

**College of San Mateo**  
**Official Course Outline**

1. **COURSE ID:** SOCI 105    **TITLE:** Social Problems    **C-ID:** SOCI 115

**Units:** 3.0 units    **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours

**Method of Grading:** Grade Option (Letter Grade or P/NP)

**Recommended Preparation:**

Eligibility for ENGL 838 or ENGL 848  
or ESL 400.

2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**

**Degree Credit**

**Transfer credit:** CSU; UC

**AA/AS Degree Requirements:**

CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E5b. Social Science

**CSU GE:**

CSU GE Area D: SOCIAL SCIENCES: DSI - Social Institutions

**IGETC:**

IGETC Area 4: SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES: Social and Behavioral Sciences

3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

**Catalog Description:**

This course in contemporary social issues uses the methodology and paradigms of sociology to examine the nature and types of social problems. Topics include the nature and definition of social problems, theory and research in social problems, race, social inequality, gender population growth, urbanization deviance, world economy, and family, etc. Course contains theoretical and descriptive studies of crime, delinquency, mental illness, drug abuse, suicide, and other social problems of mass society.

4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

1. Define and address social problems using three major sociological paradigms
2. Describe social problems involving inequality based on social class, gender, age, race and ethnic differences.
3. Discuss international problems arising from population growth, urbanization, poverty, and human development issues.
4. Evaluate critically arguments for and against different social issues, using an ethical and moral lens

5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Define and address social problems using three major sociological paradigms
2. Describe social problems involving inequality based on social class, gender, age, race and ethnic differences.
3. Discuss international problems arising from population growth, urbanization, poverty, and human development issues.
4. Evaluate critically arguments for and against different social issues, using an ethical and moral lens

6. **COURSE CONTENT:**

**Lecture Content:**

1. Sociology and the Study of Social Problems.
2. Definition of a "social problem."
3. Social problems and three main paradigms in sociology:
  - A. Structural functionalism.
  - B. Symbolic interactionism.
  - C. Conflict perspective.
4. Research on social problems.
5. Problems of Well-Being.
  - A. Illness and the health-care crisis.
  - B. Globalization and health.
  - C. Societal measures of health and illness.

- D. HIV/AIDS and global health.
  - E. Obesity and health in the United States.
  - F. Mental illness as a hidden epidemic.
6. Alcohol and other drugs.
    - A. Sociological theories of drug abuse.
    - B. Societal consequences.
  7. Crime and social control.
    - A. Sociological theories on crime.
    - B. Demographic patterns.
    - C. Social control.
  8. Family problems.
    - A. Families in the global picture.
    - B. Changing patterns in U. S. families and households.
    - C. Sociological theories of families.
    - D. Violence and abuse.
    - E. Divorce.
    - F. Non-marital relationships and child-bearing.
  9. Problems of Inequality.
    - A. Poverty and economic inequality.
    - B. Poverty and inequality around the world.
    - C. Sociological theories.
    - D. Economic inequality in the U. S.
    - E. Consequences of poverty.
  10. Work and employment.
    - A. Sociological theories of work and the economy.
    - B. Problems of work and unemployment.
    - C. Concerns at the workplace.
    - D. Human side of unemployment.
  11. Problems in education.
    - A. Cross-cultural variation in education.
    - B. Sociological theories of education.
    - C. Inequality of educational attainment.
    - D. Problems in the U. S. Educational system.
    - E. Trends in the American educational system.
  12. Race, ethnicity, and immigration.
    - A. World-wide diversity.
    - B. Racial and ethnic group diversity and relations in the U. S.
    - C. Immigration and immigrants in America.
    - D. Sociological theories of race and race relations.
    - E. Prejudice and racism.
    - F. Discrimination involving racial and ethnic minorities.
    - G. Strategies for responding to prejudice, racism, and discrimination.
  13. Gender inequality.
    - A. Global status of men and women.
    - B. Sociological theories of gender inequality.
    - C. Social construction of gender roles and cultural sexism.
    - D. Traditional gender role socialization.
    - E. Strategies for action toward gender equality.
  14. Issues in sexual orientation.
    - A. Global view on homosexuality.
    - B. Homosexuality and bi-sexuality in the U. S.
    - C. Origins of sexual orientation diversity.
    - D. Sociological theories of sexual orientation issues.
    - E. Discrimination against sexual orientation minorities.
    - F. Understanding issues in sexual orientation.
  15. Problems of youth and aging.
    - A. Young and aging around the world.
    - B. Sociological theories on age inequality.
    - C. Problems of youth.
    - D. The "Graying" of America.

- E. Problems of the elderly.
- 16. Problems of Globalization.
  - A. Population growth and urbanization.
  - B. World view on population growth and urbanization.
  - C. Sociological theories on population growth and urbanization.
  - D. Social problems related to growth and urbanization.
  - E. Responses to problems of population growth and decline, and urbanization.
  - F. Strategies for reducing urban growth in developing countries.
- 17. Environmental problems.
  - A. The environment in a global context.
  - B. Sociological theories of environmental problems.
  - C. Energy and the environment.
  - D. Social causes of environmental problems.
- 18. Science and technology.
  - A. Technological revolution in a global context.
  - B. Sociological theories of science and technology.
  - C. Technology and the transformation of society.
  - D. Societal consequences of science and technology.
  - E. Strategies for limiting the impact of science and technology.
- 19. Conflict, war, and terrorism.
  - A. Conflict in a changing world.
  - B. Sociological theories of war.
  - C. Causes of war.
  - D. Different types of terrorism.
  - E. Social problems associated with conflict, war, and terrorism.
  - F. The search for global peace.

#### 7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Directed Study
- C. Activity
- D. Discussion
- E. Other (Specify): Email - Electronic forum - Video - Online Presentations - Resource links - Telephone

#### 8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

##### **Writing Assignments:**

Students complete research papers on a social problem related to one of the topics covered in class.

##### **Reading Assignments:**

Weekly reading assignments from the assigned textbook.

##### **Other Outside Assignments:**

Students review and report on videos related to course topics

Students may attend assigned college sponsored events and activities related to the course and write reports, such as the annual Asia/ Pacific Islander film Festival.

#### 9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Exams/Tests
- B. Group Projects
- C. Homework
- D. Quizzes
- E. Research Projects
- F. Written examination

#### 10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Henslin, James M. . *Social Problems: A Down to Earth Approach with Pearson eText --Access Card Package*, 11 ed. New York: Pearson Publishing, 2013

**Origination Date:** July 2015  
**Curriculum Committee Approval Date:** March 2016  
**Effective Term:** Fall 2016  
**Course Originator:** Jane Williams