Division: Social Science
Course Number: 251
Prerequisites: Sociology 151
Corequisite: NONE
Hours Required: Class: 45 Lab: 0

Course Description/Purpose

A number of social problems will be examined and interrelated as time permits. Topics include the global workplace, poverty, crime, power and wealth. Problems are analyzed with a set of sociological perspectives developed early in the semester.

Major Units

- Analysis of a Social Problem
- Social problems in the Media
- Key Statistics
- Selected Problems (as time permits):
  - Wealth and Power
  - World Population
- Aging
- Urban Problems
- Poverty
  - Race and Ethnicity
  - Work
  - Families
  - Drugs
- Historical Perspectives
- Political Approaches to Problems

Educational/Course Outcomes

Student learning will be assessed by a variety of methods, including, but not limited to, quizzes and tests, journals, essays, papers, projects, laboratory/clinical exercises and examinations, presentations, simulations, portfolios, homework assignments, and instructor observations.

Cognitive

Each student will be expected to Identify/Recognize/Use...

- the sociological definition of a social problem
- terms germane to social problems
- charts and graphs depicting social data
- key facts and statistics underlying selected social problems
• twelve criteria to analyze a social problem
• items in the media that relate to problems covered in class
• the Liberal and Conservative viewpoints of social problems and the politicization of the same

Performance
Each student will be expected to Demonstrate/Practice . . .
• the ability to relate issues to the media to underlying social problems by means of oral report(s)
• the ability to put individual problems into a social context through class discussions
• the ability to relate one social problem to another via homework assignments
• the ability to distinguish informed and uninformed opinions in discussion of social problems (in the media and in daily conversations) by bringing examples of the same into class
• the ability to judge the viability of proposed solutions to social problems (versus superficial, quick fixes) by applying the principles of Sociology
• the ability to judge the political philosophy of problem definers and solution-givers by labeling them in homework assignments

Attitudinal
Each student will be expected to Believe/Feel/Think/Appreciate . . .
• the complexity and interrelatedness of social problems
• the well-informed opinion of others regarding social issues
• the impossibility of short-term programs to solve major problems
• the persistence of problems and society's inability to control them
• certain problems may be imbedded in the nature and structure of society

RL/pf—6/04