

## **SOC/SWK 209 Contemporary Social Problems - 3 semester credit hours**

### Course Description:

A study of theoretical approaches to social problems with special emphasizes on such specific problems as deviance, crime, delinquency, prejudice and discrimination, sexual experiences and mental illnesses.

### Course Rationale:

To provide as an elective (required for Social Work majors) an opportunity for students to achieve competence in understanding current social issues by stimulating their intellectual, spiritual, social and emotional development through first hand service experience and critical thinking thus preparing them to perform successfully in professional and career enterprises, and to utilize their skills, talents and abilities in service to God and fellow man.

### Course Objectives:

- To gain an understanding of various social problems on the individual, group, and societal levels.
- To examine various theories regarding human behavior, deviance, and relationships.
- To provide the opportunity for examination and discussion of various problems in a safe environment.
- To analyze and develop proposals to ameliorate discrimination based on gender, age, race, and ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation.
- To pursue a sociological awareness of “warning signs” that indicate unacceptable/harmful/criminal deviance, and to construct preventive measures to counteract the behavior.
- To develop an appreciation of the role of values and ethics in analyzing social problem development and resolution.

Required Text:

Mooney, Linda A., Knox, David. And Schacht, Caroline. *Understanding Social Problems*. West Publishing Company: St. Paul, MN. 2000.

Additional Requirements:

1. Your attendance is especially important in this class and your grade will suffer with more than a couple of absences! That is not a threat; it is an observation. See pp. 46 of the *2003-2004 General Bulletin* for details and for the appeals process; in this course, eight absences result in an automatic “F” grade. Appeals of absences may be directed according to the guidelines in *2003-2004 General Bulletin*: “If a student misses more than the number of class periods specified in university policy and believes that there are reasonable explanations for the absences [sick], he/she may appeal the absences to the dean of the school in which the course is being taught. Students may obtain a Student Absence Appeal Form from the office of the appropriate dean.” p.46).
2. Academic Integrity Statement: “Mississippi College students are expected to be scrupulously honest. Dishonesty, such as cheating or plagiarism or furnishing false information, including forgery, alteration or misuse of College documents, records or identification, will be regarded as a serious offense subject to severe penalty, including, but not limited to, loss of credit and possible dismissal” (*MC General Bulletin*). See Mississippi College Policy 2.19 for official policy.
3. Correct spelling, sentence construction and other writing skills are deemed important. Poor writing skill will effect negatively the grade of a student’s written work.
4. Students will be required to use **APA** writing style in all written reports.

Methods of Instruction:

The professor will be utilizing lectures, small group discussions, guest speakers, audio video presentations and field trip experiences as methods of instruction.

Grading Scale:

- 93-100 = A
- 85 - 92 = B
- 75 - 84 = C

69 - 74 = D

**Special Notice:**

The professor reserves the right to deviate from this syllabus at any given time.