**Global Education Report for SOC& 201 (Social Problems)**

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The Open Course Library Social Problems course embeds global education awareness, perspective and understanding in both its content and in the design of its learning activities.

The sociological study of social problems itself assumes that the examination of social problems in society will be both local and global given our global interconnectedness. While our entire course assumes a global perspective we have explicitly stated it in one of our course level objectives which is to have students “identify how social issues are impacted by local and global conditions”. In addition, many of our module level objectives incorporate global and multicultural understanding (and satisfy points 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Sun Model). Namely, they are:

MO6: Identify the different consequences of social problems for different social groups

MO7: Reflect on how our individual social location contributes to our evaluation of social problems

MO8: Identify the problems in social institutions such as family, education, workplace, media and healthcare and the local/global factors influencing them

MO10: Evaluate the cultural basis through which a social condition becomes a social problem

MO12: Identify the social problems in relation to drug abuse, crime and deviance, environmental issues and war and terrorism and the local/global factors influencing them

MO13: Discuss social policies and actions that affect our social and natural world

Other areas where specific content reflects a global perspective is in Unit 3, when, in studying families, students are asked to look at comparative information about the policies, programs, benefits and services available in advanced industrialized countries to address child, youth, and family needs. In studying educational issues, students will review UNESCO reports that examine the unequal progress of educational goals around the world. In Unit 4 students read about solutions to global poverty in Sachs’, “The End of Poverty” and hear about the human and environmental impacts of the global population explosion in an Open Yale course lecture by Professor Wyman. These activities help inform an understanding of the interconnectedness and interdependence of today’s world (Point 5, Sun Model).

In addition to content, the Social Problems course employs some learning activities that attempt to integrate global and multicultural practices. For example, our Concept Map exercise asks students to “see” the local and global connections of a particular social problem through their creation of a visual representation. In addition, our Media Analysis assignment has students researching the media framing of a social problem in three different countries to compare/contrast conditions, causes and actions/possible solutions. These learning activities address points 1, 4, 7 and 8 of the Sun Model.