

# Course Expectation Resource Sheet - SOC 152

*“What can students expect if they choose this course?”*

**Course:** SOC 152 - Social Problems in the Community

**Department:** Sociology, Anthropology, & Gerontology

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Prerequisite:** 12 credit hours

**Catalog Description:** Sociological perspectives on contemporary social issues and problems in American society that are faced by today’s communities. A public sociology focus is addressed in this course. This general education course will allow students to recognize the importance of contributing their knowledge and experiences to help resolve social problems in their own community and the broader society.

**Catalog:** 2025-2026 **Last Updated:** 2/23/2026

**Gen Ed Course:** Yes

**Gen Ed Area:** PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**Gen Ed Requirement:** Public Issues (GEC 116)

**CORE-42 Course:** Yes

**CORE-42 Area:** Social & Behavioral Sciences

**MOTR Code - MOTR Title:** SOCI 201 - Social Problems

**Is credit also available through:**

**Advanced Placement (AP)?:** No

**College Level Exam Program (CLEP)?:** No

**International Baccalaureate (IB)?:** No

*(click link for more information and required scores)*

## Responses and Advice from Department Representatives

*Last Updated: 2/23/2026*

**The following responses apply to:** Both seated and online courses

### What expectations do you have for students in this course?

Students are expected to actively engage with course readings, lectures, and assignments, and to apply sociological concepts to analyze contemporary social problems. A central objective of the course is to help students understand the social construction of social problems, including the role of both objective conditions and subjective social processes in defining and recognizing social problems. Students are also expected to support their claims with evidence, use proper academic writing and citation, and submit assignments on time.

### What types of study skills do you expect students to use in this course?

Students should carefully read academic texts, take organized notes on lectures and readings, and regularly review key sociological concepts. They should also develop skills in analyzing research, interpreting evidence, and applying sociological theories to real-world social problems. Students will build skills in analytical writing, including clearly explaining social problems, identifying their causes, and evaluating possible solutions using sociological evidence.

**What study techniques seem to work best for students who do well in this course?**

Students who do well typically keep up with weekly readings and lectures, take organized notes, and review material before completing quizzes. They actively engage with sociological concepts, connect ideas across topics, and begin working on major assignments early. Successful students also use evidence effectively in their writing and revise their work carefully.

**What behaviors or habits seem to cause students to struggle in this course?**

Students tend to struggle when they fall behind on readings or lectures, wait until the last minute to complete assignments, or fail to engage with sociological concepts at a deeper level. Insufficient use of evidence in writing assignments can also negatively impact performance.

**What types of struggles do you see most often? What recommendations do you give to students who struggle in this course? What other advice do you offer to students for success in this course?**

Common struggles include difficulty understanding sociological concepts, managing time, and writing analytically. We recommend that students review lecture materials regularly, take notes while reading, start assignments early, and reach out for clarification when needed. Breaking larger assignments into smaller steps and staying consistent with weekly work also helps students succeed.

**How do you describe the course to students when they ask “What is this class about?” (without using the catalog description)?**

This course examines major social problems such as inequality, poverty, racism, crime, health care, and education, and helps students understand how these issues are shaped by social structures and institutions. Students learn how sociologists define and study social problems, including how to determine when an issue becomes a broader social concern rather than just an individual issue. Students also develop skills in analyzing social problems and writing about their causes and possible solutions using sociological evidence and theory. In some sections, students may also have opportunities to engage with community organizations to better understand how social problems affect real communities.

**Beyond meeting a General Education requirement, what benefits can students realize from choosing this course?**

Students develop critical thinking, research, and analytical writing skills that are valuable across many careers. They learn how to identify and analyze social problems, evaluate evidence, and understand how social structures influence individual and community outcomes. In some sections, community engagement opportunities allow students to connect classroom learning to real-world experiences, strengthening their understanding of social problems and civic responsibility. The course also helps students become more informed citizens and professionals by improving their ability to think critically about social issues and possible solutions.

**Other than your major/minor/certificate students, what groups of students could find this course relevant to their degree program or career path?**

This course is especially relevant for students pursuing careers in healthcare, education, criminal justice, social work, public policy, psychology, political science, nonprofit work, and community leadership. It is also useful for students interested in law, public administration, or any field that involves working with diverse populations or addressing social issues.

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