

**Springfield College in Illinois  
Course Syllabus  
Session E**

August 21 - October 15, 2006  
Classroom - D225  
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
Monday

Instructor - Jim Stevens  
Office Hours:  
To be arranged  
Phone:  
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**Sociology 211 - Social Problems**

- I. **Course Description** - This course constitutes a study of selected American social social problems. Issues examined from a sociological point of view include inter-group and race relations, poverty, crime and delinquency, sex roles, war and others. IAI S7 901 Three (3) semester hours
  
- II. **Textbook and Materials**  
Joseph Kornblum/Joseph Julian. Social Problems 11<sup>th</sup> Edition.  
New Jersey: Prentice Hall 2001.
  
- III. **Mission Statement**  
The mission of Springfield College in Illinois is to provide students the best liberal arts education in the Ursuline tradition of a nurturing faith-based environment. We prepare students for a life of learning, leadership and service in a diverse world.
  
- IV. **Goals, Objectives and Outcomes**
  - A. Goal  
  
Students will obtain a greater awareness of American social problems including inter-group and race relations, poverty, crime and delinquency, sex roles and war.
  
  - B. Common student learning objectives (CSLO)
    1. Content knowledge (lifelong learning)
      - a. CK-1 Know and apply the central concepts of the subject
    2. Global perspectives (Diversity)
      - b. GP-1 Recognize the importance of diversity of opinion, abilities and cultures
    3. Self-direction and personal growth (Lifelong learning)
      - c. SD-1 - Develop a sense of intellectual curiosity
  
  - B. Course based learning objectives:  
  
During the process of this course the student will:  
CBSLO 1- (CK 1) - Compare and contrast basic sociological theories including functionalism, conflict theory and symbolic interactionism as well as the methodology of sociological analysis.  
CBSLO 2 - (CK-1) Describe the factors governing social life including culture and subculture, socialization, social structure and organization, social institutions and social control.

CBSLO 3 - (SD-1) Identify factors in social change, including the historical development of society, deviance, collective behavior and social movements, and;  
CBSLO 4 - (GP-1, SD-1) Apply a global and cross cultural perspective in understanding the sources of similarities and differences of the human experience.

V. **Teaching Methods/Delivery System**

Instructional presentation will include lecture, class participation, possible role playing and discussion of topical information.

VI. **Course Requirements**

**Attendance Policy:** Class attendance is mandatory. Topics will be discussed in class which may or may not be presented in the assigned text. Students must read all assignments prior to class and students will be required to connect discussion topics to principles in the text. Exam questions will be based upon issues in the text and subject matter written on the board. Periodically, class exercises may be conducted requiring the participation of all students. Please be present for all sessions. It is important to remember that if you must be absent from class, you remain responsible for anything that takes place during the class session. This includes notification of exams, homework assignments, etc. If you are absent, please contact the instructor as soon as possible to determine what has been missed. **Any student missing 5 (five) or more classes may have his/her grade reduced by one letter.**

**Reading Assignments:** (CK-1) Identified as specific chapter assignments under "Course Outline" below.

**Written Assignments:** Each student will write a 5-6 page paper on a topic related to (SD -1) one of the social problems discussed/identified during any of the classes. Any student may also discuss the topic with the instructor. Papers will be typed and double spaced. Point deductions will be taken for spelling, grammar, punctuation and typographical errors. Papers are worth 80 points and will receive a 10 point deduction for each day turned in late. Each paper must identify at least Three (3) references.

**Plagiarism:** Honesty on tests and assigned work is of most importance. Any student caught cheating/plagiarizing on assigned work will be given zero (0) credit for that work. Any subsequent act of cheating will result in an "E" for the course.

VII. **Means of Evaluation of Outcomes (CK-1)**

Exams:	1 @ 4 pts /question x 50 questions =	200 points
Quizzes:	6@ 20 pts =	120 points
Paper:		<u>80 points</u>
		400 points

**Grade Scale:**

360 - 400 points = 90 -100%	A
320 - 359 points = 80 - 89%	B
280 - 319 points = 70 - 79%	C
240 - 279 points = 60 - 69%	D
0 - 239 points = 0 - 59%	E

## VIII. Topical Course Outline

Week of

August 21: Sociological perspectives of social problems

Key themes:

Definition, history and key figures in the study of social problems

Research on social problems

Sociological perspectives

Functionalist

Conflict

Interactive

Theories

Social Disorganization

Value conflict

Deviance

Labeling

Stages of social problems

Week of

August 28: Problems of Physical Health

Key themes:

Health Care as a social problem

America's poor health

Health care delivery systems

Access to health care

AIDS

Insurance

Medicare/Medicaid

Women and health care

ADA

Ethics

**Quiz 1**

Week of

September 4 : Mental Illness as a social problem

Key themes:

Psychosis

Institutions/deinstitutionalization

System responsibility

Treatment

Psychotropic medication

Therapy/counseling

Electroshock

Institutional structure

Local

State

**Quiz 2**

Week of

September 11: Sex related social problems

Key themes:

Sexual attitudes

Homosexuality

Prostitution

Pornography

Illegal sexual activities

Social policy

Social norms/mores

Victorian

Impact of religion/birth control/disease

Changes over the years

**Quiz 3**

Week of

September 18: Alcohol and other drugs

Key themes:

Abuse, addiction, dependence

Legal vs. illegal drugs

Alcohol use/abuse

Commonly abused drugs

AIDS

Crime

Treatment

**Quiz 4**

Week of

September 25: Crime and criminals

Key themes:

Policed discretion

Police, courts, corrections and the justice system

Types of crime

Conditions and causes of crime

Preventing/controlling crime

Gangs

Delinquency

Criminal Socialization Theory

Criminological/Sociological approaches

**Quiz 5**

Week of

October 2: Violence

Key themes:

Violence in America and the World

Political violence

Criminal violence

Family violence

Gangs, guns and violent death

Subculture theory

Rational choice theory

Strategic crime

Influence of mass media  
**Quiz 6/Turn in Research Papers**

Week of

October 9: Urban Problems/Final Exam

Key themes:

The American City

Theories of Urbanism

Metropolitan growth

Problems of cities

Shelter, poverty, homelessness, and neighborhood distress

**Final Exam**

**IX. Americans with Disabilities**

Springfield College in Illinois provides individuals with disabilities reasonable accommodations to participate in educational programs, activities and services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in college sponsored programs, activities and services or to meet course requirements should contact the Director of the Resource Center as early as possible.

**X. Assessment: Classroom Assessment Techniques**

A pre-test/post-test method of assessment will be utilized for this class. A pre-test will be given on the initial day of class containing a set of questions/topics to be discussed during the semester. The same test will be issued on the last day of class. Scores from the first test and second test will be recorded for each student. A product moment correlation statistic may be performed to determine the relationship between test scores.