



A: Division: INSTRUCTIONAL
B: Faculty: HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES
Department: SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY

Date: APRIL 1997
New Course: X
Revision of Course Information form:

C: SOCI 155 D: SOCIAL ISSUES E: 3
Subject & Course No. Descriptive Title Semester Credit

F: Calendar Description: This course introduces students to the concepts, methods, and theories of sociology through the examination of social problems. It examines the social conditions and processes related to defining, responding to, and resolving social problems. Social problems to be examined range from personal to institutional issues and include historical as well as contemporary examples.
Summary of Revisions: (Enter date & section) Eg: Section C,E,F

G: Type of instruction: Hrs per week / per semester
Lecture: 2 Hrs.
Laboratory: Hrs.
Seminar: 2 Hrs.
Clinical Experience: Hrs.
Field Experience: Hrs.
Practicum: Hrs.
Shop: Hrs.
Studio: Hrs.
Student Directed Learning: Hrs.
Other (Specify): Hrs.
Total: 4 Hrs.

H: Course Prerequisites: NONE
I: Course Corequisites: NONE
J: Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite: SOCI 230, SOCI 240, SOCI 250, SOCI 260, SOCI 270, SOCI 280, SOCI 290
K: Maximum Class Size: 35

L: College Credit Transfer X
College Credit Non-Transfer
Non-Credit

M: Transfer Credit: Requested: X
Granted:

Specify Course Equivalents or Unassigned Credit as appropriate:
SFU SA 250 (3)
UBC with Douglas SOCI 125 = SOCI 100 (6)
UVIC SOCI 210 (1.5)
Other

Melody Hession
Course Designer(s)

Steve Hession
Department Chair

[Signature]
Dean

V.H. Doy
Registrar

Subject and Course Number

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- N. **Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students (Use Bibliographic Form):**
A suitable Social Problems text or text which meets the approval of the discipline. For example:

**E.D. Nelson and Augie Fleras Social Problems in Canada: Issues and Challenges,
Scarborough, Ont.: Prentice-Hall Canada Inc., 1995.**

and (optional)

**E.D. Nelson and Augie Fleras (Eds.) Social Problems in Canada Reader, Scarborough, Ont.:
Prentice-Hall Canada Inc., 1995.**

The textbook(s) will be updated as necessary.

**Complete Form with Entries Under the following Headings: O. Course Objectives; P. Course Content;
Q. Method of Instruction; R. Course Evaluation**

O. Course Objectives

At the conclusion of the course the student will be able to:

- 1. Identify some of the major social problems evident in contemporary Canadian society, including both microproblems involving interpersonal relations as well as macroproblems involving structural factors and change;**
- 2. Discuss the actors, the interests, and the processes by which these social factors are constructed as social problems;**
- 3. Describe the primary theoretical perspectives used by sociologists in approaching social problems;**
- 4. Discuss the relations between traditionally private and emerging social areas of concern, such as addiction and sexuality, and explain their emergence as focal concerns of social policy;**
- 5. Understand and explain the ways in which structural factors such as age, class, race and gender are related to social problems and issues;**
- 6. Describe the social, political and economic contexts of social inequality, with an emphasis on poverty, and explain the ways in which these are socially constructed;**
- 7. Apply a range of theoretical perspectives to interpret social problems associated with gender, race and ethnicity;**
- 8. Discuss the ways in which formal institutions, especially the family, formal organizations and the workplace have become redefined in terms of power, violence, diversity and technology;**
- 9. Discuss the ways in which the mass media have become involved in the social construction of social problems;**
- 10. Explain the global dimension of social problems, both as sources of Canadian social issues and in terms of the linkages and precedents they provide in interpreting domestic issues;**

O. Course Objectives - Cont'd.

11. Evaluate contemporary social policy in terms of its capability to accommodate social problems;
12. Critically evaluate social problems in terms of the organization and structure of contemporary Canadian society.

P. Course Content

1. Introduction

Private Troubles and Public Issues
Approaches to Studying Social Problems
Assumptions, Concepts and Actors
Social Problems, Morality and Policy

2. Sociological Perspectives of Social Problems: Theoretical and Interpretive Frameworks

Functionalist, Conflict and Interactionist Perspectives

3. The History of Social Problems

Definition
Mobilization
Politicization
Reaction and Response
Policy Implementation and Treatment

4. Private Troubles and Public Issues: Addictions

Problems: Crime, Health, Economics
Costs, Analysis, Solutions

5. Private Troubles and Public Issues: Sex and Sexuality

Problems: Gender, Sexual Preference
Eroticism, Coercion and Violence
Reproduction and Sexuality

6. Structural Problems I: Crime and Inequality

Social Definitions of Crime
Crime and the Media
Social Inequality and Poverty
Class and Stratification
Racial, Ethnic, Gender, and Regional Inequality
Poverty and Social Policy

Subject and Course Number

7. **Structural Problems II: Gender and Race**

Sociological & Feminist Explanations of Gender
The Problematic: Family, Work, Poverty, Violence
Ethnicity and Aboriginality; Discrimination and Racism
Multiculturalism: Different Visions
Social Policy: Self-determination and Aboriginal rights

8. **Institutional Problems: Families and Formal Organizations**

Demographics and Changing Ideas of the Family
Power, Resources, and Family Relations
Formal Organizations and the Workplace
Organizational Change: Bureaucracy, Technology and Restructuring
Labour and Corporate Culture
Training, Skills and Global Competition

9. **The Mass Media: The Social Construction of Social Problems**

The Media as Propaganda
Political Economy of the Media
Newscasting, Television Programming Advertising
The Media as a Reflection of Society
The Media as Product

10. **Globalization**

Cultural Homogenization and Differentiation
Market Imperatives; Multinationals and the Bottom Line
Neocolonialism
Demographics

Q. **Method of Instruction**

The course will involve the use of a number of instructional methods to achieve its objectives including some of the following:

- lectures
- audio visual materials (including overheads, films)
- small group discussions
- oral presentations (discussion seminars)
- specialist guest speakers

R. Course Evaluation

Course evaluation is in accord with the Douglas College student evaluation policy. Specific components of evaluation will include some of the following: exams made up of multiple choice true/false, short answer, and short essay questions; an essay assignment; an oral presentation; and participation in class discussions, student presentations, and group discussions.

Specific evaluation criteria will be provided by the instructor at the beginning of the semester and will vary according to the instructor's assessment of appropriate evaluation methods.

An example of one evaluation scheme:

Mid-term examination	25%
Essay/Written Assignment	25%
Essay/Outline	5%
Final examination	25%
Participation	<u>20%</u>
	100%