



Course Title: Social Problems

Course Number: SOCI 2300

Credit Hours: 3

Catalog Course Description: This course teaches students to assess critically social issues and problems which negatively affect institutions, groups, and individuals. The thrust is to discuss and analyze these issues and problems using the major theories in Sociology.

How Program Site will be incorporated into the course: Teaching this course in South Africa will enhance students' appreciation of diversity, help them practice cultural relativism, enrich their multicultural experiences, and allow them to see the world in a different light. In addition, teaching the course in South Africa offers an opportunity for students to be out of the traditional classroom and study about contemporary social problems in a cross-cultural context.

Cape Town is a major origin of European settlement with rich history and it is a destination worth visiting. Visiting students will appreciate to see and learn something about this part of the world. South Africa is one of the friendliest countries in Africa to visit. As part of the cultural experience, students may visit some historical sites, e.g., Table Mountain, Cape Peninsula, African Penguins at Boulders Beach, Big 5 Safari, and Robben Island. The course has an experiential learning component, which involves service learning and excursions to a service site for an exposure to how the sociological concepts discussed in class (e.g. socialization, culture, deviance and social control) manifest in South African society in comparison to American society.

Three weeks will be spent in South Africa.

Prerequisites: SOCI 2010

Textbook(s) and Other Course Materials: Mooney, Linda A.; David Knox, & Caroline Schacht. 2016. *Understanding Social Problems*, 10th edition. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.

Week/Unit/Topic Basis: modify for number of weeks

WEEK / UNIT #	TOPIC
Unit 1	Sociological understanding of social problems. Elements of social structure and Culture. Problems of health and illness. Alcohol and other drugs.

Unit 2	The problem of crime and social control. Problems of the family. Inequality and poverty.
Unit 3	Race, ethnicity, and immigration. Gender Inequality. Environmental Problems.

Course Goals:

The course will:

- A.** Help students understand the connections and difference between personal issues and social problems in society.
- B.** Employ the sociological perspective in guiding students to understand contemporary social problems.
- C.** Help students develop the ability to think critically, reason logically, and communicate effectively on sociological issues.
- D.** Engage students in cross-cultural learning through experiential activities.

II. Expected Student Learning Outcomes*

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- A.** Demonstrate competent knowledge of the distinction between personal issues and social problems as well as the connection between them (A).
- B.** Demonstrate knowledge competencies in sociological perspective and theories that relate to understanding social problems (B).
- C.** Apply sociological knowledge and principles to analyze current social events (C).
- D.** Apply the sociological perspective and sociological imagination cross-culturally to explain social problems in South Africa and the United States (D).

*Letters after performance expectations reference the course goals listed above.

III. Evaluation:

- A. Testing Procedures (80% of course grade):** The course grade will be based on (1) Pre-test - 40 multiple choice questions (first week of class). (2) Post-test - 40 multiple choice questions (final week of class). Both tests cover materials from the textbook and chapters covered in the tests will be announced to students prior to the tests.
- B. Laboratory Expectations:** N.A.
- C. Research Paper (20% of course grade):** A key component of service learning is writing a reflection paper to be submitted at the end of the course. This paper intends to connect the class learning to the service activities. The paper should address what the student has learned during the community service engagement and the

connection between his/her experience and sociological knowledge acquired in class. The paper is limited to 5 pages and must be double spaced. Paper must be typed. The due date is last day of class. Paper can be submitted in person, by email, The paper may include, but not restricted to the following: Specific competencies — skills you have learned such as cultural relativity, tolerance, in-depth understanding of a phenomenon, behavior, counseling, interviewing, community organization, etc. What is the population served by the agency and where is the service done? How is your experience related to concepts covered in class? Would it conflict with, confirm, or refute any of your values or stereotypes? What are your frustrations during (or in doing) the service and/or what is most enjoyable doing the service? Any surprises or culture shock? Any awareness of possible career opportunities. Interpersonal skills — any people skills, writing skills? Taking responsibilities - any research skills? The paper is worth 20% of the course grade. A rubric for the paper is attached.

D. Other Evaluation Methods: N.A.

E. Grading Scale: Please note that some TnCIS member institutions do not accept + and - grades, therefore all TnCIS grading scales must consist of only A, B, C, D, F letter grades.

A = 90 - 100

B = 80 - 89

C = 70 - 79

D = 60 - 69

F = 59 and below

IV. Policies:

A. Attendance Policy: Attendance is of utmost importance in study abroad courses. There are no unexcused absences permitted. Unexcused absences are grounds for removal from the program. Being in class on time is also very important. Frequent tardiness will be considered an absence and appropriate action will be taken. Absences due to illness must be reported immediately to the program director.

B. Academic Dishonesty: Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices:

- Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments.

- Plagiarism, including but not limited to paraphrasing, summarizing, or directly quoting published or unpublished work of another person, including online or computerized services, without proper documentation of the original source.
- Purchasing or otherwise obtaining prewritten essays, research papers, or materials prepared by another person or agency that sells term papers or other academic materials to be presented as one's own work.
- Taking an exam for another student.
- Providing others with information and/or answers regarding exams, quizzes, homework or other assignments unless explicitly authorized by the instructor.

In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed as a result of academic misconduct, the instructor has the authority to assign either (1) an F or zero for the assignment or (2) an F for the course.

VI. Instructional Hours:

Instructional time spent in a formal classroom setting and during excursions will total a minimum of 37.5 hours for this course.