

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR: SO 2030 SOCIAL PROBLEMS**UK LEVEL: 4
UK CREDITS: 15
US CREDITS: 3/0/3**

(Updated Spring 2022)

PREREQUISITES:	None
CATALOG DESCRIPTION:	Introduction into the sociological imagination by distinguishing between personal and social problems. An examination of contemporary social problems through various sociological perspectives. Possible solutions to problems such as the social, economic, and ideological causes and solutions of racism, sexism, homophobia, poverty, crime and violence, drug abuse, and environmental change.
RATIONALE:	This course aims at discovering how social conditions come to be defined as social problems. It focuses on an analysis of how sociologists have approached the study of social problems including theoretical perspectives (symbolic interactionist /social constructionist, conflict, structural functionalist). Use of conceptual tools to understand contemporary social problems including bullying, domestic violence, environmental problems, poverty, racism, sexism etc. Emphasis is given to strategies and tactics through which social problems can be ameliorated. The course relates to the interests and experiences of students from other areas, such as psychology, anthropology, history and as such, it is interdisciplinary.
LEARNING OUTCOMES:	As a result of taking this course, student should be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Demonstrate how social conditions come to be defined as social problems.2. Contrast common sense to sociological understandings of social problems.3. Demonstrate understanding of sociological theories of social problems and apply them to the study of specific social problems.4. Relate definitions of social problems to the solutions proposed.
METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:	In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Classes consist of lectures, discussions of selected issues, showing of video documentaries and in-class illustrations of various issues.➤ Office hours: students are encouraged to make full use of the office hours of their lecturer, where they can address issues and ask questions pertinent to the course material.➤ Use of a blackboard site, where instructors post lecture notes, assignment instructions, timely announcements, as well as additional resources.
ASSESSMENT:	Summative:

First Assessment: Mid-term examination - summative	40
Final Assessment: Final examination - summative	60

Formative:

Online assignments or community-related activities – formative	0

First Assessment tests Learning outcomes: 1,2,3.
Final Assessment tests Learning outcomes 1,2, 3, 4.

Online assignments or community-related exercises to help students address social problems-formative

The final grade for this module will be determined by averaging all summative assessment grades, based on the predetermined weights for each assessment. If students pass the comprehensive assessment that tests all Learning Outcomes for this module and the average grade for the module is 40 or higher, students are not required to resit any failed assessments.

INDICATIVE READING:

Required material:

Mooney, L. et.al. 2021. *Understanding Social Problems* (Cengage) (11th edition)

Selected chapters will be assigned as required reading from the following books:

Loseke, Donileen R. 2003. *Thinking about Social Problems* (2nd ed.) (New York: Aldine de Gruyter)

_____ and Joel Best, (eds.) 2003. *Social Problems: Constructionist Readings* (New York: Aldine de Gruyter)

Rubington, Earl and Martin S. Weinberg. 1995. *The Study of Social Problems: Seven Perspectives* (Oxford: Oxford University Press)

Recommended material:

Berns, N. 2004. *Framing the Victim: Domestic Violence, Media and Social Problems* (London: Routledge)

Best, J. (ed.) (1995) *Images of Issues: Typifying Contemporary Social Problems* (New York: Aldine de Gruyter)

Charon, J., L.G. Vigilant, 2012. *Social Problems: Readings with four Questions* (4th edition, Cengage)

Chirot, D. 2008. "The Retribalization of the Modern World: How the Revival of Ancient Sentiments Leads to Persisting Nationalist and Ethnic Conflicts" *Ab Imperio*, 3, 23-46

Fuller, R. C. & Myers, R. R. , 1941. "The Natural History of a Social Problem" *American Sociological Review*, 6, 320-329

	<p>Hochschild, A. R. 2012. <i>The Managed Heart: Commercialization of Human Feeling</i> (3rd. ed.) University of California Press (e-book)</p> <p>Jordan, T. P. Taylor, 2004. <i>Hacktivism and Cyberwars: Rebels with a Cause?</i> (Routledge)</p> <p>McCrea, F. B., 1983. "The Politics of Menopause: The "Discovery" of a Deficiency Disease" <i>Social Problems</i>, Vol. 31. 111-123</p> <p>Menand, Louis. 2020. The Changing Meaning of Affirmative Action <i>The New Yorker</i> (January13)</p> <p>The Changing Meaning of Affirmative Action The past and the future of a long-embattled policy.</p> <p>Mills, C. Wright (1959) <i>The Sociological Imagination</i> (New York: Oxford University Press)</p> <p>Picca, L. H., J.R. Feagin, 2007. Two-faced racism: Whites in the backstage and frontstage (Routledge)</p> <p>Reinarman, Craig.1988. "The Social Construction of an alcohol Problem: The case of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers and social Control in the 1980s" <i>Theory and Society</i>, 17, no.1, 91-120</p> <p>Spector, Malcom and John I. Kitsuse {1977}, 1987. <i>Constructing Social Problems</i> (Hawthorne,NY: Aldine de Gruyter)</p> <p>West, C., D. H. Zimmerman, 1987. "Doing Gender" <i>Gender and Society</i>, 1, 125-151</p>
<p>INDICATIVE MATERIAL: (e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)</p>	<p>REQUIRED MATERIAL: N/A</p> <p>RECOMMENDED MATERIAL: N/A</p>
<p>COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:</p>	<p>Verbal skills using academic / professional English.</p>
<p>SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:</p>	<p>Word</p>
<p>WWW RESOURCES:</p>	<p>Useful specialized journal available through JSTOR: <u>Social Problems</u></p> <p>Useful links include: www.un.org/en/globalissues/ www.youtube.com/watch?v=faX6AZyfDrM (global social issues visual syllabus)</p> <p>https://www.google.gr/?gws_rd=ssl-#</p>
<p>INDICATIVE CONTENT:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agism 2. Alcohol and other drugs 3. Crime and criminal justice 4. The changing Family 5. Schools and education 6. Work and the Economy 7. Health and health care

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">8. Urban and rural problems9. Population and the Environment10. From conditions to social problems11. The Sociological Imagination: Perspectives on social problems (Functionalism, Conflict Theory- feminist theory, symbolic interactionism -social constructionism)12. Measuring, explaining, and reducing poverty13. Race and Ethnicity14. Gender inequality15. Sexual orientation and inequality16. War and terrorism
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