

**SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DIVISION OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

Social Science

Revision Date: 07-01-21

[Syllabus Statements](#)

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Course Number: SOCI2010

Course Title: Social Problems

Prerequisite: None

Catalog Description: This course explores empirical data and subjective awareness of current social issues affecting large numbers of people. Students will investigate social responses to social issues, how they manifest and evolve over time through the lens of power, individual agency and social policy. Students will improve their ability to understand and systematically investigate individual, community, institutional and social movement responses to the social conditions.

Credit Hours: 3.0

Class Hours: 45

Lab Hours: 0

Total Contact Hours: 45

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES: *Course will:*

- A. Understand the socially constructed nature of social problems.
- B. Apply sociological perspective and theory to explain social problems; including person versus system blame approaches.
- C. Evaluate claims concerning the significance of social problems and solutions.
- D. Investigate social issues within society's institutions.
- E. Provide an overview of how access to resources and privilege influences the perception of social problems.
- F. Study various collective movements and their efforts to alleviate social problems.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES

- A. Student Learning Outcomes: *Student will be able to:*
 - 1. Apply theories and concepts sociologists utilize to study social problems.
 - 2. Critically examine the subjective and objective aspects of social issues.
 - 3. Demonstrate use of the sociological perspective for deeper understanding of social problems, including person versus system blame approaches.
 - 4. Explore ideas that challenge existing understandings of the social world.
 - 5. Understand how access to resources and privilege influences the perception of social problems.

6. Evaluate various social movements that work to alleviate social problems.
- B. General Education Learning Outcomes**
1. GELO #2: Written Communication
Outcome: Comprehend, analyze, and evaluate a given text.
Outcome: Read and write in mechanically-sound, college-level English.
 2. GELO #4: Global Awareness and Citizenship
Outcome: Explain the connections between historical and recent events and current global situations related to political systems, economic systems, social systems, and /or environmental issues.
Outcome: Discuss issues from a global perspective.

IV. CONTENT/TOPICAL OUTLINE (*Course outline may provide more detailed information*)

- A. Sociological perspectives on social problems (noting how many are interrelated)
- B. Social Stratification: Poverty, Wealth and Social inequality
- C. Racial, Ethnic inequality; majority/minority groups/issues; (if time, religious inequality)
- D. Gendered inequality and violence; including historical and global emphasis
- E. Problems related to aging and physical disability (to the extent possible)
- F. Problems related to crime, violence and the criminal justice system
- G. Problems related to sexuality, sexual identity and sexual orientation related issues
- H. Problems related to alcohol and substance abuse
- I. Problems related to mental and physical health and the health care system
- J. Problems related to economics and politics
- K. Problems related to working and the workplace
- L. Problems related to the family (some overlap with gender and work etc.)
- M. Problems in education (again, some overlap with other topic areas)
- N. Urban problems (again, interrelated with *many* other topic areas, as usual)
- O. Problems related to population and global inequality
- P. Problems related to technology and the environment
- Q. War and terrorism (as time permits, to the extent possible)

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Required Text(s):
 1. Atkinson, Maxine P., Kathleen Odell Korgen, Mary Nell Trautner. *Social Problems – Sociology in Action*, 1st Edition, 2020, Sage.
ISBN-13: 978-1544338668, ISBN-10: 154433866X.
- B. Other resources:
 1. Supplemental handouts/activities supplied by instructor for Service Learning project, writing assignments and other articles/handouts instructor may choose to use; video segments and guest speaker(s) if possible.
 2. APA Writing Style packet at bookstore; if using the research paper option.

VI. METHODS OF PRESENTATION/INSTRUCTION

- A. Classes will be a combination of lectures, discussion, video presentations and formal student presentations related to their service learning experience or research paper as well as minor presentations and/or comments on issues under study as assigned. Major emphasis will be placed on discussion of issues covered in the assigned topic areas and readings.

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Methods of evaluation typically include a combination of the following:

1. Exams/quizzes
2. Written Assignments
3. Attendance and class participation on both a formal and informal basis
4. Service Learning or major research paper and presentations
5. Specific details regarding grading policies will be noted elsewhere in the syllabus.

B. SCC GRADING SCALE

A+	95-100	C+	75-79	F	59 or less
A	90-94	C	70-74		
B+	85-89	D+	65-69		
B	80-84	D	60-64		

V. SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. In order to receive a passing grade in the course, students must complete the work assigned by the instructor in a satisfactory manner and within time frames allowed.
 1. Regular attendance
 2. Reading, examinations
 3. Service Learning experience or Research Paper (as per specific instructions for each).
 4. Writing assignments and presentations
 5. Discussion/Class Participation
- B. In most cases, a minimum grade of C is required to transfer to four-year institutions. It is up to the student to be aware of academic issues such as this.