

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary**

Course Prefix and Number: SOC 268

Credits: 3

Course Title: Social Problems

Course Description: Applies sociological concepts and methods to analysis of current social problems. Includes delinquency and crime, mental illness, drug addiction, alcoholism, sexual behavior, population crisis, race relations, family and community disorganization, poverty, automation, wars, and disarmament. Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose: SOC 268 provides the student with an overview of sociological concepts and methods of analysis of current social problems. A transferable course to four-year colleges and universities, SOC 268 meets a general education elective requirement for the Social/Behavioral Sciences and meets a requirement for the Approved Humanities and Social Sciences Electives for the Liberal Arts AA and Social Sciences AS degrees. The course should be completed by any student intending to major in Sociology at a four-year institution.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11

Student Learning Outcome:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

- a. Differentiate between personal problems and social problems;
- b. Understand and identify causes of, development, and potential solutions to key social problems;
- c. Understand and explain the nature, function, and consequences of stratification systems;
- d. Explain the relationship between human beings and the social institutions created by them;
- e. Understand and explain how connections between social groups and institutions can help or hinder progress toward alleviating social problems;
- f. Explain the possible positive and negative effects of collective behavior on our society and in the global community;
- g. Recognize that social problems are complex, as are any implemented strategies to alleviate or eliminate those problems;
- h. Utilize a scientific rather than “common sense” approach to understanding society and social problems;
- i. Differentiate between assumptions/stereotypes and objective, scientific information;
- j. Meaningfully use sociological concepts in oral and written communications, and apply those concepts to analysis of his/her own self, society, and social problems;
- k. Derive tentative conclusions based upon interrelated facts, rather than opinions;
- l. Summarize, critically evaluate, and understand information, including scientific data presented in tables and graphs;
- m. Recognize and differentiate between causal and correlation relationships;
- n. Demonstrate effective, college-level speaking and writing skills; and
- o. Demonstrate competency in locating, understanding, organizing, and applying information.

Major Topics to Be Included:

- a. The sociological approach to social problems—theories and methods of scientific inquiry
- b. Problems of social inequity—social class, gender and sexuality, race/ethnicity, age
- c. Problems of social deviance—crime/violence, substance abuse, sexual deviance
- d. Problems affecting our social institutions—family, schools, politics, economics
- e. Change and disruption in the physical and social world—urbanization, environmental problems, terrorism, warfare

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