

**Common Course Outline**  
**SOCL 102**  
**Social Problems**  
**3 Semester Hours**  
**The Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

Social Problems

Examines the social and cultural basis of issues that are defined as social problems in U.S. society. The nature, extent, and likely causes and consequences of social problems are analyzed through sociological theories and research. A variety of problems are studied, including: crime and violence, poverty and economic inequality, race and ethnic relations, substance abuse, and the family.

Prerequisite: (RDNG 052 or ESOL 054 or LVR 2) and (ENGL 052 or LVE 2) or (ESOL 052 or LVE 2)

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to

1. compare the social sciences and the differences among the social science disciplines (I, 1,2);
2. analyze and collaboratively critique the three major social problem perspectives (II, III, V, 1, 2).
3. explain and apply the sociological imagination as a paradigm for the analysis of social problems (I, III, V, 1, 2, 4);
4. distinguish between analyzing social problems at the macrosociological and microsociological level with critical thinking exercises (I, 1, 2);
5. analyze and discuss the nature of socially patterned harms that cause physical, financial and moral harms (I, III, 3);
6. summarize the structural contradictions in postmodern society that cause social problems (I, 4);
7. analyze and critique policy failure among dominant ideological groups (I, II, VI, 2, 3, 4);

8. distinguish and summarize the interrelationship between and among various social problems (I, 4);
9. assess aspects of specific social problems through active engagement in community agencies through service learning or classroom simulation (II, III, V, VI, 3, 4);
10. compare and contrast how various news media present social problems (IV, V, 1, 2, 4);
11. present an evaluation of contemporary social problems, developed collaboratively, in both written and oral form using appropriate technology (II, III, IV, VI, 2, 4).

### **Major Topics**

- introduction to the Social Sciences
- three major sociological perspectives of the social sciences
- use of the sociological imagination paradigm
- the relationship between social problems at the macrosociological and microsociological levels of analysis
- the nature of socially patterned harms
- the nature of structural contradictions in post modern society that cause social problems
- an analysis and critique of policy failure among dominant ideological groups
- the interrelationship among various social problems
- the role of community service agencies in solving social problems
- how various media present social problems

### **Course Requirements (IV)**

#### Grading

Grading Procedures and exact weighting for each measure will be determined by each individual faculty member and provided to the student in writing the first week of class. However, all students will

1. complete at least two examinations during the semester;
2. complete at least one special project, oral presentation, service learning, or computer project;
3. complete a written assignment (minimum 1,000 words) on a course related topic.