Not: The Manic Logic of Global Capitalism*. ., Simon & Schuster, 1998.
2. Wilson, William Julius. *When Work Disappears*. ., Knopf Publishing Group, 1997.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: