Administrative Unit: History and Social Sciences Department

Course Prefix and Number: SOCI 216

Course Title: American Social Problems

Number of: Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: Nature and impact of contemporary social problems. Offered even Spring.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s):

Text(s): Texts:

Most current editions of the following:


Supplemental Texts:


Bullard, Robert D. Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class and Environmental Quality. Westview Press.


Kasper, Anne S. and Susan J. Ferguson. Breast Cancer:


**Course Objectives:**
- To describe and differentiate between various theoretical perspectives in the study of social problems.
- To apply the sociological perspectives to identify, describe and explain a wide variety of social problems in America, including the problems of health care, prejudice and discrimination, population and environment.
- To evaluate the social policies designed to remedy social problems and recognize the problem of policy implementation in American society.
- To examine personal values and action relevant to the solution of social problems.

**Measurable Learning Outcomes**
- Understand social problems as structural in nature rather than treating them as individual pathologies.
- Understand social problems from the three primary sociological perspectives.
- Demonstrate critical thinking and analytical skills in understanding the primary social problems: racism, sexism, poverty, industrialism, famine, environmental degradation, terrorism, and access to health and healthcare.

**Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):**
- Theoretical perspectives on Social Problems
- Social Construction of Social Problems
- Power
- Gender Inequality as a Social Problem
- Racial and Ethnic Inequality as a Social Problem
- Health and Healthcare
- Environmental Crises
- Global Crises: War, Terrorism, Inequality
- Solutions to Social Problems – Social Policy Solutions

**Recommended maximum class size for this course:** 35

**Library Resources:** Online databases are available at [http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp](http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp). You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.
NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

Office of Academic Affairs
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