

Revised: Fall 2016

# SOC 268 Social Problems

## COURSE OUTLINE

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:**

This course 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, wars, and disarmament.

**Objective:**

- To understand the terminology, concepts and current issues of social problems in our contemporary American society
- To understand sociological research methods we use to analyze social problems
- To discuss suggested policies for alleviating the negative consequences of social problems

**Semester Credits: 3    Lecture Hours: 3**

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PO Box 14007  
Roanoke, VA 24038  
(540)-857-7273



# SOC 268: Social Problems

## Course Outcomes:

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

- demonstrate an understanding of sociological theories and concepts by applying them to specific social problems in their social and historical context
- describe and evaluate empirical data and sources used to describe and understand social problems
- demonstrate the ability to analyze and critically assess claims made about social problems in the public sphere
- display the ability to recognize the stereotypes and myths commonly held about social problems
- display the ability to use empirical data and sources to more accurately characterize social problems
- develop the ability to apply competing theoretical perspectives in sociology to the study and understanding of social problems
- describe and evaluate various means used to address the harm caused by social problems including the development of public policy, the creation of agencies and organizations, and grassroots efforts

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# SOC 268: Social Problems

## Required Materials:

1. Textbook
2. Internet access
3. Blackboard

## Textbook:

Mooney, Linda A., David Knox, and Caroline Schacht. Understanding Social Problems. Belmont, Calif.: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 7<sup>th</sup> ed., 2011. ISBN: 9780495812968

**The following supplementary materials are available:** None

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# SOC 268: Social Problems

## Topical Description:

- Illness and the Health Care Crisis
- Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Crime and Social Control
- Family Problems
- Poverty and Economic Inequality
- Work and Unemployment
- Problems in Education
- Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration
- Gender Inequality
- Sexual Orientation and the Struggle for Equality
- Population Growth and Urbanization
- Environmental Problems
- Science and Technology
- Conflict, War, and Terrorism

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## Notes to Instructors

- None

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