

## Soc 206: Social Problems

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Course no. 41898

### **DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES**

Soc 206 applies the sociological frame of reference to the study of social problems, their identification, analysis of causes and possible solutions. Problems explored may include mental disorders, drug and alcohol addiction, crime and delinquency, group discrimination, inequality, poverty, alienation, domestic and international violence, environment and energy. Students successfully completing this course will: 1) apply the sociological perspective in analyzing and responding to social problems through social action and policy; 2) locate themselves in the process of social change, organizations, and social movements shaping and responding to social problems; 3) participate as active citizens in their societies and communities, demonstrating respect for diversity, critical thinking, and collaboration.

### **INTERNATIONALIZED COMPONENTS**

In the "Internationalized" Social Problems class, text, supplemental readings, and videos selected will be geared to problems and solutions from other societies. The course main text incorporates "taking a worldview" on the following countries (Brazil, Canada, India, Israel, Japan, Mexico). A second text on "Lessons from Other Societies" features solution articles from primarily European/Australian social scientists. Supplemental articles from further societies (Iran, Kenya, Sudan, Venezuela) are provided to encourage exploration of solutions throughout the world. Direct observation of problems and solutions will be integrated whenever possible. These observations can be based on personal experiences, research done on specific topics, projects done with groups, service learning experiences with those from other cultures or subcultures, or interviews with friends/family members from other societies, or media events or resources (internet, films, literature). Students will present a case study on a problem/solution from other nations which can be initially reviewed through the text and supplemental readings, and will involve further research in groups. Service Learning placements will be encouraged that provide multicultural experiences, or to enhance the students other interests and projects.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Leon-Guerrero, Anna. *Social Problems: Community, Policy, and Social Action*. (2005). Sage. ISBN # 0-7619-8782-7

Eitzen, S. & Leedham, C. *Solutions to Social Problems: Lessons from other Societies*. (2004). Allyn & Bacon. ISBN # 0-205-37904-4

### **REQUIREMENTS**

Attendance/Participation/Discussion = 15% ( points)  
Quizzes (5 quizzes @ 10 points each)= 50% (points)  
Group Case Presentation/Chapter (on a best solution)= 20% (points)  
Service Learning/Field Experience Report= 15% (points) **Total = 100 points**

### **GRADING**

Letter grades will be based on total earned points as follows:  
100-90=A      89-80=B      79-60 =C      59-50 =D      >50 =F

**MAKEUP POLICY** : Assignments turned in late will receive reduced points.