

APPLIED ARTS DIVISION  
School of Liberal Arts  
Winter Semester, 2016



**COURSE OUTLINE**

**SOC 104**

**SOCIAL PROBLEMS**

**45 HOURS  
3 CREDITS**

PREPARED BY: Shawkat Shareef, Ph.D.      DATE: 27 November, 2016

APPROVED BY: Andrew Richardson, Ph.D.      DATE:

APPROVED BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL      DATE:

RENEWED BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL      DATE:



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## SOCIAL PROBLEMS

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**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Shawkat Shareef

**OFFICE HOURS:** MW 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**OFFICE LOCATION:** A2303

**CLASSROOM:** A2402

**E-MAIL:** sshareef@yukoncollege.yk.ca

**TIME:** 2.30-3.59 pm

**TELEPHONE:** (867) 393 2899

**DATES:** January 6 -April 27, 2016 ,  
Mondays and Wednesdays

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Using a wide range of sociological theories, students will explore factors that lead to the construction and continuation of social problems. The course employs a multi-dimensional analytical framework, emphasizing the socio-cultural, economic, and historical forces that perpetuate poverty, class, ethnic and gender inequality, racism, crime, addiction and the sex trades. There will be a specific focus on mainstream Canadian society, and northern First Nation and other indigenous communities. Students will also reflect on policy options for the remediation of social problems.

### PREREQUISITES

This course has no prerequisites.

### RELATED COURSE REQUIREMENTS

None

### EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

In progress.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

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- analyse and compare research on social problems in Canada and abroad
- explain of social problems in Canada focusing on northern First Nations and

indigenous socio-cultural, historical, and political contexts

- critically analyze their own views about different aspects of social problems in the postmodern Canadian society engulfed by various globalization factors
- objectively apply sociological perspectives and theoretical approaches to their knowledge of the linkages between Northern indigenous, Canadian national, and global societies in the creation and perpetuation of social problems

## **COURSE FORMAT**

Classes will consist of lectures on and discussions of the texts, readings and films/video clips specified in the course syllabus.

## **ASSESSMENTS**

### **PARTICIPATION**

Participation in class is essential to the development of class unity and the learning process for everyone. Group discussion offers students a forum in which to express ideas and be educated through the ideas of others. We will create together a respectful environment where everyone will feel safe and encouraged to speak. This means that students and instructor must monitor their speech so as not to contribute more than their fair share.

Students will also write a number of short assignments demonstrating their understanding of theories about social problems and the practical implications of those theories in the understanding of indigenous, non-indigenous and immigrant populations in Canada. There are no points assigned to these assignments, but performance on these short assignments (both completion and quality) will be added to the overall participation grade as a percentage. Also, these assignments will help stimulate the discussions the class.

### **Assignments**

Students will write one research paper on a self-chosen topic about Canadian First Nations and/or immigrant related social problems. The paper topic must be approved by the instructor. The paper should be documented and formatted according to APA style and be 10 double-spaced pages in length, excluding references.

### **Deadlines**

Marks will be deducted for late assignments: 1 mark, out of 30, per day up to 5 days, at which time the assignment will not be accepted for marking. If delays are unavoidable because of extenuating circumstances (e.g., illness or bereavement), students must consult with the instructor and receive permission for an extension.

## Paper Submission

The research paper should be submitted to the Applied Arts Office or in the hallway drop box (outside the Applied Arts Office) for after-hours delivery. Office staff will date stamp the receipt of the assignment and make sure it gets to the instructor. Do not slip assignments under the instructor's office door, as they will not be dated and can go missing. Also, electronic submission of assignments to the instructor will be accepted.

## Tests

There are three exams in this course, two mid-terms and the final exam.

## Other

None

## EVALUATION

Class participation	10 percent (20 marks)	
First mid-term	20 percent (40 marks)	February 10
Second mid-term	20 percent (40 marks)	March 9
Research Paper	20 percent (40 marks)	Due March 30
Final Exam	30 percent (60 marks)	TBA
Total	100 %	

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

Kendall, D., Nygaard, V. L., & Thompson, E. G. (2011). Social problems in a diverse society (3rd Canadian Ed.). Canada: Pearson.

Supplementary materials: videos, excerpts from peer-reviewed journals, papers, and discussions from various sources will be used in this class. The titles and topics of videos and video clips may be announced in advance in class. Hardcopies will be distributed in class whenever journals and papers are unavailable on the Internet. If materials are available online, web links will be provided.

## ACADEMIC AND STUDENT CONDUCT

Information on academic standing and student rights and responsibilities can be found in the Academic Regulations:

[http://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca//downloads/Yukon\\_College\\_Academic\\_Regulations\\_and\\_Procedures\\_-\\_August\\_2013\\_final\\_v1.pdf](http://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca//downloads/Yukon_College_Academic_Regulations_and_Procedures_-_August_2013_final_v1.pdf)

Attendance is integral to student success. Discussion and participation are particularly important in this class, and students are expected to attend regularly and punctually. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and to complete any work assigned.

## **PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Plagiarism occurs when students present the words of someone else as their own. Plagiarism can be the deliberate use of a whole piece of another person's writing, but more frequently it occurs when students fail to acknowledge and document sources from which they have taken material. Whenever the words, research or ideas of others are directly quoted or paraphrased, they must be documented according to an accepted manuscript style (e.g., APA, CSE, MLA, etc.). Resubmitting a paper which has previously received credit is also considered plagiarism. Students who plagiarize material for assignments will receive a mark of zero (F) on the assignment and may fail the course. Plagiarism may also result in dismissal from a program of study or the College.

## **YUKON FIRST NATIONS CORE COMPETENCY**

Yukon College recognizes that a greater understanding and awareness of Yukon First Nations history, culture and journey towards self-determination will help to build positive relationships among all Yukon citizens. As a result, to graduate from ANY Yukon College program, you will be required to achieve core competency in knowledge of Yukon First Nations. For details, please see <http://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/yfnccr>.

## **LORENE ROBERTSON WRITING CENTRE**

All students are encouraged to make the Lorene Robertson Writing Centre a regular part of the writing process for coursework. Located in C2231 (adjacent the College Library), the Writing Centre offers half-hour writing coaching sessions to students of all writing abilities. Coaching sessions are available in person and through distance technologies (e.g., email plus Skype or phone). For further information or to book an appointment, visit the Centre's website: [www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/student\\_info/pages/writing\\_centre](http://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/student_info/pages/writing_centre).

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in Section 8.0 of the Yukon College Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon College website). It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations. If a student requires an academic accommodation, he/she should contact the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC) at (867) 668-8785 or [lassist@yukoncollege.yk.ca](mailto:lassist@yukoncollege.yk.ca).

## TOPIC OUTLINE

Topic	Reading
Week 1: Taking a New Look at Social Problems Chapter 1	
Week 2: Poverty in the Canadian Context Chapter 2	
Week 3: Racism and Ethnic Inequality	Chapter 3
Week 4: Gender Inequality Chapter 4	
Week 5 and 6: Sex Trade In Canada Chapter 7	
Week 6: <b>First Midterm, Feb. 10</b>	
Week 7: Addictions	Chapter 8
Week 8: Reading Week, no classes	
Week 9 and 10: Health, Illness, and Health Care as Social Problems Chapter 10	
Week 11: The Changing Family	Chapter 11
Week 11: <b>Second Midterm, March 9</b>	
Week 12: Problems in Education	Chapter 12
Week 13 and 14: Population, Urbanization, and the Environmental Crisis Chapter 15	
Week 15 and 16: Global Social Problems	Chapter 16
<b>Final Exam: TBA</b>	

Other readings and materials may be assigned or advised. A detailed syllabus is provided on the course site and will be discussed in lectures.