

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course, current social science paradigms and theories will be used as a framework for analysis of contemporary social issues relevant to students' future vocations in police services. Topics such as crime, violence, abuse, social stratification, ageism, and racism will be included. The course focus will be on how individual behaviours collectively create social problems.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE:

A. Learning Outcomes:

1. Develop informed understanding of social trends, social change, and social problems and of implications for social and personal responses.
2. Examine the relationship between the perception of a problem and the social responses given to it.
3. Explain how social issues are the result of the inter-relationship of many social forces like family dynamics, economics recession, and urban decay.
4. Analyze social issues such as suicide or pollution from the orientation of each of the major theoretical perspectives (structural-functionalist, social conflict, symbolic-interactionist, feminist and social constructionist) common to sociology.

B. Learning Outcomes and Elements of the Performance:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Develop informed understanding of social trends, social change, and social problems and of implications for social and personal responses.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Define what a social problem is
- Explain what is an analytical approach to a social problem
- Select a social issue to examine by adopting a sociological perspective

2. Examine the relationship between the perception of a problem and the social responses given to it.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Describe the evolution of a social problem
- Describe the influence of social stratification (class, gender, age, ethnicity) on social policies
- Assess how social values influence the identification of social problems and societal responses

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE (Continued):

3. Explain that social issues are the result of the inter-relationship of many social forces like family dynamics, economic recession, and urban decay.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Research and describe the historical and causal factors of current social problems, which affect Canadian society
- Define social institutions and explain the relationship of social institutions to social problems

4. Analyze social issues such as suicide or pollution from the orientation of each of the major theoretical perspectives (structural-functional, social conflict, symbolic-interaction, feminist, and social constructionist) common to sociology.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Define and differentiate the sociological theoretical perspectives
- Prepare an analysis of a social problem using one or more theoretical perspectives
- Evaluate how each sociological theoretical paradigm changes the research focus of social problems and the organization of social responses

III. TOPICS:

Note: These topics sometimes overlap several areas of skill development and are not necessarily intended to be explored in isolated learning units or in the order below:

1. Review of sociological theoretical paradigms
2. Definition of a social problem
3. Detailed exploration of social issues using the theoretical paradigms

IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES / TEXTS / MATERIALS:

1. Contemporary Canadian Social Issues, Niessen, Carmen. Montgomery, Edmond: Canada (2008), 2nd Edition

V. EVALUATION PROCESS / GRADING SYSTEM: MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS AND TESTING

1. Tests	45%
2. Assignments	55%
Total	100%

V. SPECIAL NOTES:

1. If you are a student with a disability please identify your needs to the tutor and/or the Centre for Students with Disabilities at your registering college.
2. Students, it is your responsibility to retain course outlines for possible future use to support applications for transfer of credit to other educational institutions.
3. Course outline amendments: The instructor reserves the right to change the information contained in this course outline depending on the needs of the learner and the availability of resources.