

**Common Course Outline**  
**SOCL 102**  
**Social Problems**  
**3 Credits**

**Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**SOCL 102 – 3 Credits – Social Problems** examines the social and cultural basis of issues that are defined as social problems in U.S. society. The nature, extent, and likely causes and consequences of social problems are analyzed through sociological theories and research. A variety of problems are studied, including: crime and violence, poverty and economic inequality, race and ethnic relations, substance abuse, and the family.

**3 credits**

**Prerequisites:** ACLT 052 or ACLT 053

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. assess the sociological perspective of social problems;
2. apply the concept of the sociological imagination to describe the intersection of history and biography as diverse groups experience social problems;
3. compare and contrast the macro and micro sociological approaches in examining social problems;
4. evaluate social problems using major sociological theories by focusing on the main concepts, ideas and critical assessment of each theory from a historical, social and political context;
5. examine the importance of culture, subcultures, and changing social norms as they impact the construction of social problems in various societies;
6. evaluate social problems related to the social institutions of marriage, family, the media, educational, criminal justice system, political and economic structures in a diverse and global society;
7. explain the ethical implications of social problems based on social class, race, age, gender and other areas of diversity in America and the global society;
8. apply the sociological perspective when using technology to evaluate and validate information;
9. find, evaluate, use and cite appropriate academic resources;
10. apply the steps in the scientific research process to specific social problems, and
11. present ideas for effective social change in written and oral assessments while maintaining a commitment to the professional ethics of the discipline.

## **Major Topics**

- I. The sociological perspective
- II. The sociological imagination
- III. Social problems
  - A. Age
  - B. Race
  - C. Gender
  - D. Social Class
  - E. Sexuality
- IV. Major theoretical perspectives
  - A. Structural Functional Theory
  - B. Conflict Theory
  - C. Symbolic Interaction Theory
  - D. Feminist Theory
- V. Culture
- VI. Social structure and social institutions
  - A. Marriage
  - B. Family
  - C. Education
  - D. Media
  - E. Politics
  - F. Economics
  - G. The criminal justice system
- VII. The scientific research process
- VIII. Social change

## **Course Requirements**

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

### **Grading/exams**

- Exams: A minimum of two exams
- Writing: A writing assignment ( at least 5 pages) is required that directs students to apply sociological theories to understanding the impact of social class on an individual's life chances. Students are required to utilize appropriate academic resources. This assignment will count for a minimum of 10% of the student overall grade and will demonstrate using, at least, 5 of the 7 General Education Program Outcomes.

Students are required to utilize appropriate academic resources.

## **Course Information**

This course is an approved General Education course in the Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Revised 6/21/19