

SOCL 102
Social Problems
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline

Description

SOCL 102 – Social Problems: is a course in which students examine 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.

Co-requisites: ACLT 053 or (ESOL 052 and ESOL 054)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. assess the sociological perspective on 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 cultures, subcultures, and changing social norms as they impact the social construction of, and responses to, social problems in various societies;
6. evaluate social problems related to the social institutions of marriage, family, media, education, criminal justice, political, and economic systems 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 the U.S. and in global society;
8. use appropriate technology to evaluate and validate research sources on global social problems;
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.

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.
For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

Major Topics

- I. The sociological perspective on global social problems
- II. The sociological imagination
- III. Sociological theories
 - a. Structural functional theory
 - b. Conflict theory
 - c. Symbolic interaction theory
 - d. Feminist theory
- IV. Problems of Inequality
 - a. Poverty
 - b. Race and ethnicity
 - c. Gender
 - d. Sexual orientation
 - e. Age
- V. Problems of deviance, conformity, and well-being
 - a. Alcohol and other drugs
 - b. Deviance, crime, and criminal justice
 - c. Sexual behavior
 - d. Age
- VI. Institutional problems
 - a. Family
 - b. Media and social media
 - c. Education
 - d. Economics
 - e. Politics
 - f. Criminal justice
- VII. Social movements and social change

Course Requirements

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- two exams
- two discussions in person or online
- three quizzes
- two 2-3 page written assignments
- one writing assignment (at least 5 pages) in which students apply sociological theories to understanding institutionalized global social problems. This activity will address the General Education Outcomes.

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

Other Course Information

This course is an approved 3–credit General Education course in the Social and Behavioral Sciences.

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One or more assignments will infuse CCBC General Education Program outcomes and will account for a minimum of 10% of the total course grade. The assignment(s) will allow students to demonstrate at least 5 of the 7 General Education program outcomes.

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