SOC 1200: Social Problems

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 3
Lab Hours/Week: *.*
Prerequisites: None

Social Problems is a critical evaluation of American culture and social structure as an underlying cause of American and global social problems. The course is presented from the perspective that individuals have an ethical responsibility to change social structures that result in inequalities among persons, destruction of the environment and individual deviance.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 09/15/1998 – Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Thinking about social problems
   A. Definition of social problems
   B. Elements of social structure and culture
   C. Theoretical perspectives on social problems
   D. Social problems research

2. Health and illness
   A. Effects of globalization
   B. Patterns of health and wellness
   C. Improving health and health care delivery
      1. In the U.S.
      2. Global improvements

3. Crime and social control
   A. Societal definitions of crime and criminals
   B. Global context
   C. Types of crime
   D. Demographic patterns of crime
   E. Strategies for action

4. Family problems
   A. Families of the world
   B. Family Structures
   C. Violence, abuse, and divorce
   D. Strengthening families

5. Poverty and economic inequality
   A. Global inequalities and the role of the U.S.
   B. Poverty and inequality in the U.S.
   C. Consequences of poverty and inequality.
   D. Antipoverty programs, policies and proposals

6. Work and Employment
A. Global context
B. Problems of work and unemployment
C. Responses to workers’ concerns

7. Racial, ethnicity and immigration
   A. Diversity worldwide
   B. Race and ethnic diversity and relations in the U.S.
   C. Immigrants and immigration
   D. Prejudice and discrimination
   E. Responding to prejudice, racism and discrimination

8. Gender Inequality
   A. The global context
   B. Polarization of genders
   C. Socialization vs. structural inequalities
   D. The costs of consequences of gender inequality
   E. Moving toward equality

   A. Youth and aging around the world
   B. Young and old in the U.S.
   C. Age inequalities
   D. Strategies for action

10. Population growth and urbanization
    A. World population history/trends
    B. Social problems related to population and urbanization
    C. Responding to problems of population and urbanization

11. Environmental problems
    A. Globalization and the environment.
    B. Overview of environmental problems
    C. Social causes of environmental problems
    D. Responding to environmental problems

12. Science and Technology
    A. The global technological revolution
    B. Technology and the transformation of society
    C. Societal consequences of science and technology
    D. Controlling science and technology

13. Conflict, War, and Terrorism
    A. The global context
    B. Causes of war and terrorism
    C. The search for global peace

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)
1. Students will contrast the different emphases of the structured functionalist, conflict, and symbolic interactionist perspectives.
2. Students will identify the structural and cultural sources of social problems.
3. Students will identify patterns of health and wellness and suggest ways to improve health.
4. Students will describe demographic patterns associated with types of crime.
5. Students will identify the many problems in family settings.
6. Students will describe causes and consequences of poverty and economic inequality.
7. Students will identify social problems related to work and unemployment.
8. Students will describe issues pertaining to race, ethnicity, and immigration.
9. Students will describe the effects of gender inequality and suggest causes and solutions.
10. Students will describe social problems unique to age categories of young and old.
11. Students will identify social problems resulting from population growth and urbanization.
12. Students will identify environmental problems and their social causes.
13. Students will assess the positive and negative effects of science and technology on society.
14. Students will identify causes and possible solutions to conflict and social problems that result.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies
   Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci
   Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT
   As noted on course syllabus

F. SPECIAL INFORMATION

   HCC COMPETENCIES:
   Communicating Clearly & Effectively, Social / Civic Responsibility

   STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS:
   Students will be expected to
   1. attend class regularly.
   1. exhibit appropriate classroom behavior.
   2. read all assigned material on a timely basis.
   3. contribute to classroom discussion.
   4. complete quizzes.
   6. take written exams on scheduled dates.

   STUDENTS ASSESSMENT SHALL TAKE PLACE USING INSTRUMENTS SELECTED/DEVELOPED BY THE COURSE INSTRUCTOR.

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<th>AASC APPROVAL DATE</th>
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<td>REVIEW DATE</td>
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