

**JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
State University of New York

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**INSTITUTIONAL COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Title:** Social Problems

**Course Abbreviation and Number:** SOC 2520

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Course Type:** Lecture

**Course Description:** This course analyzes various social problems from a sociological perspective. We examine the social, economic, and ideological causes and solutions of racism, sexism, transphobia, homophobia, poverty, crime and violence, drug abuse, and human population and environmental change. Emphasis is on American society, but international comparisons are made when those countries offer solutions to the problem at hand.

**Eligibility:** ENG 1510 without supports or **Corequisite:** ENG 1510 with supports.

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**General Education Requirements Met**

**SUNY**

Social Sciences

Diversity

**JCC**

Applied Learning

Cultural Understanding

Global Perspectives

Scientific Reasoning

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**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

1. Describe major concepts and theories of at least one discipline in the social sciences. [SUNY Gen Ed – Social Sciences]
  2. Demonstrate an understanding of the methods social scientists use to explore social phenomena. [SUNY Gen Ed – Social Sciences]
  3. Describe the historical and contemporary societal factors that shape the development of diverse individual and group identities, including but not limited to race, class and gender. [SUNY Gen Ed – Diversity]
  4. Analyze the role that social structures and systems play in the creation and perpetuation of power, privilege, oppression, and opportunity. [SUNY Gen Ed – Diversity]
  5. Demonstrate an understanding of how the principles of rights, access, equity, and autonomy apply to social justice action, past, current, or future. [SUNY Gen Ed – Diversity]
  6. Demonstrate understanding of cultural similarities and differences and how cultural norms shape each person's experience of the world. [JCC Gen Ed – Cultural Understanding]
  7. Demonstrate awareness of global issues and the impact of individual and collective decisions on life around the world. [JCC Gen Ed – Global Perspectives]
  8. Effectively apply knowledge and skills to a real-world experience, creative project, or independent intellectual investigation. [JCC Gen Ed – Applied Learning]
  9. Thoughtfully reflect on connections between concepts studied in the classroom & insights gained from an applied learning experience/project. [JCC Gen Ed – Applied Learning]
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**Topics Covered:**

- Studying and solving social problems from a sociological perspective
  - Poverty and wealth
  - Racial and ethnic inequality
  - Gender inequality
  - Crime and violence
  - Sexuality
  - Economy and politics
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**Information for Students**

- Expectations of Students
  - [Civility Statement](#)
  - [Student Responsibility Statement](#)
  - [Academic Integrity Statement](#)
- [Accessibility Services](#)

Students who require accommodations to complete the requirements and expectations of this course because of a disability must make their accommodation requests to the Accessibility Services Coordinator.

- [Get Help: JCC & Community Resources](#)
- [Emergency Closing Procedures](#)
- Course grade is determined by the instructor based on a combination of factors, including but not limited to, homework, quizzes, exams, projects, and participation. Final course grade can be translated into a grade point value according to the following:

A=4.0	B+=3.5	B=3	C+=2.5	C=2	D+=1.5	D=1	F=0
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- Veterans and active duty military personnel with special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployments, drill requirements, VA appointments) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these to the instructor.

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**Effective Date:** Fall 2024