Department:

Sociology

Course Description:

This course will examine a wide variety of social problems, including crime, racial discrimination, poverty, drug abuse, disorganization of social institutions, and rapid social change. The course will apply sociological theories to explain social problems and will focus on approaches used to address these problems.

Course Competencies:

The learning outcomes and competencies detailed in this syllabus meet or exceed the learning outcomes and competencies specified by the Kansas Core Outcomes Groups for this course as approved by the Kansas Board of Regents. (Kansas Regents Shared Number Course and Title: KRSN Course SOC 2010 Social Problems.)

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Distinguish social problems from personal problems.
2. Compare and contrast the major theoretical perspectives of social problems.
3. Identify and describe sociological research methods and ethical issues.
4. Evaluate major economic systems using historical and cross-cultural perspectives.
5. Construct and analyze models of power and authority.
6. Describe the relationship between political and economic systems.
7. Describe the effect of social stratification and social class.
8. Explain prejudice and discrimination related to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and age.
10. Describe how changes in families can lead to social problems.
11. Describe problems associated with the criminal justice system.
12. Examine access and barriers to health care systems.
13. Assess the opportunities and limitations of the educational system.
14. Analyze the social impact of population growth and the environment.
15. Explain how participation in collective action and social movements contributes to both the cause and alleviation of social problems.

Course Content:

A. Studying Social Problems
B. Poverty and Wealth
C. Racial and Ethnic Inequality
D. Gender Inequality

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E. Age Inequality  
F. Crime and Criminal Justice  
G. Violence  
H. Sexuality  
I. Alcohol and Drugs  
J. Physical and Mental Health Issues  
K. Economy and Politics  
L. Work and the Workplace  
M. Family Life  
N. Education  
O. Cities and Urban Life  
P. Population and Global Inequality  
Q. Technology and the Environment  
R. War and Terrorism  

Learning Assessments:  

Course competencies will be assessed by use of class assignments, quizzes, major paper or project, response papers, class participation, and final exam.  

Instructional Materials:  


Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition  

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.  

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.  

In order to begin the process all students must complete the “Disabilities Self-Identification Form” at this link: https://highlandcc.edu/pages/disability-services.  

This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.