



## Introduction to Social Problems

### SHORT COURSE DESCRIPTION

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This course covers various social problems by examining factors associated with each type of social problems and exploring possible solutions to address such problems. The course is organized into three main parts: 1) understand social problems in a global perspective, 2) examine possible factors associated with a social problem that students are interested, and 3) brainstorm possible solutions to address the social problem. In order to achieve these learning objectives, the class will meet daily as a seminar, along with class activities in which each member will have opportunities for contributing to the objective of each session through prepared, active participation.

### READING MATERIALS

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No textbook is required. All reading materials will be available prior to class in PDF format.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

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The expectation is that students will attend all sessions and participate in class discussions and activities. Without prior notice, one missing class will result in a deduction of one point. Class periods will start and end at the prescribed times. Students who arrive late or leave early influence class disruption, so promptness is appreciated. Students should notice to the instructor if they have to be late, or leave early. Otherwise, two times of late arrivals or early departures will result in one point deduction from attendance grade. Please note that SKKU regulations require students to attend at least 80% of all sessions. In addition, active participation and full preparation are expected. All students will have opportunities to lead class discussions based on daily reading assignments.

Academic Integrity Policy: The academic community considers academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, or quoting, please consult with me.

Grading Scale: Pass (60% or above) /Fail (59% or below)

#### Grading Criteria

Discussion Lead	20%
Topic paper	20%
Solution paper	20%
Final Presentation	20%
Class Attendance	10%
Class Participation	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

For the paper assignment, 2-3 double spaced pages long with 12-point font are recommended. You may use external sources to complete the assignment. If you include external references, use them in APA 7th style for citations.

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/general\\_format.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html)

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

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Syllabus may be updated during the semester to meet the needs of enrolled students.

### **– WEEK I –**

#### Monday (27 June)

Introduction & Class Overview  
What is a Social Problem?

#### Individual Perspectives

#### Tuesday (28 June)

Mental health problems  
Reading: Lee et al. (2020), Moreno et al. (2020), Nebbitt et al. (2020), Whitbeck et al. (2009)

#### Wednesday (29 June)

Addictions  
Reading: Chun et al. (2020), Jang et al. (2018), Wintemberg et al. (2018), Yu et al. (2017)

#### Thursday (30 June)

Risky sexual behaviors  
Reading: Dacosta et al. (2021), Kim et al. (2019), Small et al. (2021) & class activity

### **– WEEK II –**

#### Monday (4 July)

Physical health problems  
Reading: Aggarwal et al. (2020), Fuzeki et al. (2020), Huang et al. (2020) & class activity

#### Bases of Social Problems

#### Tuesday (5 July)

Race and ethnicity, international students,  
Reading: Maleku et al. (2022), Yu et al. (2017), Yu (2011), Yu & Stiffman (2007)  
Assignment: Topic paper due

#### Wednesday (6 July)

Gender  
Reading: Cohen et al. (2021), Kim et al. (2020), Whitbeck & Yu (2016)

#### Thursday (7 July)

Unemployment, Homelessness, Social determinants of health  
Reading: Blustein et al. (2020), Yu et al. (2008), WHO (2021)

### **– WEEK III –**

#### Global Perspectives

#### Monday (11 July)

Health care access, health literacy  
Reading: Adugna et al. (2020), Nguyen et al. (2020), Nutbeam & Lloyd (2021) & class activity

Tuesday (12 July)

Food insecurity

Reading: Leddy et al. (2020), Pereira et al. (2021), Yu et al. (2010) & class activity

Assignment: Solution paper due

Wednesday (13 July)

Violence

Reading: Foell et al. (2021), Kim et al. (2020), Olate et al. (2014), Udmuangpa et al. (2021)

Thursday (14 July)

Climate change

Fawzy et al. (2020), Romanello et al. (2021) & Class activity

Friday (15 July)

Knowledge synthesis I -- Class activity

**– WEEK IV–**

Monday (18 July)

Knowledge synthesis II – Class activity

Tuesday (19 July)

Assignment: Final presentation, course wrap-up