

Prepared by the Department of Social Sciences
Date of Departmental Approval: February 10, 2010
Date approved by Curriculum and Programs: March 3, 2010

Effective: Fall 2010

1. **Course Number:** SOC215
Course Title: Social Problems

2. **Description:** A survey of the nature and range of social problems, the global and societal conditions which give rise to them, and the methods by which societies attempt to cope with them.

3. **Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to do the following:

- Read and critique behavioral science research papers and critically evaluate behavioral science research.
- Critically evaluate policy research and proposals related to social problems.
- Identify, describe and apply some of the conceptual frameworks which social scientists, policy makers and social activists use to think about social problems.
- Describe selected social problems and relate specific facts about their nature, prevalence and impact upon individuals in a variety of societies.
- Describe the global dynamics and impact of selected social problems.
- Compare and contrast the nature and extent of selected social problems in different societies.
- Communicate their analysis of selected social problems in a logical, well organized, documented written paper.
- Demonstrate an understanding of multiple perspectives on social problems in discussions of these problems with class mates.

4. **Credits:** Three credits

5. **Satisfies General Education Requirement:** Behavioral and Social Sciences

6. **Prerequisite:** SOC106

7. **Semester(s) Offered:** Fall, Spring, Summer

8. **Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation:** Student evaluation is based on performance on examinations that require the student to apply sociological concepts and theory to analyze social problems. Grade is also based on participation in class discussions and completion of research projects.

9. **General Topical Outline (Optional):**

- Introduction: What are social problems? Who decides? How does sociology approach and study social problems?
- Poverty and Wealth: How do economic inequalities create and influence social problems?
- Other Inequalities: Racial and Ethnic Inequality, Prejudice, Discrimination
- Gender Inequality
- Social Problem and Individual Deviance: Topics may include Health and Mental Illness, Addiction and Substance Abuse, Crime and Criminal Justice; Violence and/or Sexuality
- Social Problems and Social Institutions: Topics may include Work and Unemployment; Education; Economy and Politics; Family; and or Urban Life
- Social Problems: Societal and Global. Topics may include War, Global Violence and Terrorism; Global Inequality; Technology and/or Population and Environmental Problems