

## **Social Problems – 2016-17 Course Outline**

Welcome to Social Problems! This is probably one of the most practical courses that you will take in the social studies field. This course deals with all of the problems taking place around us. We will examine the origins of these problems, the results of these problems, what is being done about these problems, and offer our opinions on how these problems should be dealt with.

Other than a research paper, this course will have some written work. However, you will be asked to do a good bit of reading (from the text, newspaper, and various assigned articles).

I also encourage a lot of classroom discussion on the topics we will be covering. In fact, we will have debates on many of the topics. Hopefully, you will find these subjects interesting, and together we can develop strategies to help society deal with its social problems.

**The course will proceed in the following manner:**

### **Unit One – Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems**

Introduction to social problems, theories and methods of research

### **Unit Two – Problems of Physical Health**

Health care problems, AIDS

### **Unit Three – Alcohol and Other Drugs**

A look at alcohol and drug abuse and the problems associated with them

### **Unit Four – Crime and Criminals**

Types of criminals, causes of crime, and methods used to control crime

### **Unit Five – Violence**

Explanations of violence, types of violence, and methods of prevention

### **Unit Six – Technology and Environment**

How is technology bringing trouble to the environment?

### **Unit Seven – Poverty amid Affluence**

Why is their poverty in one of the richest countries of the world?

### **Unit Eight – Prejudice and Discrimination**

Origins of prejudice and discrimination and consequences of this problem

### **Unit Nine – Sex Roles and Inequality**

Is sexism still a problem today? Also a look at sexual harassment

### **Unit Ten – An Aging Society**

A look at the problems of our aging society, including retirement and death.

## **Unit Eleven – Problems of Public Education**

A look at the issues facing public education

## **Unit Twelve – War and Terrorism**

A look at the #1 foreign & domestic policy issue facing the U.S. –terrorism.

### **Grading**

Your grade will be based on the following. Tests and your research paper will account for 50% of your grade. Reading quizzes and special projects will count as 30%. Any homework assignments will count as 20% of your grade. Your research paper will deal with or be associated with any of the above areas. You will also have a final, which will count as two test grades.

### **Requirements For Class**

1. Be considerate to others (including the instructor!)
2. Be on time- all people late will be sent to the office.
3. Bring a pencil or pen, your journal, and your textbook every day.
4. You are responsible to bring all materials to class. If you forget them, you will not be permitted to go to your locker to get them.
5. Use the rest rooms or water fountains only in an emergency. I will usually allow you to go if you ask me before the “late bell” rings.
6. “Goofing off,” or “excessive talking” will not be tolerated. Detentions will be assigned.
  7. No cursing or profane language---No warnings.
  8. No sleeping in class. Detention will be assigned.
  9. Do not crowd the door at the end of the period. Remain in your seats.

Keep this syllabus in your textbook to refer to if you have any questions. In conclusion, I’m looking forward to working with you in the coming weeks.

Thank you,

Mr. Over

I understand the rules and policies of Mr. Over’s Social Problems class.

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_