

CUMBERLAND COUNTY COLLEGE

Course: SO 202: Contemporary Social Problems

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: EN 060, SO 201

Description: This course provides identification and analysis of major societal problems such as population growth and urbanization, crime and delinquency, and social conflict.

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify and discuss several micro sociological theories
- Identify and discuss several macro sociological theories
- Demonstrate an ability to analyze social phenomena through a sociological barometer
- Discuss the significance of social changes (technological, political, etc.) on the definition of a particular situation as a social problem.

Topical Outline

- The Definition of A Social Problem
- The Implications of Bias and Fallacy
- Various Approaches to the Study of Social Problems
- The Nature of the Family
- Marriage and Divorce
- Teenage Pregnancy
- Definitions of Poverty
- Demographics of Poverty
- Trends and Future Implications
- Drug Abuse
- Alcoholism
- Violence
- Other Forms of Deviance
- Definitions
- Theories of the Causes of Prejudice
- Sociological Discussion of Problem
- Other Discriminations

Texts: Gladwell, M. (2002). *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference* (2nd ed.). Hachette.

Kendall, D. (2013). *Social Problems in a Diverse Society* (6th ed.). Pearson.

Student Assessment: Something Should Be Done About this Social Problem (project required). Additional assessment may be accomplished through projects, portfolios, exams, presentations and/or research papers.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism is cheating. Plagiarism is presenting in written work, in public speaking, and in oral reports the ideas or exact words of someone else without proper documentation. Whether the act of plagiarism is deliberate or accidental [ignorance of the proper rules for handling material is no excuse], plagiarism is, indeed, a “criminal” offense. As such, a plagiarized paper or report automatically receives a grade of **ZERO** and the student may receive a grade of **F** for the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

Note: If you are having difficulty with work in this class tutoring is available through the Center for Academic & Student Success. If you think that you might have a learning disability, contact Project Assist at 856.691.8600 x 1282 for information on assistance that can be provided to eligible students.

Before Withdrawing From This Course

If a student experiences adverse circumstances while enrolled in this course and considers withdrawing, s/he should see an advisor (division or advisement center) **BEFORE** withdrawing from the class. A withdrawal may cause harmful repercussions to completion rate standards and overall GPA which can limit or eliminate future financial aid in addition to causing academic suspension.