

SAULT COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

SAULT STE. MARIE, ON

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE TITLE: ADVANCED SOCIOLOGY

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CODE NO.: SOC 240-3 SEMESTER: WINTER

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PROGRAM: GENERAL ARTS AND SCIENCE, HEALTH SCIENCES,  
AND NATIVE COMMUNITY WORKER

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AUTHOR: SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT

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DATE: JANUARY 1994 PREVIOUS OUTLINE DATED: JANUARY 1993

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ARTS AND GENERAL EDUCATION

ADVANCED SOCIOLOGY

SOC 240-3

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 3

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Introduction Sociology.

I PHILOSOPHY/GOALS:

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 OBJECTIVES:

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

1. recognize and inspect 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 the option of social issues in 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:

WEEK ONE AND TWO

- 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 groups and topics

WEEK THREE

- review - what is sociological perspective?
- introduction to sociology's three theoretical perspectives
- review of expectations of group research projects

WEEK FOUR

- detailed introduction to symbolic interactionist perspective
- class exploration of social issue from interactionist perspective
- group presentations of abstracts of group projects with interactionist orientation

**ADVANCED SOCIOLOGY**

**SOC 240-3**

**WEEK FIVE AND SIX**

- group led workshops of topics analyzed from interactionist perspective
- test #1 - analysis of issue from interactionist perspective

**WEEK SEVEN AND EIGHT**

- detailed introduction of structural-functionalist perspective
- class analysis of an issue using a structural functionalist approach
- group presentations of abstracts of group projects with a functionalist perspective

**WEEK NINE AND TEN**

- group led workshops of analysis of issues from a functionalist perspective
- test #2 - analysis of an issue from a functionalist perspective

**WEEK ELEVEN AND TWELVE**

- detailed introduction of conflict perspective
- class analysis of issue using conflict perspective
- group presentations of abstracts of group projects with a conflict perspective

**WEEK THIRTEEN AND FOURTEEN**

- group led analysis of issues from a conflict perspective
- test #3 - analysis of an issue using a conflict perspective

**WEEK FIFTEEN**

- 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.

ADVANCED SOCIOLOGY

SOC 240-3

V EVALUATION METHODS;

1. Four short-answer tests:	
- definition of theoretical perspectives	5%
- analysis from interactionist perspective	15%
- analysis from functionalist perspective	15%
- analysis from conflict perspective	15%
2. Final test:	
- analysis of an issue using all three perspective	20%
3. Group Project:	
- presentation of abstract of research	10%
- presentation of background journalistic information	15%
- leading class through analysis of issue	5%
	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)

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. <u>Aging in Canadian Society</u>	Maureen Baker
2. <u>The Sociology of Medicine</u>	Renee C. Fox
3. <u>The Life Course</u>	John A. Clausen
4. <u>Unequal Relations</u>	Jean Leonard Elliott Augie Fleras

ADVANCED SOCIOLOGY

SOC 240-3

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|---|--------------------------------|
| 5. <u>The Disreputable Pleasures</u>                                | John Hagan                     |
| 6. <u>Deviance: Tolerable Differences</u>                           | Robert A. Stebbins             |
| 7. <u>Global Social Problems</u>                                    | Allan Mazur                    |
| 8. <u>Rethinking the Family</u>                                     | Barrie Thorne<br>Marilyn Yalom |
| 9. <u>Families</u>  | Maureen Baker                  |
| 10. <u>Readings on Social Problems</u>                              | William Feigelman              |
| 11. <u>Dominant Issues in Medical Sociology</u>                     | Howard D. Schwartz             |
| 12. <u>Perspectives on AIDS; Ethical and Social Issues</u>          | C. Overall<br>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<br>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<br>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                   |

Seminar Topic Suggestions for Sociology 240 - 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

**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

**ADVANCED SOCIOLOGY**

**SOC 240-3**

**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.