

BSc in Criminology and Sociology

COURSE SPECIFICATION FORM

for new course proposals and course amendments

DEPARTMENT OF: School of Law				Academic Session: Valid from 2012-13	
Course Code:	CR1015	Course Value:	1 unit	Status:	Core
Course Title:	Social Problems and Social Policy			Availability:	Autumn/Spring
Prerequisites:	N/A			Recommended:	
Co-ordinator:	Dr Vicki Harman				
Course Staff	Dr Vicki Harman				
Aims:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide students with an overview of key debates, perspectives and developments informed by social problems analysis. 2. To introduce students to the nature of social policy and its application to social problems. 				
Learning Outcomes:	<p>On successful completion of this course, students will have developed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An understanding of a range of social problems and related policies; 2. Knowledge of the ways in which sociological theories and analysis help us understand the identification and construction of social problems in society; 3. An appreciation of the social policies relating to identified social problems. 				
Course Content:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to studying social problems and social policy. 2. Theoretical approaches to social problems. 3. The historical development of the welfare state. 4. The making of social policy. 5. The concept of need. 6. Poverty and wealth 7. The family: change and controversy 8. The family: policy and welfare. 9. Education: meritocracy or Inequality? 10. Education: social engineering or utilitarian? 11. Work and employment: opportunities and inequalities. 12. Work and employment: the key social policy? 13. City and community: the urban dimension. 14. City and community: policy and the remaking of the city. 15. Religion and ethnicity: changing patterns and new forms. 16. Religion and ethnicity; the policy response. 17. Drug use: the high society? 18. Drug use: the failure of policy? 19. Mass media and social problems. 20. Course review. 				
Teaching & Learning Methods:	<p>Lecture (1 hour per week) Seminar (1 hour per week)</p>				
Key Bibliography:	<p>*Alcock, C., Payne, S. and Sullivan, M. (2004) <i>Introducing Social Policy</i>. London: Pearson/Prentice Hall.</p> <p>*Henslin, J. M. (2006) <i>Social Problems</i>. New Jersey: Pearson/Prentice Hall.</p> <p>*Macionis, J.J. (2005) <i>Social Problems</i>. New Jersey: Pearson/Prentice Hall.</p>				

	<p>May, M., Page, R. and Brunsdon, E. (eds.) (2001) <i>Understanding Social Problems</i>. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.</p> <p>Parrillo, V.N. (2005) <i>Contemporary Social Problems</i>. Boston: Pearson.</p> <p>Williams, F. (2006) <i>Social Policy: A Critical Introduction</i>. Second edition. Cambridge: Polity.</p> <p>* Recommended for purchase.</p>
Formative Assessment & Feedback:	<p>Students will complete 1 formative essay (1400-1600 words)</p> <p>Advice about seminar presentations.</p> <p>Course evaluated by anonymous self-completion questionnaire</p>
Summative Assessment:	<p>Exam: (50%) (2 hours)</p> <p>Coursework: (50%) 1 essay 1400-1600 words.</p> <p>Deadlines: TBA</p>

The information contained in this course outline is correct at the time of publication, but may be subject to change as part of the Department's policy of continuous improvement and development. Every effort will be made to notify you of any such changes.