

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

SOC 202 Social Problems Sample Course Outline Panama Program

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the causes, treatment, and prevention of selected social problems in the United States. In order to achieve this purpose it is necessary to understand the interconnectedness between differing parts of our society and how people define their social world. This course will examine some of the more controversial sociological topics.

The study of social problems is the study of efforts to define and change aspects of society deemed unacceptable by particular social groups. In this course we will explore a wide variety of social problems confronting American society. Because this course is given in Panama, we will be including an overview of some social problems in this country and their consequences.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will be able to demonstrate the understanding of methods of critical thought and principles of scholarly inquiry concerning issues that have shaped the development of society in the United States, including but not limited to the issues of age, ethnicity, gender, race, religion, and social class.
2. Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of methods of critical thought and principles of scholarly inquiry concerning contemporary United States's culture and society as seen from the humanistic or scientific perspective.
3. Students will evaluate and discuss the connection between the individual and society and the U.S. culture.
4. Students will evaluate and answer the question of whether social problems can be solved.
5. Students will increase their proficiency in oral and written communications through class presentations and essay writing.

Required Text:

Mooney, L.A., Knox, D. & Schacht, C. **Understanding Social Problems**, 8th Edition.

Tentative Topics and Evaluation:

UNIT	EVALUATION
Sociology and the study of Social Problems (What is a Social Problem? Elements of Social Structure and Culture, The Sociological Imagination, Theoretical perspectives, Social Problems Research)	<i>Oral Presentations</i>
Problems of well-being (Physical and Mental health and health Care, Alcohol and other Drugs, Family Problems)	<i>Oral Presentation</i>
Crime and Social Control (Sociological Theories of Crime, Types of Crimes, Demographic Patterns of Crime, Strategies for Action: Crime and Social Control)	<i>Oral presentations</i>
Problems of Inequality (Poverty and Economic Inequality, Work and Unemployment, problems and Education, Race, Ethnicity and Immigration)	<i>Midterm Oct. 27</i> <i>Oral presentations</i>
Problems of Inequality (Soc Theories of Poverty and Ec Equality, Patterns of poverty in the US, Consequences of Poverty and Ec Inequality)	<i>Essays Nov. 19</i> <i>Final Exam No. 26</i>