

NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY SOC 268 – SOCIAL PROBLEMS (3 CR.)

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, war, and disarmament. **This is a Passport and UCGS transfer course.** Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

To provide students with an understanding of the various theories of the causes and effects of social problems in United States and globally.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

None.

Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- a) Identify various social problems including possible sources, solutions and social barriers to its resolution.
- b) Describe and understand the basic theoretical approaches applied to social problems.
- c) Identify examples of how the definition of a social problem changes over time and from one cultural context to another.
- d) Assess strategies for addressing social problems related to deviance, inequality, social institutions, and modernization.
- e) Recognize the role of culture and ideology in shaping our understanding and evaluation of social problems including the role of history, social class, race, and gender.
- f) Interpret debates surrounding a social problem and compare/contrast the various sides in the debate to examine why and how groups develop opposing opinions regarding a given social problem and its solution.
- g) Recognize the interrelationship of local and global issues in social problems.
- h) Develop critical thinking skills that include open-mindedness, willingness to ask questions, thinking logically and seeking evidence to discover truth.

Major Topics to be Included

- a) Sexual Behavior
- b) Crime
- c) Healthcare and Medicine
- d) Family Problems
- e) Aging and Population Problems
- f) Economic Inequality and Poverty
- g) Racial and Ethnic Inequality
- h) Physical and Mental Health
- i) Education and Inequality
- j) Drugs and Alcohol

Extra Topics (Optional)

- a) War and Terrorism
- b) Alcohol and Other Drugs

c) Urbanization