







Sociology (SOCI) 290

Social Problems (Revision 3)

Status:	Replaced with new revision, see the course listing  for the current revision 
Delivery mode:	Individualized study online 
Credits:	3
Areas of study:	Arts or Social Science
Prerequisites:	None
Precluded:	None
Challenge:	SOCI 290 has a challenge for credit option.
Faculty:	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences 

Overview

SOCI 290: Social Problems is designed to introduce students to the study of social problems: their definition, their dimensions and interconnections, and the effects and strategies for alleviating them.

Outline

SOCI 290 consists of Introduction and five units:



- Introduction
- Unit 1: Defining Social Problems
- Unit 2: Inequality as a Social Problem
- Unit 3: Individual Social Problems and Common Sense
- Unit 4: Social Problems and Social Institutions: Sociological Theory
- Unit 5: Global Population and Global Social Problems

Objectives

The course has the following three overarching learning outcomes:


1. Define what is meant by the term social problems.
2. Enumerate the various social problems studied by sociologists.
3. Apply various sociological theories and research to understand and potentially reduce social problems in Canada.

Evaluation

To **receive credit**  for SOCI 290, you must complete all the assignments and achieve a composite course grade of at least **D (50 percent)** . The weighting of the composite grade is as follows:

Activity	Weight
Forum Participation	15%
Assignment 1	5%

Activity	Weight
Assignment 2 (Part A)	5%
Assignment 2 (Part B)	15%
Assignment 3	5%
Assignment 4	25%
Assignment 5	30%
Total	100%

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's [online Calendar](#) .

Materials

Digital course materials

Links to the following course materials will be made available in the course:

Kendall, D., Nygaard, V. & Thompson, E. (2016). *Social problems in a diverse society* (4th Cdn. Ed.). Toronto: Pearson Canada.

Physical course materials

The following course materials are included in a course package that will be shipped to your home prior to your course's start date:

Sharp, M. (2009). *The rocket scientists' guide to money and the economy: Accumulation and debt*. St. Albert, AB: Avatar Publications.

Fulkerton, L. (dir.) & Corry, J. (prod.). (2011). *Forks over knives*. New York: Virgil Films and Entertainment.

Other Materials

The course materials also include an online study guide and course manual.

Challenge for credit

Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about [challenge for credit](#) can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Evaluation

For more information please contact the [course coordinator](#).

 [Challenge for credit course registration form](#)

Important links

- › [Questions about our Program](#)
- › [Academic advising](#)
- › [Program planning](#)
- › [Request assistance](#)
- › [Support services](#)

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

Opened in Revision 3, March 11, 2021

Updated March 26, 2025

View **previous revision** 
