WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE PROGRAM
COURSE SYLLABUS

FACULTY MEMBER: 
TERM: 

COURSE TITLE: Contemporary Social Problems 

COURSE NUMBER: SOC 303

FACULTY CONTACT INFORMATION:

FACULTY INFORMATION:

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Social problems are those conditions that threaten the values of a given society. This course will examine selected contemporary social problems and view the various perspectives through which they are discussed, as well as explore the social conditions that contribute to the creation of social problems. The course will identify social policies that are in place to address social problems. Selected contemporary social problems to be explored are: health care, mental illness, addictions, crime and violence, distribution of income, as well as trends in prejudice, gender inequality, the aged, immigration in society, and the changing nature of work and employment.

PREREQUISITES: N/A

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

INSTRUCTIONAL GOAL A: View social problems from diverse sociological perspectives. 

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

A-1: Explain a social problem from the functionalist, conflict, and interactionist perspective.
A-2: List 4 social problems that have become dominant trends in the last 5 years.
A-3: Explain how social problems are researched.
A-4: Define the following terms:
- Social pathology
- Social organization
- Conflict perspective
- Secondary deviance
- Ethnography
- Demography
- Survey research
- Sample
- Cross-sectional data
- Longitudinal data
IDEA Objectives: E = 1
I = 3, 8

✓ Participant observation
✓ Field research
✓ Experimental group
✓ Control group
✓ Social policies

INSTRUCTIONAL GOAL B: Understand how issues of health care, mental illness, and addictions affect the overall health and functioning of a society.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

B-1: Explain the disparity of available health care in society.
B-2: Identify social policies affecting health care.
B-3: Identify social policies that affect access to and treatment of mental illness and addictions.
B-4: Define the problems associated with alcohol and addictions and identity related social policies.
B-5: Define the following terms:
  ✓ Psychological dependence
  ✓ Habituation
  ✓ Prevalence
  ✓ Alcoholics
  ✓ Codependency
  ✓ Detoxified
  ✓ Aversion therapy
  ✓ Behavior conditioning

INSTRUCTIONAL GOAL C: Understand how crime and violence impact the social order of society.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

C-1: Explore the problems of crime.
C-2: Identify social policies that influence criminal activity.
C-3: Classify the kinds of crime and how it affects society.
C-4: Find examples of white collar or corporate crime.
C-5: List causes and conditions of crime and violence.
C-6: Define the following terms:
  ✓ Crime index
  ✓ Criminal law
  ✓ Civil law
  ✓ Victimization reports
  ✓ Murder
  ✓ Manslaughter
  ✓ Differential association
  ✓ Embezzlement
  ✓ Fraud
  ✓ Organized crime status offenses
  ✓ Anomie
  ✓ Social control
IDEA Objectives: E = 1
I = 3, 8

✓ Recidivism
✓ Plea bargaining
✓ Probation
✓ Parole

INSTRUCTIONAL GOAL D: Understand the causes of wealth disparities and how unequal distribution of income affects social groups.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:
D-1: Explore the nature of income inequality.
D-2: Identify social policies related to income distribution.
D-3: Define the following terms:
   ✓ Welfare state
   ✓ Wealthfare
   ✓ Working poor
   ✓ Social stratification
   ✓ Class stratification
   ✓ Lumpenproletariat

INSTRUCTIONAL GOAL E: Discuss trends in prejudice, gender inequality, the aged, and immigration in society.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:
E-1: Reflect on personal multicultural relationships.
E-2: Explore gender inequality.
E-3: Discuss social policies that affect the aged.
E-4: Identify trends in immigration.

INSTRUCTIONAL GOAL F: Explain the changing nature of work and employment in society.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:
F-1: Discuss the basic premise of the American free enterprise system.
F-2: Outline the effects of a global economy on the American worker.
F-3: Explore the problematic aspects of work such as: the changing nature of employment, job stress, alienation, and occupational safety and health.
F-4: Explain the problems of consumer credit and debt entanglement.

INSTRUCTIONAL GOAL G: Demonstrate professional written communication skills.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:
G-1: Write papers that are well-organized, have a pattern of organization, and are reasonably free of grammatical errors.
G-2: Format papers in accordance with the requirements of APA style.
G-3: Deliver professional quality presentations using media.
G-4: Use citations within the text of papers or presentations, and give credit to outside sources by including a list of references formatted in APA style.