

SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Course Number: SOCL 200 Department: Sociology

Course Title: Social Problems Semester: Spring Year: 1997

**Objectives/Competencies**

<b>Course Objective</b>	<b>Competencies</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To enhance the student's "sociological imagination." That is to be able to make the connection between private troubles and public issues.</li><li>2. To understand the connection between personal experience and the social, political, and economic institutions of the larger society.</li><li>3. The student will identify the major theoretical explanations for the existence of social problems offered by sociologists.</li><li>4. Students will critically evaluate explanations offered by not only the author of the text, but in newspapers, magazines, and on TV as well.</li><li>5. Students will be able to clearly speak, write about, and debate causes, factual information, and solutions offered to solve the social problems of our day.</li></ol>	<p>(Examples: Not meant to be inclusive)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The student will be able to explain in an essay his father's unemployment as a consequence of larger economic forces at work in today's society.</li><li>2. The student will explain the connection between births to unwed black mothers in our inner cities and unemployment rates among young black males.</li><li>3. Compare and contrast the three theoretical explanations offered by sociologists for the existence of social problems: structural, functional, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism giving examples of each for criminal behavior.</li><li>4. Giving an example of a social problem currently presented as a public issue in the mass media (for example, the suburban underclass) demonstrates how the problem can be presented by personal attribution as opposed to systemic attribution. How do media explanations differ from what the professor has to say about this issue?</li></ol>

<b>Course Objective</b>	<b>Competencies</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1060 329 1990 581">5. For each chapter in the text, the student will write a brief comment/question card (on a 3X5 card) on a specific topic in the chapter. The comment should reflect the student's personal experience with the issue involved or involve a specific reaction either positive or negative to what the author has to say.</li><li data-bbox="1060 589 1921 711">6. Each exam will be at least 32% essay in content. This essay will be divided between identification and with examples and essay.</li><li data-bbox="1060 719 1974 1060">7. The student will be encouraged to explain verbally and debate with fellow classmates the various media interpretations offered regarding the consequences of the unequal distribution of wealth/income in our society with special emphasis on race and sex. He will be encouraged to offer solutions to this problem if indeed he feels such solutions are necessary. This debate should reflect actual media presentations on TV, newspapers, or magazines.</li></ol>