

## Course description

### Social Problems in the Modern Society

#### 1. Course name, ECTS, quarter/semester, contact hours

Social Problems in the Modern Society

**ECTS:** 6

**Quarter:** 3, 4

**Contact Hours:** lectures – 32, seminars – 48.

#### 2. Author of the course

Prof. Marianna Muravyeva, Department of Sociology

#### 3. Outline

This course serves as an introduction to social problems and their solutions. This course will discuss the nature of these problems and the different approaches sociologists have taken to unraveling them. Among the issues reviewed will be alcohol and drug abuse, crime and violence, family relations, sexuality, gender differences, race and ethnicity, and wealth and poverty. Students will be encouraged to develop their own points of view. The academic discipline of Sociology encompasses analysis of a wide array of social issues, from a diversity of perspectives. Both of which are as potentially complex as society itself. The goal is to critically engage the problems and it is recommended that students attempt to think about how each theory and issue relates, or does not relate, to their own lives and experiences. This way, everyone can determine for themselves the relevance and effectiveness of sociology as a framework for understanding our social world.

#### 4. Structure and content

№	Topic	No of hours	No of contact hours	
			Lectures	Seminars
1	Understanding social problems	4	2	2
2	Studying social problems: data analysis tools	6	2	4
3	Inequality: gender, class, race	16	6	10
4	Age discrimination	6	2	4
5	Poverty	8	4	4
6	Crime and Violence	18	8	10
7	Substance abuse	6	2	4
8	Domestic violence and child abuse	10	4	6
9	Environmental problems and spaces for constructing deviance	6	2	4

#### 5. Prerequisites

Postgraduate level course; min requirement – undergraduate diploma

#### 6. Assessment

##### Course work:

- 1) Class participation (attendance, class preparation, participation in discussions): 10%;
- 2) Quizzes: 4 – 20% (5% each);
- 3) Field work (1 survey): 10%;
- 4) Assignments: 2 analytical papers (500 words each) – 20% (10% each);

##### Final exam:

- 1) written part: independent project in a social problem assessment – 20%;
- 2) oral part: presentation and defense of the project at the final conference – 10%.