

Minnesota State University Moorhead

SOC 210: Social Problems

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

Examines such problems as poverty crime, urban problems, family problems, environmental problems, and war and terrorism. MnTC Goal 5.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 04/24/2002 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. The Epistemology of Social Problems. (1) What is the problem? (2) What makes this problem a social problem? (3) What are the causes of this social problem? What is the solution to this problem?
2. Social problems of Related to Culture.
3. Social Problems of Inequality and Poverty.
4. Social Problems of Work and Unemployment .
5. Social Problems of Crime, Drugs, and the Criminal Justice System.
6. Social Problems of Race and Ethnic Inequality.
7. Social Problems of Gender Inequality and Sexual Orientation.
8. Social Problems Related to the Family.
9. Social Problems Related to Education.
10. Social Problems Related to Health Care.
11. Social Problems Related to Violence, Political Institutions, and Terrorism.
12. Social Problems Related to Population, Environmental Degradation, and Natural Disasters.
13. Social Problems Related to the Problem of Immigration.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Students will gain insight into the most intractable social problems on the American landscape today. They will learn how to identify social problems, and the unique features that make a problem a "social" one.
2. Students learn about competing theoretical perspectives in sociology on the origins and causes of social problems. This course examines the complexity of human social behavior and social problems from a variety of theoretical perspectives and worldviews. It will approach the complexities of social problems from major epistemological standpoints in sociology today. Moreover, this course shows how different perspectives interpret the causes and consequences of social problems.
3. This course introduces students to the various research methodologies and data that sociologists employ to study social problems. Students will learn to differentiate objective (scientific) information from subjective (conjectural) ones in evaluating the causes and consequences of social problems.
4. Students will learn to identify the possible causes and consequences, both intended and unintended ones, of social problems, and to effectively communicate these issues in papers and presentations.
5. This course examines historical and contemporary approaches to the study of social problems and the unique social and political milieux that gave rise to these perspectives. Students will learn about the three (3) approaches to the study of social problems: the (1) person-blame approach, (2) the system-blame approach, and (3) approaches that attempt to conflate both.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
2. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.
3. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted