

I. 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:
 - Substance use and abuse
 - Sex work
 - Gender inequality
 - Family problems
 - Economic inequality
 - Rural and urban inequality
 - Globalization

List of Topic Suggestions for Independent Social Issues Analysis

(For Police Foundations and Law and Security Administration: Topics that are relevant to policing will be selected for in-class analysis. Students will be given an opportunity to research a topic of their choice.)

Poverty:

- The urban poor
- The working poor
- Poverty and one-parent families
- The homeless
- The poor in the criminal justice system
- Unemployment in one-industry community
- Runaways

III. TOPICS (continued):

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

Deviance:

- Society's treatment of the mentally ill
- Human rights of the mentally ill
- De-institutionalization 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

Gender and Family Issues:

- Gender roles in the mass media
- Discrimination in the workplace
- Stereotypes (impact on children)
- Social discrimination against homemakers
- Working mother
- Effects of feminist movement on the family
- Changing family structures

Violence Against Women:

- Marital rape
- Wife battery

Violence Against Children:

- Incest/sexual abuse
- Child battery/abuse
- Runaways
- Impact of Young Offenders Act
- 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

III. TOPICS (continued):

Urban Rural Inequities

- Urban sprawl
- Health care inequities

Global Issues:

- Impact of advanced technology on social life
- Impact of Third World poverty on Canadian society
- Environmental degradation
- Threat of nuclear war
- Depletion of primary resources
- Population imbalance/urbanization
- A.I.D.S.
- Internet crime
- Identity theft and personal privacy loss

III. REQUIRED RESOURCES / TEXTS / MATERIALS:

1. Contemporary Canadian Social Issues, Second Edition. Niessen, Carmen; Bromwich, Rebecca. Emond Montgomery Publications: Canada (2008)
2. Access to the Internet
3. *Additional Resource: Sociology: Your Compass for a New World. Brief Canadian Edition*; by Robert J. Brym, John Lie, & Adie Nelson (2005). Published by Thomson Nelson.

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

1. Tests	70%
2. Written Assignments	30%
Total	100%

Note: Failure to complete any graded component of the course will result in an "F" grade.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT (GRADING METHOD)

The following semester grades will be assigned to students in post-secondary courses:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Grade Point Equivalent</u>
A+	90 – 100%	4.00
A	80 – 89%	3.00
B	70 - 79%	2.00
C	60 - 69%	1.00
D	50 – 59%	0.00
F (Fail)	49% and below	
CR (Credit)	Credit for diploma requirements has been awarded.	
S	Satisfactory achievement in field /clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
U	Unsatisfactory achievement in field/clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
X	A temporary grade limited to situations with extenuating circumstances giving a student additional time to complete the requirements for a course.	
NR	Grade not reported to Registrar's office.	
W	Student has withdrawn from the course without academic penalty.	

Note: For such reasons as program certification or program articulation, certain courses require minimums of greater than 50% and/or have mandatory components to achieve a passing grade.

Students enrolled in Police Foundations or Law and Security Administration programs will require a minimum of 60% (C) as a passing grade in each course.

It is also important to note, that the minimum overall GPA required in order to graduate from a Sault College program remains 2.0.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND CLASS ACTIVITIES

Lecture, class discussions, group activities, and in-class Internet research of current social issues are the main learning methods adopted in the course. Sociological theories and concepts will serve as the analytical framework that guides exploration of causes and consequences of current Canadian social issues. Each student will be required to prepare sociological analyses of social problems. Each student is also responsible for contributing to group research and oral presentation of an issue.

TIME FRAME

Contemporary Social Problems PFP203 meets three periods per week for the semester, two in a classroom and one in a computer lab. Students are expected to attend class and to participate in class activities and class discussion.

VI. SPECIAL NOTES:

Disability Services

Students with special needs (e.g. physical limitations, visual impairments, hearing impairments, learning disabilities) are encouraged to discuss required accommodations with the professor and/or contact the Special Needs Office.

Complementary Activities

To meet course objectives, students should expect to match each scheduled class hour with independent study.

Plagiarism

To plagiarise is to “take and use as one’s own (thoughts [ideas], writings, inventions, etc. of another); especially to take and use a passage, plot, etc. from the work of another writer” (Gage Canadian Dictionary, 1983, p. 861).

Students should refer to the definition of “academic dishonesty” in the “Statement of Students’ Rights and Responsibilities” (on-line Intranet for Sault College). Also, in order to collaborate on an assignment, students need prior permission from the professor.

Students who engage in “academic dishonesty” will receive an automatic failure for that submission and/or other such penalty, up to and including expulsion from the course.

In order to protect students from inadvertent plagiarism, to protect the material referenced, and to credit the author of the material, it is the policy of the department to employ a documentation format for referencing source material.

Advanced Standing

Students who have completed an equivalent post-secondary course must bring relevant documents to the Coordinator, Language and Communication Department:

- A copy of course outline
- A copy of the transcript verifying successful completion of the equivalent course

Retention of Course Outlines

Students are responsible for retaining all course outlines for possible future use in gaining advanced standing at other post-secondary institutions.

Substitute course information is available at the Registrar’s office.

Communication:

The College considers **WebCT/LMS** as the primary channel of communication for each course. Regularly checking this software platform is critical as it will keep you directly connected with faculty and current course information. Success in this course may be directly related to your willingness to take advantage of the **Learning Management System** communication tool. (if applicable)

VII. PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT

Students who wish to apply for advance credit transfer (advanced standing) should obtain an Application for Advance Credit from the Social Sciences Co-ordinator or academic assistant regarding a general education transfer request. Students will be required to provide an unofficial transcript and course outline related to the course in question.

Credit for prior learning will also be given upon successful completion of a challenge exam or portfolio.