Sociology 104  
**Social Problems**  
3 units; 3 hours lecture  
Recommended Preparation: Sociology 101; eligibility for English 1A  
Credit, degree applicable Transfer CSU, UC.

In this course social problems facing societies today are examined. Topics include problems associated with deviance, crime, inequality, social institutions, and modernization. Social problems will be analyzed from various sociological perspectives to better understand their possible causes and consequences. Strategies for addressing social problems will be discussed and assessed.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Explain the term "sociological imagination" and discuss its relevance to the study of social problems.
2. Differentiate between objective and subjective elements of social problems.
3. Analyze how and why members of a society define a social condition as a social problem.
4. Describe and assess the basic premises of the structural functionalist, conflict, and symbolic interactionist theoretical perspectives.
5. List the stages for conducting a research study and describe methods of data collection.
6. Select research methods based on their effectiveness for describing and evaluating a specific social problem.
7. Identify and assess social problems related to deviance, such as substance abuse and crime.
8. Identify and evaluate social problems related to inequality based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, and income.
9. Identify and discuss social problems related to the social institutions of a society, such as the health care system, the family, the economy, and the education system.
10. Identify and discuss social problems resulting from modernization such as urbanization, population growth, environmental issues, changes in science and technology, and international conflict.
11. Evaluate explanations given by the structural functionalist, conflict, and symbolic interactionist perspectives concerning causes and consequences of social problems related to deviance, inequality, social institutions, and modernization.
12. Assess strategies for addressing social problems related to deviance, inequality, social institutions, and modernization.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Given a social problem students will use secondary source research to objectively describe the social problem as it exists in contemporary society and delineate and assess strategies for addressing social problems in an oral or written research assignment.

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