

Las Positas College
3000 Campus Hill Drive
Livermore, CA 94551-7650
(925) 424-1000
(925) 443-0742 (Fax)

Course Outline for SOC 6

SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Effective: Spring 2016

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

SOC 6 — SOCIAL PROBLEMS — 3.00 units

An identification and analysis of contemporary social problems including (1) the role of power and ideology in the definition of social problems, (2) their causes and consequences, (3) evaluations of proposed solutions, and (4) methods of intervention. Topics will vary.

3.00 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

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. Examine the construction and consequences of social problems from a sociological perspective
2. Identify and explain history of the selected social problems affecting the US
3. Place local, regional, and national social problems in a global context
4. Apply and assess sociological research methods to the study of social problems
5. Identify and evaluate policies that address social problems and assess the policies' impact on society

V. CONTENT:

- A. The Sociological Imagination and Social Problems
 1. Defining social problems
 2. Sociological Theory and the Construction of Social Problems
 3. Sociological research methods and evaluating Social Problems and the effectiveness of policies that address them
- B. Problems of Class Inequality
 1. Social class in the United States
 2. Global Stratification
- C. Problems of Race, Class, and Gender Inequality
 1. Majority/Minority Relations
 2. Discrimination
 3. Immigration
- D. Problems of Growing Populations and Scarcity of Resources
 1. A demographic perspective to social problems
 2. Health, fertility, and migration transitions
 3. Aging, Urbanization, and the Family/Household
 4. Population and the Environment/Demographic Change
- E. Problems of Educational Inequality
 1. Inequalities in schooling
 2. The hidden curriculum of contemporary education
- F. Sex and Social Problems
 1. Prejudice and Discrimination of Sexual Minorities
 2. Prostitution and PornographySexual taboos
- G. The Problem Crime
 1. Theories of crime causation
 2. Social solutions and crime
- H. Problems in Cyber Space
 1. The digital divide
 2. Blogging, Trolling and Bullying - the challenges of social media
- I. War and Terrorism
 1. Ideological wars
 2. Identity Politics and Religious Fundamentalism

3. Social solutions to war and terrorism

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

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

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Reading Assignments
 - 1. Students are required to complete approximately 100 pages of reading per week (ex. Mills Chapters 1-3; Chapter 1 from Carl; and 2 selections from *The Contexts Reader*)
- B. Short Writing Assignment:
 - 1. In preparation of a literature review for the course term paper, students will select an empirical work of sociology and compose a succinct sociological book review.
- C. Term Paper
 - 1. Students will compose a 12-15 page term paper using the course materials and theoretical issues discussed in class to examine the creation of a contemporary social problem. Term papers must include six sections: (1) abstract; (2) introduction; (3) literature review; (4) data/analysis; (5) conclusion; and (6) works cited page.
- D. Group projects
 - 1. Social Problems Through the Lens Group Project (multi-modal group project involving curation of a video clip/visual image accompanied by a 350-word sociological caption).
 - 2. Create a WIKI Page examining a contemporary social problem.
- E. BLOG
 - 1. Because the construction and management of social problems are ongoing processes, students should follow current events and are required to share their sociological analysis of a minimum of 8 Posts on the social problems course BLOG.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

- 1. Exams/Tests
- 2. Quizzes
- 3. Research Projects
- 4. Papers
- 5. Group Projects
- 6. Class Work

B. **Frequency**

- 1. At least one midterm and one final exam.
- 2. One capstone term paper assignment.
- 3. 2-5 smaller research/discussion assignments

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Carl, John. *THINK Social Problems.*, Prentice Hall , 2011.
- 2. Eitzen, D., Maxine Zinn, and Kelly Smith. *Social Problems.*, Prentice Hall, 2014.
- 3. Macionis, John. *Social Problems.*, Prentice Hall, 2013.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: