COMMON COURSE OUTLINE: Course discipline/number/title: SOC 1616: Social Problems

A. CATALOG DESCRIPTION
1. Credits: 3
2. Hours/Week: 3
3. Prerequisites (Course discipline/number): College level reading and writing.
4. Co-requisites (Course discipline/number): None

This course A sociological analysis of the nature, causes and possible responses to a variety of contemporary and future American and global social problems including problems associated with individual and group deviance, inequality and exploitation, social change, institutional dysfunction and international and global conflict.

B. DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year): March, 2003

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:
1. The Sociological Analysis of Social Problems
   a) Defining and Describing Social Problems
   b) Theoretical Explanations of Social Problems
   c) Constructing Responses to Social Problems
   d) The Future: Predicting and Preventing Problems

2. Problems Associated with Individual and Group Deviance
   a) Substance Abuse
   b) Interpersonal Violence
   c) Crime
   d) Gangs
   e) Prostitution
   f) Pornography

3. Problems of Social Inequality and Exploitation
   a) Poverty
   b) Racism
   c) Sexism
   d) Ageism

4. Problems Associated with Social Change
   a) Modernization
   b) Urbanization
   c) Industrialization
   d) Demographics
   e) The Environment

5. Problems of Institutional Structure and Dysfunction
   a) Problems Associated with the Institution of Family
   b) Problems Associated with Politics and Government
   c) Problems Associated with Economics
   d) Problems Associated with the Institution of Religion
   e) Problems Associated with the Institution of Education
   f) Problems Associated with Health Care
   g) Problems Associated with Criminal Justice

6. International and Global Problems
   a) International conflict and War
   b) Terrorism
C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS: Continued...
   c) Economic Competition and Exploitation
   d) Pollution

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL): The student will be able to:

E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC):
Goal 2/Critical Thinking: Students will be able to:
1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner relevant, clear, comprehensive and conscious of the bias in the information section.
2. Imagine or seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions or perspectives which give meaning to a given problem.
3. Recognize and articulate the often complex set of values which underlies and effects the decisions, observations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.

Goal 5/History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences: The student will be able to:
1. Select and use appropriate methods for gathering and analyzing data or evidence about problems they identify.
2. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
3. Develop and communicate alternatives for addressing contemporary issues.

Goal 9/Ethical and Civic Responsibility: The student will be able to:
1. Examine and articulate their own moral views as these relate to others.
2. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
3. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others in public settings.

F. METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING:
Evaluation methods may include any or all of the following:
1. Essay exams
2. Research papers
3. Quizzes
4. Objective exams
5. Written homework
6. Small group projects
7. Oral presentations
8. Journals
9. Or any other work deemed appropriate by the instructor and so indicated on her/his syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any): None