

Department:

Social Science

Course Description:

This course covers a wide variety of social problems in our society including crime, racial discrimination, poverty, drug abuse, disorganization of social institutions, and rapid social change. Applies sociological theories to explain social problems and examines various approaches used to solve these problems.

Course Competencies:

At the completion of this course, students will be able to...

- I. Foundations of Social Problems
 - A. Distinguish social problems from personal problems
 - B. Compare and contrast the major theoretical perspectives in relation to social problems.
 - C. Identify and describe research methods and ethical issues.
- II. Social Problems: Political and Economic
 - A. Evaluate major economic systems in historical and cross-cultural perspectives.
 - B. Analyze and construct models of power and authority.
 - C. Describe the relationship between political and economic systems.

- III. Social Structure and Social Inequality: Distribution of Wealth, Income and Power
 - A. Describe the impact of social stratification system and social class
 - B. Explain prejudice and discrimination related to:
 - 1. Race and ethnicity
 - 2. Gender, sex, and sexual orientation
 - 3. Age
 - C. Describe how education impacts social inequality.
- IV. Relationships among Social Institutions
 - A. Analyze the changes in families that lead to social problems
 - B. Describe problems associated with the criminal justice system
 - C. Examine access and barriers to health care systems
 - D. Assess the opportunities and limitations of the educational system.
- V. Social Change
 - A. Analyze the social impact of population growth and environment.
 - B. Explain how participation in collective action and social movements contributes to both the cause and alleviation of social problems.

Assessment Items:

Chapter exams will be given at the conclusion of each chapter. Quizzes may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor. A comprehensive final exam will be given at the conclusion of the course. Assessment may also include individual or group papers as well as individual and/or group projects.

Instructional Method:

Method of Instruction will include lecture, video tape, observations, discussions, demonstrations, supplemental materials, and individual and group work.

Instructional Materials:

Text: The required text is *Social Problems*, by John J. Macionis, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2008

Helpful companion Web Site for Social Problems:

http://wps.prenhall.com/hss_macionis_socialprob_1

This site features the following:

1. Online homework assignments, with projects tied specifically to the text. This is a very useful tool in order to prepare yourself for class discussions, quizzes, and exams
2. Online study guide, with questions related to each individual chapter. You may prepare yourself for quizzes and exams by taking the online tests. This site will automatically grade your test and provide you with the correct answer and reference to the text page in which the answer may be found.
3. Direct links to some of the most interesting sociology sites on the Web. This will be useful in writing papers for other sociology classes and may help you in your search for job opportunities in the sociology field.

Course Policies:

Laptops are available in the classroom and may be used by students for academic purposes. School policy prohibits the use of cell phones or music devices in the classroom.

Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

On-Campus Students: At enrollment, any on campus student may complete a form that will allow them to self-identify any disability.

Off-Campus Regional Students: Self-identify your disability and accommodation needs with the Regional Coordinator and/or instructor, preferably prior to the first class meeting.

Online Students: Self-identify your disability and accommodation needs by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator. Students must provide their own programs to allow accessibility on their home computer.

Any student may also identify their disability by completing an online form located on the HCC homepage under Students Services/Resources/Disabilities. Questions should be directed to the Disabilities Coordinator.