

Course Code: SOC 102 (IAI S7 901)

Course Title: Social Problems

Department: Arts, Media, and Social Sciences

Effective Date: Summer 2026

PCS Code: 1.1 - Baccalaureate/Transfer

CIP Code: 45.1101

Repeatability: 0

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 3-0-3

Credit Hour Distribution:

Lecture: 3

Lab: 0

Clinical: 0

Total: 3

General Course Information

Catalog Description

Sociological analysis of social institutions and problems created by their efforts to meet demands of changing social environment. For students who want to more fully understand contemporary American society.

General Course Objectives

Students will be able to critically analyze U.S. society using the major theoretical perspectives of sociology. Students will also identify societal inconsistencies and contradictions, including how values and politics influence our attitudes regarding social problems and solutions.

Minimum Placement Levels

English	Reading	Math
Placement out of ENG 099	None	None

Prerequisites

None

Methods of Evaluation

Evaluation will include a combination of subjective and objective assessments. These assessments include between 6 and 10 quizzes and exams including a final exam. The course includes a range of 3 to 6 activities and/or application exercises that will together comprise a minimum of 12 pages of writing.

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

Social Problems, by J. Best, et al., current edition, ISBN 9781324085874

Course Content

General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Critical Thinking and Information Literacy: Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate perspectives, evidence, and implications, and to locate, assess, and use information effectively.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
General Introduction to the Study of Social Institutions and Social Problems	1. Apply the main ideas and key terms of Functionalism, Conflict, and Symbolic Interactionist theoretical perspectives in analysis of social problems.	6	0	0
Examination of Social Inequality and the Impact upon Specific Groups in Society	1. Evaluate the impact of poverty in the U.S. and abroad, and describe the impact of racism, sexism, and ageism on life chances.	10	0	0
Overview of Deviance and Conformity in the U.S and Examination of the Status of Physical and Mental Health	1. Describe social processes that label behavior as acceptable or non-acceptable. 2. Explain the impact of deviant and conforming behavior on self and society.	10	0	0
Review of Major Institutions in U.S. Society	1. Recognize the social problems associated with politics/government, the family, economy, education, and the workplace. 2. Evaluate differing political perspectives regarding social and economic policy to address them.	16	0	0
Global Problems	1. Assess the impact of global issues that impact social problems including terrorism, population growth, and environmental threats.	3	0	0

Total Contact Hours

Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
45	0	0