

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 3

Prerequisite[^]): Successful completion of Introduction Sociology.

I COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines those aspects of sociological theory and social issues which are relevant and useful to students in their future vocations and to each student's growth and behaviour in our society.

II STUDENT PERFORMANCE GOALS:

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

1. recognize and examine contemporary social issues which have an impact on students as members of the Canadian community.
2. analyze social issues such as suicide or pollution from the orientation of each of the three theoretical perspectives (functionalist, conflict and interactionist) common to sociology.
3. explain that social issues are the result of the interrelationship of many social forces like family dynamics, economic recession and urban decay.
4. examine the relationship between the perception of a problem and the social responses given to it.

III TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

UNIT ONE

- review - what is sociology?
- what is a social problem? - review topic list
- what is an analytical approach to social problems?
- how do we research?
- assignment of group presentation dates and topics
- review - what is sociological perspective?
- review of sociology's three theoretical perspectives

UNIT TWO

- detailed exploration of symbolic interactionist perspective
- class exploration of social issue using interactionist perspective
- assignment #1 - analysis of issue from interactionist perspective
- presentations of issues from interactionist perspective

UNIT THREE

- detailed exploration of conflict perspective
- assignment #2 - issue analyzed using conflict perspective
- class review of issues in conflict perspective
- presentations of issues from conflict perspective

UNIT FOUR

- detailed exploration of structural functional perspective
- assignment #3 - issue analyzed using structural functional perspective
- group presentations and class review of issues from structural functional perspective

UNIT FIVE

- review of three sociological perspectives
- final test - analysis of an issue using all three perspectives

IV COURSE INSTRUCTION METHOD;

The course is taught in a one plus two-hour block per week. As much as possible, one hour sessions will be reserved for lectures, and the two hour blocks will be typically of a workshop nature.

During lectures, information about sociological theories and concepts will be delivered. Later in the semester lectures will be devoted to a descriptive overview of many social issues. During the workshop sessions, students will be coached through theoretical analyses of social issues.

For the tests, each student will be required to make a sociological analysis of a social problem. Each student is also responsible for contributing to group research and oral presentation of a social issue.

V EVALUATION METHODS;

Tests

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. quiz - identifying theoretical perspectives | 5% |
| 2. final - analysis of social issue using three theoretical perspectives | 25% |

Assignments

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1. analysis of issue from interactionist perspective | 20% |
| 2. analysis of issue from conflict perspective | 20% |
| 3. analysis of issue from functionalist perspective | 20% |
| 10 minute presentation of analysis | <u>10%</u> |

Total 100%

N.B. Failure to complete any graded component of the course will result in an "R" grade.

GRADING METHOD:

- A+ = 90 - 100%
- A = 80 - 89%
- B = 70 - 79%
- C = 60 - 69%
- R = 59 and below (repeat)

VI REQUIRED STUDENT RESOURCES: (see library list)

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOK:

Macionis, J.J.; Clarke, J.N.; Gerber, L.M. (1994). Sociology Canadian Edition. Scarborough: Prentice Hall Canada.

SOC 240 LIST OF REFERENCE BOOKS

The following is a list of reference books which will be on Reserve in the Sault College Library for the duration of the semester. These references have been chosen because they are current, and many are oriented to Canadian issues. They also provide an analytical approach that is consistent with SOC 240 requirements to each social problem. Each student is welcome to use any or all as often as he or she wishes, but use is restricted to the library premises.

- 1. Aging in Canadian Society Maureen Baker
- 2. The Sociology of Medicine Renee C. Fox
- 3. The Life Course John A. Clausen
- 4. Unequal Relations Jean Leonard Elliott
Augie Fleras
- 5. The Disreputable Pleasures John Hagan
- 6. Deviance: Tolerable Differences Robert A. Stebbins
- 7. Global Social Problems Allan Mazur
- 8. Rethinking the Family Barrie Thome
Marilyn Yalom
- 9. Families Maureen Baker
- 10. Readings on Social Problems William Feigelman
- 11. Dominant Issues in Medical Sociology Howard D. Schwartz

ADVANCED SOCIOLOGY

SOC 240

12. <u>Perspectives on AIDS; Ethical and Social Issues</u>	C. Overall N. P. Zion
13. <u>Canada's Aging Population</u>	S. McDaniel
14. <u>Aging as a Social Process</u>	Barry D. McPerson
15. <u>Women and Aging</u>	Ellen Gee M. Kimball
16. <u>Masculine and Feminine: Gender Roles Over the Life Cycle</u>	M. Richmond-Abbott
17. <u>Woman Abuse: Sociological Perspectives</u>	W. Dekeseredy R. Hinch
18. <u>Literacy for Social Change</u>	Lynn R. Curtis
19. <u>Seeing Ourselves: Exploring Race Ethnicity and Culture</u>	Carl E. James
20. <u>Problems and Issues: A Canadian Perspective</u>	Subhas Ramcharan
21. <u>Social Reality of Death</u>	Kathy Charmaz
22. <u>Women, Families and Work</u>	S. J. Wilson
<u>Seminar Topic Suggestions for Sociology 240</u>	Social Problems

POVERTY

- * the urban poor
- * the working poor
- * poverty and one-parent families
- * the homeless
- * the poor in the criminal justice system
- * unemployment in a one industry community
- * runaways

AGING

- * ageism as an ideology
- * mandatory retirement and economic problems of the aged
- * health problems faced by the aged
- * increasing proportion of population is aged
- * over-medication of the elderly

ADVANCED SOCIOLOGY

DEVIANCE

- * society's treatment of the mentally ill
- * human rights of mentally ill
- * deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill
- * medicare; who is treated?
- * illicit drug use - street drugs
- * health maintenance programs for illicit drug abusers - an option for Canada?
- * suicide

SEX AND FAMILY ISSUES

- * sex roles in the mass media
- * sex discrimination in the workplace
- * sex role stereotypes (impact on children)
- * social discrimination against homemakers
- * working mother
- * effects of feminist movement on the family
- * emerging family structures

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- * marital rape
- * wife battery
- * violence against women

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

- * incest/sexual abuse
- * child battery/abuse
- * runaways
- * impact of Young Offenders Act - children solicited by criminals
- * abduction of children
- * adoption/abortion

MINORITIES

- * racial/ethnic minorities in education
- * minority representation in politics
- * Native rights to self government
- * attitudes/stereotypes toward Natives
- * law and racism

GLOBAL ISSUES

- * impact of advanced technology on social life
- * impact of the Third World poverty on Canadian society
- * environmental degradation
- * threat of nuclear war
- * depletion of primary resources
- * population imbalances/urbanization
- * A.I.D.S.