

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. achieve an awareness of contemporary social issues which have an impact on students as members of the Canadian community.
2. be able to critically evaluate social issues such as suicide or pollution from the orientation of each of the three theoretical perspectives (functionalist, conflict and interactionist) common to sociology and therefore to
3. understand that social issues are the interrelationship of many social forces like family dynamics, economic recession and urban decay and actors, and to
4. understand that there is a 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
- reference - chapter five of Charon text
- 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

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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.

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V EVALUATION METHODS;

1. Three short-answer tests:	
- 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	25%
3. Group Project:	
- presentation of abstract of research	5%
- presentation of background journalistic information	10%
- leading class through analysis of issue	5%
4. Participation:	
- completion of class assignments	10%
Total	100%

N.B. Failure to complete any 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)

Joel M. Charon. Sociology: A Conceptual Approach
and others placed on Reserve in the Sault College Library

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.

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| 1. <u>Aging in Canadian Society</u> | Maureen Baker |
| 2. <u>The Sociology of Medicine</u> | Renee C. Fox |

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| 3. <u>The Life Course</u> | John A. Clausen |
| 4. <u>Unequal Relations</u> | Jean Leonard Elliott
Augie Fleras |
| 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
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
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 |

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

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A 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.