

Northern Marianas College

CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST

Effective Semester / Session: Spring 2011

Type of Action:

☐ New
☒ Modification
☐ Move to Inactive (Stop Out)
☐ Cancellation

Course Alpha and Number: SO 218

Course Title: Social Problems

Reason for initiating, revising, or canceling:

This course guide has been revised to reflect changes in the department name, purpose of the course, textbook, catalogue course description, English Placement Level, course outline, instructional goals, and student learning outcomes, and the addition of assessment measures. This course expands options for sociological study at the college. It also provides an opportunity for students to apply sociological tools of analysis learned in SO 101 Introduction to Sociology to other social topics relevant to their daily life experiences.

Thomas D. Sharts

Proposer

Date

Thomas D. Sharts

Department Chair

Date

for → Barbara K. Merfalen

Dean of Academic Programs and Services

Date

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Course Guide

Course: SO 218 Social Problems

1. Department

Social Sciences and Fine Arts

2. Purpose

This course is designed to assist students with the ability to integrate scientific and critical thinking in making wise decisions regarding micro and macro social problems that surround or interface directly with their lives. This course provides an opportunity for students to apply sociological tools of analysis learned in SO 101 Introduction to Sociology to other social topics relevant to their daily life experiences.

3. Description

A. Required/Recommended Textbook(s) and Related Materials

Henslin, James M., and Lori Ann Fowler. *Social Problems: A Down-to-Earth Approach*. 9th ed. Boston: Allyn and Bacon/ Pearson. 2010.

Readability level: Grade 10.1

B. Contact Hours

1. **Lecture:** 3 hours per week / 45 hours per semester
2. **Lab:**
3. **Other:**

C. Credits

1. **Number:** 3
2. **Type:** Regular degree credits

D. Catalogue Course Description

This course utilizes the seven primary areas that define social reality as the central theoretical tool of analysis for understanding the origins and development of both micro and macro social problems in the CNMI and in US mainland society. Students will also learn how governments and human services professionals analyze and attempt to alleviate social problems through particular legislative remedies based upon specific philosophies, ideologies, and beliefs, and methods of treatment. Prerequisite: SO 101. English Placement Level: EN 093/094. Math Placement Level: None. (Offered Spring)

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E. Degree or Certificate Requirements Met by Course

This course is an elective course for the A.A. degree in Liberal Arts.

F. Course Activities and Design

This course incorporates textbook readings, lectures, group discussions, audiovisual presentations, written assignments, guest speakers, and exams.

4. Course Prerequisite(s):

Required English/Mathematics Placement Level(s):

Prerequisites: SO 101

English Placement Level: EN 093/094

Math Placement Level: None

5. Estimated Cost of Course; Instructional Resources Needed

Cost to the Student: Tuition for a 3-credit course, the cost of the textbook, and the student activities fee.

Cost to the College: Instructor's salary.

Instructional resources needed for this course include projector, TV/VCR, videotaped programs, textbook, chalkboard, chalk, photocopy paper, photocopy machine, and personal computers for research.

6. Method of Evaluation

Student grades will be based on the regular letter grade system as described below:

- A: Excellent – grade points: 4.0;
- B: Above average – grade points: 3.0;
- C: Average – grade points: 2.0;
- D: Below average – grade points: 1.0;
- F: Failure – grade points: 0.0.

NMC's grading and attendance policies will be followed.

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7. Course Outline

This is a topical outline and does not necessarily indicate the sequence in which the material will be presented.

- 1.0 The Seven Primary Areas that Define Social Reality: History, Social Structures, Culture, Economics, Politics, Institutions, and Environment
 - 1.1 The Five Areas of Being Human: Spiritual, Physical, Sociological, Psychological, and Vocational
- 2.0 Types of Social Problems
 - 2.1 Macro Social Problems
 - 2.2 Micro Social Problems
- 3.0 Primary Stakeholders for Alleviating Social Problems
 - 3.1 Families
 - 3.2 Governments
 - 3.3 Wealthy Social Class
 - 3.4 Middle Class
 - 3.5 Lower Social Class
- 4.0 Specific Philosophies and Ideologies for Addressing and Creating Policies and Programs for Social Problems
 - 4.1 Social Darwinism, Trickle Down Theory
 - 4.2 New Deal and War on Poverty
 - 4.3 Religious Beliefs
- 5.0 Process of Developing, Implementing, and Evaluating Policies and Programs for Alleviating Social Problems
 - 5.1 Advocacy, Lobbying, Referendums
 - 5.2 Defining the Social Problem, and Identifying the Population Affected
 - 5.3 Strategies for Alleviation (Policies and Programs)
 - 5.4 Procuring Funding for Alleviation
 - 5.5 Implementing Policies and Programs
 - 5.6 Evaluating Programs
- 6.0 Types of Macro Social Problems faced by Governments (Local, State, and National)
- 7.0 Types of Micro Social Problems faced by Human Services Workers

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- 8.0 Pornography Abuse as a Social Problem in the CNMI and in the US
 - 8.1 Internet Porn
 - 8.2 Periodicals, Videos
- 9.0 Disparate Personal Incomes as a Social Problem in the CNMI and in the US
 - 9.1 Haves vs. Have Nots
- 10.0 Wasteful Government Spending in the CNMI and in the US
 - 10.1 Pork Barrel Projects
- 11.0 Incompetent Health Care Practices in the CNMI and in the US
 - 11.1 Misdiagnosis
 - 11.2 Over-testing
- 12.0 Public School Failures in the CNMI and in the US
 - 12.1 High Illiteracy Rates in Math and Science
- 13.0 High Cost of Energy Consumption and Utilities as a Social Problem in the CNMI and in the US
 - 13.1 Gasoline
 - 13.2 Water and Electricity
- 14.0 Unemployment Rates in the CNMI and in the US
- 15.0 Illegal Immigration in the CNMI and in the US
- 16.0 Alcohol and Substance Addictions in the CNMI and in the US

8. Instructional Goals

This course will introduce students to:

- 1.0 The seven primary areas that define social reality: history, social structures, culture, economics, politics, institutions, and environment;
- 2.0 Types of social problems (macro and micro);
- 3.0 Primary stakeholders for alleviating social problems;
- 4.0 Specific philosophies and ideologies for addressing and creating policies and programs for social problems;

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- 5.0 The process of developing, implementing, and evaluating policies and programs for alleviating social problems;
- 6.0 Types of macro social problems faced by governments (Local, State, and National);
- 7.0 Types of micro social problems faced by human services workers;
- 8.0 Pornography abuse as a social problem in the CNMI and in the US;
- 9.0 Disparate personal incomes as a social problem in the CNMI and in the US;
- 10.0 Wasteful government spending in the CNMI and in the US;
- 11.0 Incompetent health care practices in the CNMI and in the US;
- 12.0 Public school failures in the CNMI and in the US;
- 13.0 High cost of energy consumption and utilities as a social problem in the CNMI and in the US;
- 14.0 Unemployment rates as a social problem in the CNMI and in the US;
- 15.0 Illegal immigration as a social problem in the CNMI and in the US; and
- 16.0 Alcohol and substance addictions as social problems in the CNMI and in the US.

9. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1.0 Identify the seven primary areas that define social reality;
- 2.0 Differentiate between macro and micro social problems;
- 3.0 Identify the primary stakeholders for alleviating social problems;
- 4.0 Describe specific philosophies and ideologies for addressing and creating policies and programs for social problems;

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- 5.0 Outline the process of developing, implementing, and evaluating policy solutions for alleviating social problems;
- 6.0 Describe types of macro social problems faced by governments;
- 7.0 Describe types of micro social problems faced by human services workers;
- 8.0 Analyze the causes and effects of pornography abuse as a social problem in the CNMI and in the US;
- 9.0 Analyze the causes and effects of disparate personal incomes as a social problem in the CNMI and in the US;
- 10.0 Give examples of and analyze the effects of wasteful government spending in the CNMI and in the US;
- 11.0 Give examples of and analyze the causes and effects of incompetent health care practices as a social problem in the CNMI and in the US;
- 12.0 Give examples of and analyze the causes and effects of public school failures as a social problem in the CNMI and in the US;
- 13.0 Analyze the effects of the high cost of energy consumption and utilities as a social problem in the CNMI and in the US;
- 14.0 Explain unemployment rates as a social problem in the CNMI and in the US;
- 15.0 Explain the effects of illegal immigration as a social problem in the CNMI and in the US; and
- 16.0 Explain the effects of alcohol and substance addictions as social problems in the CNMI and in the US.

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10. **Assessment Measures**

Assessment of student learning may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1.0 Written assignments;
- 2.0 Group assignments;
- 3.0 Unit tests; and
- 4.0 A final exam.