

### Catalog Description

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SOC 2 explores major social problems experienced by society, with an exploration of the role of power in defining social problems, causes and consequences, theoretical perspectives, proposed solutions, and methods of interventions. The course focuses on the application of critical thinking skills to strengthen critical analysis and heighten social awareness.

### Textbook

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This semester we will be using a **FREE** online textbook from an open educational resource (OER). Celebrate! Using OER materials illustrates the commitment we have to eliminating barriers in access to education. Using the link below, you will have immediate access to the materials – check it out now! You will have an option of downloading the text in a variety of formats for off-line access.

University of Minnesota Libraries. [Social Problems: Continuity and Change.](https://open.lib.umn.edu/socialproblems/)

ISBN/Website: <http://open.lib.umn.edu/socialproblems/>

### Learning Objectives

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*Upon completion of the course, students will be able to successfully:*

1. identify, understand, and evaluate major social problems in the United States and their global connections using sociological approaches and concepts;
2. identify the influence of rationality, cognitive development, and emotionality on critical thought related to causes and consequences of social problems; and
3. identify the elements of good critical thinking and evaluate policies addressing social problems and their implications on society.

## Student Learning Outcomes

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*Upon completion of the course, students will be able to successfully:*

1. Students will be able to explain the influence on history and biography on critical thinking personal issues, and social problems.
2. Students will be able to describe and employ a sociological imagination to evaluate social problems including conditions, power, causes and consequences, perspectives, proposed solutions, and methods of interventions.
3. Students will be able to define and apply the major and emerging theoretical paradigms on social conditions and issues.
4. Students will be able to analyze and demonstrate use of sociological terms and vocabulary in application of critical thinking and major social problems experienced by society.
5. Students will be able to evaluate and use scholarly books and/or peer-reviewed journals in social problems and create in-text citations and a reference page acknowledging source information.

## Supplies

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This course is fully online. To be successful in this course, you will need to be proficient in computer operations and word processing. Please review the required [Canvas Technical Requirements](#) to maximize your accessibility to course content. West Hills College also has a wonderful Help Desk for any technology assistance or technical support you may need.

## Resources

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**Did know that your **tuition \$\$\$** gains you access to a support team designed to help you succeed?** This includes academic advising, financial support, counseling, and tutoring! Check out following resources that will help you achieve your academic goals:

### **West Hills Help Desk:**

Help Desk Hours:

Mon-Thu 8:00am - 8:00pm, Fri 8:00am - 5:00pm

Email: [helpdesk@whccd.edu](mailto:helpdesk@whccd.edu)

Phone: (559)934-2002 or 1-800-266-1114 ext. 2002



### **West Hills Online Orientation:**

Learn valuable tools that the college has to offer through the [online orientation](#).

### **Student Support Services:**

Our [West Hills Student Support Services](#) team will connect you to an advisor, tutoring, financial aide or counseling as you pursue your educational goals.

### **West Hills Library**

[http://www.westhillscollge.com/whconline/electronic\\_resources.asp](http://www.westhillscollge.com/whconline/electronic_resources.asp)

## Course and Grading Policies

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This syllabus and schedule of assignments are subject to revision by the instructor as necessary. Any revisions will be posted in the ANNOUNCEMENTS and also emailed to your WHCCD email account.

*Note: The California Education Code specifies that college-level courses require at least two hours of outside work for each credit hour. For an online 3-credit course, the expectation is that you will spend a minimum of nine hours per week reading, studying, and completing assignments for this course.*

### 1. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(6 to 12) points weekly

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#### **Discussion Board: 1 ORIGINAL POST + 2 REPLIES = 3 POSTS PER WEEK**

Your contributions to our weekly discussion add depth and help create our online learning community. Because attendance is required by state law and West Hills College, your presence online is required several times each week. Attendance is tracked by monitoring the number of times you post responses to the online threaded discussion questions available in the Discussion Board each week.

In order to receive full credit for discussion posts, your original post (worth 6 points) must respond to the original discussion question in its entirety. **These posts are due THURSDAY of each week.** You may be asked to answer multiple questions or discuss more than one issue each post. Your responses require extensive thought, and should show your understanding and recognition of key concepts, theories, assumptions, and/or implications. Responses should not be made until the entire lesson module has been studied. Your writing should display college-level writing, and quantity does NOT mean quality.

Your TWO (2) responses to student posts (worth 3 points each) MUST ALSO demonstrate critical thinking and add to the discussion in a meaningful way – if you agree or disagree with a statement, you must discuss WHY. Responses are due Monday at 8:00 of each week.

### 2. HOMEWORK/ASSIGNMENTS

approximately 400 points total

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Throughout the semester there will be homework assignments posted that you will complete and submit online. These will include basic concept reviews, journal and article reviews, and research assignments. Assignments will range from 10 - 50 points each. Some of these require interviewing other people and/or research. Review these assignments each week at the beginning of the lesson period to ensure enough time to complete them.

### 3. FINAL RESEARCH PAPER

100 points

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Using the research and reflections you have completed throughout the semester, you will submit a final research paper that presents your overall knowledge on content and theory of the course.

Grades: Total points earned will determine final grades in this course.

Scale by Percentage:

100-90% =A

89-80% =B  
79-70% =C  
69-60% =D  
<60% =F

### Communication Policy:

The internet world is running 24/7... However, I am not! I love my job and aim to be available to you in a frequent and timely manner. But, in addition to being your instructor this semester I am also a wife, mother, sister, daughter, and friend. I have two children, 14 chickens, 5 cats, 2 horses, and 1 dog. I love to camp, climb, bike, garden, and cook. Please allow up to 48-hours response time for emails, although my goal is always timeliness. Because I teach many courses, please always reference the COURSE NAME/SECTION# in your subject line, and be specific as possible with your questions. Modules are generally available for 1-week time periods.



Plan ahead and check in early with questions about the course materials, assignments, due dates, and expectations. Communicating with me provides you the opportunity to go deeper and allows us to work together to connect you to resources you may need to successfully complete this course.

### Make-Up Work Policy:

Coursework will be available for a minimum of one-week periods, so makeup assignments should not be necessary. However, if you miss a week due to illness, family emergency, etc., you will be required to provide documentation in order to make up the work. As in the workplace, meeting deadlines is key to being successful in this course.

*If you are unable to submit an assignment on time, you have two options:*

1. Submit the work when you can and have it assessed at 10% penalty for each day past due.
2. Ask for an extension. I am a compassionate person and understand that sometimes other responsibilities make it nearly impossible to meet a class deadline. Contact me as early as possible, explain the situation, and tell me when you think you will be able to submit the assignment within reason.

*Opportunities for submitting late assignments or assignment revisions may be available to make-up lost points for excused absences on a case-by-case basis. There is no guarantee that your extension request will be approved.*

### Classroom Attendance:

You will be considered absent if you fail to participate in the weekly online discussions/postings, assignments, and assessments. After one week of no communication, you may be dropped from the course. It is essential that you complete the "Orientation and Check-In" module the first week of class. I clear my roster to make

room for wait-listed students after the first week. Simply logging into the course is not considered attendance – you must complete the required assignments to maintain your seat in this course.

### Academic Integrity:

Students are expected to abide by ethical standards in preparing and presenting for this course. My hope is that you will be the sole author of your work – taking pride that it was submitted independently, with integrity.

West Hills College outlines the academic standards we expect all students to learn by, and they can be found in the [Academic Honesty Statement](#) and the [Computer Network Use Policy](#).

*Note about plagiarism:* Taking the work of another person and putting your name on work you did not complete in whole or in part is a type of academic dishonesty called plagiarism. Plagiarism is intellectual fraud and theft. All work containing sources must use proper citation and formatting. At times, correct citation of sources can be tricky. You will learn to cite sources using American Sociological Association (ASA) formatting, and in the meantime – give it your best effort to give credit and list sources when using them to formulate your thoughts and ideas. Writing is a process. The important part of citations is giving credit or attribution to people who contributed to your work.

### Accommodations:

West Hills College Lemoore encourages all students to participate fully in academic opportunities, cultural enrichment, and the wide array of social activities offered at WHCL. Special attention has been given to remove physical barriers on campus and to provide support services to students with disabilities. If you have a verified need or would like to see a counselor for assessment for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e. Braille, large print, electronic Text, etc) please contact me as soon as possible. You may also visit the Disabled Students Programs and Services office, which is located in Room 270 in Building 200 on campus, and information is available on the [DSPS website](#). They provide equal educational opportunities for students with physical, psychological, or learning disabilities. If the DSPS staff determine you are eligible for assistance, we will work together to make sure that your needs are being met.

