

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

SOCI 2853 Social Problems

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory or other types of Hours: 0

Effective Catalog: 2021-2022

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description (Please limit to 60 words.)

Introduces students to the study of social problems from a quality-of-life perspective. Examines clusters of problems known as deviant behaviors such as drug abuse, violence and sexual deviance; problems of inequality such as poverty, racism & LGBTQ+ rights; problems in the functioning of social institutions such as unemployment, divorce and access to education and healthcare; and global problems such as climate change and terrorism. (ACTS: SOCI 2013)

D. Additional Information

This course is required for the Sociology minor.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

C. Subject Matter

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

1. Analyze social problems and understand how they differ from personal issues.
2. Apply the conceptual framework introduced in the course to specific problems in society.
3. Analyze structural social factors that contribute to behavioral problems, inequality, problems with the functioning of key social institutions, and global social problems.
4. Evaluate solutions to social problems.
5. Create presentations demonstrating understanding of key social problems.
6. Engage with members in the community to foster social justice and community-service learning.

D. University Learning Outcomes (ULO)

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills:

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze the causes of social problems through research and evaluation of varying sources. Students will assess proposed solutions. Students will represent and interpret statistical information and data in order to draw inferences.

Communication Skills (written and oral): Students will communicate proficiently. Students will compose coherent documents appropriate to the intended audience. Students will effectively communicate orally in a public setting.

Ethical Decision Making: Students will model ethical decision-making processes. In addition to maintaining academic integrity in all of their work, students will be introduced to ethical issues in social research.

Global and Cultural Perspectives: Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze how culture is both a projection and reflection of social structures. Students will demonstrate an understanding of how sociology impacts or is impacted by different cultures.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. The Study of Social Problems
- B. Behavioral Problems
- C. Problems of Inequality
- D. Problems of Social Institutions
- E. Global Problems