

# SOC A185: ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Item	Value
Curriculum Committee Approval Date	12/09/2020
Top Code	220800 - Sociology
Units	3 Total Units
Hours	54 Total Hours (Lecture Hours 54)
Total Outside of Class Hours	0
Course Credit Status	Credit: Degree Applicable (D)
Material Fee	No
Basic Skills	Not Basic Skills (N)
Repeatable	No
Open Entry/Open Exit	No
Grading Policy	Standard Letter (S)
Associate Arts Local General Education (GE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area 4 Social and Behavioral Sciences 4B Social and Economic Institutions (OD2)</li> </ul>
Associate Science Local General Education (GE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area 4 Social and Behavioral Sciences (OSD)</li> </ul>
California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cal-GETC 4 Social &amp; Behavioral Sciences (4)</li> <li>Cal-GETC 4J Sociology (4J)</li> </ul>
Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IGETC 4 Social&amp;Behavioral Sci (4)</li> <li>IGETC 4J Sociology (4J)</li> </ul>
California State University General Education Breadth (CSU GE-Breadth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSU D0 Sociology &amp; Criminology (D0)</li> </ul>

## Course Description

An analysis of contemporary social problems. Topics include global ecology, political economy, sexual behavior, drug use, racism, sexism, ageism, education, environment, health issues, crime, and violence. Enrollment Limitation: SOC A185H; students who complete SOC A185 may not enroll in or receive credit for SOC A185H. Transfer Credit: CSU; UC. C-ID: SOCI 115. C-ID: SOCI 115.

## Course Level Student Learning Outcome(s)

1. Use one of the three main sociological perspectives to explain the development of a social problem.
2. Propose and defend a solution to a social problem.

## Course Objectives

- 1. Demonstrate understanding of major social problems concerning the U.S.
- 2. Place local, regional, and national social problems in global context
- 3. Identify, and distinguish between, causes and consequences of social problems
- 4. Analyze social problems using sociological approaches and concepts

- 5. Analyze and interpret qualitative and quantitative information about social problems
- 6. Identify and evaluate policies that address social problems and assess the policies? impact on society

## Lecture Content

Foundations The social construction and consequences of social problems The role of power and ideology in the definition of social problems. The causes of social problems Evaluation and consideration of proposed solutions to social problems. Methods of research and analysis Personal vs. social problems Theoretical perspectives Functionalist perspective Conflict theory Symbolic interactionist perspective Problems of social inequality Poverty and wealth Racial Gender Aging Education Work Families Problems of deviance, conformity, and well-being Crime and violence Sexuality Alcohol and drugs Health care Global problems Population and global inequality Environment

## Method(s) of Instruction

- Lecture (02)
- DE Online Lecture (02X)

## Instructional Techniques

1. Lectures 2. Facilitation of student group work 3. Class discussion 4. Media evaluation

## Reading Assignments

Students will spend a minimum of three hours per week reading from assigned textbook(s) and newspaper/magazine articles selected for specific topics.

## Writing Assignments

May include: Objective exams Written assignments Application exercises Research project Field Journal Oral Presentations Reflection and discussion Small group activities Out-of-class activities

## Out-of-class Assignments

Three hours of homework per week spent on some or all of the following: May include: Written assignments Application exercises Research project Field Journal Oral Presentations Reflection and discussion Small group activities Out-of-class activities

## Demonstration of Critical Thinking

May include: A position paper on a current social problem. Written report on volunteer work. Oral report on a social problem of the student's choice. Reaction papers on lectures, speakers, videos Midterm examination. Final examination. Short Quizzes Discussion boards

## Required Writing, Problem Solving, Skills Demonstration

May include: Objective exams Written assignments Application exercises Research project Field Journal Oral Presentations Reflection and discussion Small group activities Out-of-class activities

## Eligible Disciplines

Sociology: Master's degree in sociology OR bachelor's degree in sociology AND master's degree in anthropology, any ethnic studies, social work, or psychology OR the equivalent. Master's degree required.

## **Textbooks Resources**

1. Required Heiner, R.. Social Problems:An Introduction to Critical Constructionism, 4th ed. Oxford University Press, 2012  
2. Required Eitzen, D.S., BacaZinn, M. Eitzen Smith, K. Social Problems, 13th ed. Upper Saddle River. Pearson, 2013  
Rationale: Text needed to support student learning  
3. Required Henslin, J. Social Problems: A Down to Earth Approach, 11th ed. New York: Pearson, 2013  
4. Required John Macionis. Social Problems, 7th ed. Pearson, 2018

## **Other Resources**

1. Library Reserve Desk: This will vary with the semester. Current materials owned by the OCC Library as well as materials from the instructor's personal library. This can be selected by the individual instructor by his/her choice.  
2. Handouts by Instructor: This will vary with the semester. Current information from magazines and newspapers.