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**IMPERIAL VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

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**Sociology 102: CRN-10505  
Contemporary Social Problems Fall 2012**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Alondo C. Campbell, PhD  
**OFFICE HOURS:** MW: 2:00-3:00 pm  
**CLASS LOCATION:** Bldg. 400 rm. 412

**CLASS SCHEDULE:** W 6:30—9:40 pm  
**EMAIL:** alondo.campbell@imperial.edu  
**Phone:** (760) 355-6283

### **Required Texts**

Kornblum, William & Julian, Joseph. Social Problems, (2009) 13<sup>th</sup> Ed. Pearson/Prentice Hall

### **Course Description**

Sociology 102 deals with contemporary social problems and will cover those areas that are currently being defined by our society as problem issues. Emphasis will be given to understanding these problems on the societal level, the group level, and from the standpoint of the individual. Discussion topics include physical health and mental illness, alcohol and other drug abuse, crime, criminals, violence, poverty, social theory, culture, socialization, social interaction and social structures, deviance, social class, racial, ethnic and gender stratification, and various social institutions, i.e. family, religion, and the economy.

### **Course Objectives**

- Define a social problem and be familiar with the key components of the definition.
- Identify health care as a social problem and explain what constitutes adequate health care in society.
- Analyze the extent of mental illness in America and the nature of mental illness as a social problem.
- Analyze alcohol use and abuse in the United States, as well as other patterns of drug use.
- Apply the sociological imagination to a specific social problem.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

- Recognize the types of crime and criminals in addition to the conditions and causes of crime.
- Describe the extent of poverty in American society and identify the relationship.
- Identify the origins of prejudice and discrimination and the consequences of each.
- Describe the significance of world population growth and immigration that stress the environment.
- Describe the changing family structure in America and the effects on society.
- Analyze the success and failures of the American educational system and compare it to other countries.

IVC's Institutional Learning Outcomes

ILO1: Communication Skills, ILO2: Critical Thinking Skills, ILO3: Personal Responsibility

ILO4: Information Literacy, ILO5: Global Awareness

### **Student Grade Evaluation**

Participation		100
Midterm Exam		100
Written Assignment Electronic Submission		50
In Class		150
Exercises	(5 @ 10 points)	50
Quizzes	(5 @ 10 points)	50
Presentation	(1 @ 50 points)	50
Final Exam		100
<b>Total Possible</b>		<b>500 points</b>

The grade distribution is based on the following percentage points:

A	500 – 460	90%
B	459 – 400	80%
C	399 – 350	70%
D	349 – 300	60%
F	under 299	59% or less

**Participation:** Participation includes *active listening*. I take notice of how attentive the class is when somebody has the floor. It is as important to participate by respectful interaction such as volunteering your opinion. Students can earn participation points only in-class. All students should have joined in class discussion by the end of the third week of the semester. Your participation should add value to the discussion and be on topic. I will facilitate to prevent vocal students from dominating the airwaves.

**Midterm Exam:** There is one in-class midterm exam. The exam must be taken on the scheduled day it is administered in class. There are NO make-up exams without a compelling medical reason verified by a medical provider. Any make up exam is at the discretion of the instructor.

**In-class Exercises:** Includes video reaction papers and projects on current events. Penmanship is essential and must be legible. A project may be a reaction to an assigned reading, video clip, or group activity and often includes low-stakes writing. Projects may include team assignments.

**Quizzes:** There are five quizzes; each covers the two chapters of the last two weeks unless otherwise announced.

**Presentations:** Students will form groups, complete an outside of class exercise and present findings in class.

**Final Exam:** regularly assigned classroom. The format for the exam is the same as the Midterm. There are no makeup exams without a documented verification of a compelling reason.

**Incomplete Grade:** Students seeking an “Incomplete” grade must consult with me no later than the week prior to finals. Incompletes are only considered for an unforeseeable, emergency and justifiable reasons at the end of the term, and only upon agreement of conditions for completing coursework.

**Classroom Expectations and Behavior:** The Students are responsible for knowing the material and announcements presented during lectures *and* recitations whether or not you attend class. Please arrange with another student for missed notes and announcements. Please do not disrupt other students’ ability to hear lectures (e.g., do not arrive late or leave early, prepared to take notes before lectures begin, do not read or talk during lecture, sit in a seat, do not begin packing your belongings before class ends).

**Cell Phones and Pagers:** Out of consideration for others, please turn your cell phones and pagers to the silent mode. If they do not have a silent or vibratory mode, please turn them off. No texting is allowed while class is in session. These items tend to distract the other students during class discussions and activities.

**Use of laptop computers in-class:** This class seldom require students to use their laptop computers in class. Laptop computers should only be used in the classroom with the permission of the instructor.

**Attendance:** You are required to attend class. Remember the student is responsible for obtaining all information and material when absent. The student is responsible for dropping the class. It is the instructor’s prerogative to drop students in the first two weeks for lack of attendance but the student is responsible for dropping.

**Late arrival/early departure:** Students are subjected to loss of participation points for arriving late or leaving early.

**Students with Disabilities:** Any student with a registered need for special educational accommodation should notify Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) or contact me as soon as possible. Visit or call DSP&S, Mel Wendrick Access Center, Rm 2117, (760)355-6312.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic honesty is highly valued at Imperial Valley College. You must always submit work that represents your original words or ideas. If any words or ideas used in a class postings or assignment submission do not represent your original words or ideas, you must cite all relevant sources and make clear the extent to which such sources were used. Words or ideas that require citation include but are not limited to, all hard copy or electronic publications, whether copyrighted or not, and all verbal or visual communication when the content of such communication clearly originates from an identifiable source.

**APA Format:** American Psychological Association (APA) format is required for written assignments. This website is helpful <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>.

### Course Outline

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Due</b>
	Course Overview	Syllabus	
Wednesday 8/22	Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems	Chap 1	
Wednesday 8/29	Problems of Health and Healthcare	Chap 2	Quiz 1
Wednesday 9/05	Problems of Mental Illness & Treatment	Chap 3	In-class exercise 1
Wednesday 9/12	Alcohol and Other Drugs	Chap 4	Quiz 2
Wednesday 9/19	Crime and Violence	Chap 5	In-class exercise 2
Wednesday 9/26	Poverty Amid Affluence	Chap 6	
	Writing assignment via electronic submission only, due 6:30 pm		
Wednesday 10/03	Racism, Prejudice, & Discrimination	Chap 7	
	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>		
Wednesday 10/10	Gender and Sexuality	Chap 8	In-class exercise 3
Wednesday 10/17	An Aging Society	Chap 9	Quiz 3
Wednesday 10/24	The Changing Family	Chap 10	In-class exercise 4
Wednesday 11/31	Problems of Education	Chap 11	Quiz 4
Wednesday 11/07	Problems of Work and the Economy	Chap 12	Presentation In-class exercise 5
Wednesday 11/14	Urban Problems	Chap 13	Presentation Quiz 5
Wednesday 11/21	Population and Immigration	Chap 14	Presentation
Wednesday 11/29	Technology and the Environment	Chap 15	Presentation
Wednesday 12/05	Review for Final	Chap 8-15	
	Final		

**NOTE:** This course outline should be considered tentative since some minor changes may be made according to the needs of class. If a date or assignment needs to be changed, I will announce it in class before the date it is listed in the syllabus.