

Effective Date: Spring 2009

New  Revised  
(Check One)

## COURSE OUTLINE

**COURSE PREFIX and NUMBER:** SOC 268

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**COURSE TITLE:** Social Problems

**PREREQUISITES:** English placement recommendation for English 111 and satisfactory completion of English 01 and 04 if required by reading placement test. Co-requisite English 05 and English 107 if recommended by reading placement test.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Applies sociological concepts and methods to analysis of current social problems. Include discussion and analysis of: delinquency and crime, mental illness, drug addiction/alcoholism, sexual behavior, population and environmental problems, racial/ethnic relations, family and community disorganization, poverty, the impact of technology, terrorism, and warfare.

### MAJOR TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

- A. The sociological approach to social problems—theories and methods of scientific inquiry
- B. Problems of social inequity—social class, gender and sexuality, race/ethnicity, age
- C. Problems of social deviance—crime/violence, substance abuse, sexual deviance
- D. Problems affecting our social institutions—family, schools, politics, economics)
- E. Change and disruption in the physical and social world—urbanization, environmental problems, terrorism, warfare

**GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- A. Differentiate between personal problems and social problems
- B. Understand and identify causes of, development, and potential solutions to key social problems
- C. Understand and explain the nature, function, and consequences of stratification systems
- D. Explain the relationship between human beings and the social institutions created by them
- E. Understand and explain how connections between social groups and institutions can help or hinder progress toward alleviating social problems
- F. Explain the possible positive and negative effects of collective behavior on our society, and in the global community
- G. Recognize that social problems are complex, as are any implemented strategies to alleviate or eliminate those problems.
- H. Utilize a scientific rather than “common sense” approach to understanding society and social problems
- I. Differentiate between assumptions/stereotypes and objective, scientific information
- J. Meaningfully use sociological concepts in oral and written communications, and apply those concepts to analysis of his/her own self, society, and social problems.
- K. Derive tentative conclusions based upon interrelated facts, rather than opinions
- L. Summarize, critically evaluate, and understand information, including scientific data presented in tables and graphs
- M. Recognize and differentiate between causal and correlation relationships
- N. Demonstrate effective, college-level speaking and writing skills
- O. Demonstrate competency in locating, understanding, organizing, and applying information