

North Central **Michigan College**

NCMC CURRICULUM/COURSE OUTLINE FOR YEARS: 2001-2003

DIVISION/AREA: Sociology

DEPARTMENT: Social Sciences

AREA DEAN: Dykstra

ORIGINATOR: Finlayson

TOTAL HOURS OF INSTRUCTION: Lecture: 3 Lab: Total Contact Hours: 48

COURSE NUMBER: SOC 120

CREDIT HOURS: 3

COURSE TITLE: CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL PROBLEMS

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE(S)/ADVISORY:

An introductory course in sociology is recommended prior to taking SOC 120.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to the sociological analysis of social problems and the application of this analysis to these specific problems. Global and national problems are discussed such as crime, poverty, race, ethnicity, gender inequality, the sex industry, substance abuse, healthcare, education, population, and the environment. Particular emphasis is on the social problems within American society.

GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES OR OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Think critically and analytically, write and speak effectively, and independently acquire knowledge.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES:

1. Define and explain the concept of sociological perspective
2. Differentiate between society, culture, group, and the individual
3. Explain and differentiate the three principal theoretical perspectives in sociology
4. Explain the sociological research techniques used in analyzing social problems
5. Given a social problem, debate the problem from the three theoretical perspectives
6. Define social problem
7. Differentiate between a social problem and an individual problem
8. Explain the significance between a subjective and an objective reality of a social problem
9. Explain the complexities in analyzing social problems
10. Given a social problem, explain how to measure its effects
11. Given a social problem, propose solutions to eliminate the social problem

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION: Lecture, Discussion, Small Group Work

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

Three exams-300 points

Collaborative Research Project and Presentation-100 points

Participation- 100 points

Research Paper-100 points

REQUIRED TEXTS: (Representative List)

Kendall, Diana

1. Social Problems in a Diverse Society. Allyn and Bacon, Needham Heights, MA.

Widdison, Harold, A., Ed.

1. Social Problems/Annual Editions, 00/01. Dushkin/Mc-Graw-Hill Publishing, Guilford, CT.

Optional supplementary Materials:

Reasonable accommodations may be provided for students with documented physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, and/or psychiatric disabilities. Please contact the Education Opportunity Program (EOP) at (231) 348-6687 to arrange services for this course.

TIME ALLOWANCE AND SEQUENCE OF INSTRUCTION:

Week 1: Chapter one, Defining social problems

Week 2: Wealth and Poverty

Week 3: Racial and Ethnic Inequality

Week 4: Gender Inequality

Week 5: Inequality based on sexual orientation

Week 6: Alcohol and other drugs

Week 7: Health Care

Week 8: The Changing Family, Exam 1

Week 9: Problems in Education

Week 10: Problems in politics and the global economy

Week 11: Problems in the Media

Week 12: Population and the environment

Week 13: Urban problems

Week 14: War and Terrorism

Week 15: Exam 2

Week 16: Presentations