

CAPILANO UNIVERSITY COURSE OUTLINES			
TERM:        Fall 2017		COURSE NO: SOC 201	
INSTRUCTOR:		COURSE NAME: Social Problems in BC	
OFFICE:        LOCAL:		SECTION NO(S):	CREDITS:    3
E-MAIL:        @capilanou.ca			
OFFICE HOURS:			

#### **COURSE FORMAT:**

Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through on-line or other activities for a 15-week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

#### **COURSE PREREQUISITES:**

None.

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

British Columbia faces serious social challenges. These include an affordable housing crisis, an epidemic of drug and alcohol addiction, and increasing university tuition. Some low-income people are forced to find a means of survival in the sex trade, while Indigenous British Columbians face disproportionate levels of poverty and discrimination. At the same time that British Columbia has Canada's worst child poverty rate and intense concentrations of poverty exist in Metro Vancouver, the "one percent" controls much of BC's wealth. Despite a reputation as a "green" city, Vancouver is a terminus for fossil fuel pipelines and the headquarters of many extractive resource companies.

This course will make sense of the historical, economic, political, and social causes of these problems. Students will identify connections between BC's immigration patterns, resource economy, class structure, and patterns of crime and social control.

#### **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Differentiate between theories of historical sociology, political economy, and citizenship
- Describe the role of natural resource development in shaping British Columbia's social structure and the potential for environmental sustainability

- Describe how immigration policies, the labour market, and gender roles have shaped racial/ethnic inequality in British Columbia
- Identify the most important elements of the Indigenous experience in British Columbia, in particular the history and ongoing legacy of colonialism
- Summarize the social and historical phenomena that have shaped the distinct social conditions of Vancouver's Downtown East Side
- Synthesize existing research on a specific social issue related to BC society
- Construct a research essay based on this research

**COURSE WEBSITE:**

moodle.capilanou.ca

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Robertson, Leslie and Dara Culhane (eds). In Plain Sight: Reflections on Life in Downtown Eastside Vancouver. Vancouver: Talonbooks, 2005.

Mate, Gabor. In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts. Toronto: Vintage Canada, 2009.

Various articles and book chapters available from the SOC 201 Moodle site. (See below for more information).

**COURSE CONTENT:**

Week	Topic	Readings
1	Introduction: What is BC Society?	Hiller, "The Issue of Regionalism"; Resnick, "A Distinct Region"
2	Resources 1: BC as staples economy	McGillivray, "Resource Management..."
3	Resources 2: Forests and fossil fuels	Marchak, "A Global Context"; Parfitt, "Getting More..."; Lee, "LNG and Employment"
4	Indigenous BC 1: Overview	Muckle, "First Nations of BC"; Fiske, "Carrier Women..."
5	Indigenous BC 2: The Political Economy of Treaties	Carroll et al, "Wealth of Nations"
6	<b>MIDTERM</b> Immigrant BC 1: History	Roy, "Making a White Man's Country"; Dua, "Hindu Woman's Question"
7	Immigrant BC 2: Today	BC Stats – factsheets

8	Wealth and Poverty in BC 1	Lee, "New Perspectives"
9	Wealth and Poverty in BC 2: Welfare	Klein and Pulkingham, "Living on Welfare"; Green, "Minimum Wage"
10	Downtown East Side 1 <b>Video:</b> Fix: the story of an addicted city	<u>In Plain Sight</u> , pp. 1-100
11	Downtown East Side 2 <b>RESEARCH PAPER DUE</b>	<u>In Plain Sight</u> , pp. 101-170
12	Downtown East Side 3	<u>Hungry Ghosts</u> part 1
13	Downtown East Side 4	<u>Hungry Ghosts</u> part 2
14/15	<b>FINAL EXAM</b> will be during the exam period	

### COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

Each student must write a **research paper** based on a contemporary British Columbia social issue. A list of possible topics and full details of the paper will be given to students by the second week of classes.

There will be two **exams**, one of them a midterm and the other a final exam, consisting of short-answer and essay-style questions.

There will be a set of **online fourth-hour** activities that will build on the readings and classroom material. Refer to the course website for more information.

The **participation** mark will be based on "minute papers": very short papers (as short as a sentence) written in-class and marked as either "complete" or "incomplete." These papers might ask you to summarize one of the main points of that day's class, or of the readings for the class, or to think of a question that is related to the day's topic that wasn't answered in the lecture or discussion.

### EVALUATION PROFILE:

Research paper:	30%
Midterm exam:	25%
Final exam:	30%
Fourth-hour online assignments:	10%
Participation:	<u>5%</u>
	100%

### GRADE PROFILE:

A+ = 90 - 100%    B+ = 77 - 79%    C+ = 67 - 69%    D = 50 - 59%

A = 85 - 89	B = 73 - 76	C = 63 - 66	F = 0 - 49
A- = 80 - 84	B- = 70 - 72	C- = 60 - 62	

**OPERATIONAL DETAILS:**

*Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.*

Attendance: Class attendance is essential to success in the course. Classes will involve lectures, videos, debates and discussions, small-group assignments, handouts, and other material. All of this is “examinable,” so if you miss a class for any reason, please arrange to get notes from a classmate.

Late Assignments: Late papers will be accepted, but with a 5% penalty for each day that the paper is late, including weekends.

Missed Exams: Make-up tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crisis. Missing an exam for any other reason will be accommodated only in special circumstances, and only with prior arrangement with the instructor.

English Usage: Students are responsible for proof-reading all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Marks will be deducted for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments.

Incomplete Grades: Given at the discretion of the instructor in the case of medical emergencies or severe personal crises.

Electronic Devices: No personal electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, calculators, electronic dictionaries, “smart” watches, etc.) may be used during an examination without prior approval from the instructor. During an exam, turn off all mobile phones and other devices and remove them from the desk.

Emergency Procedures: Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.