

## Social Problems I – High School

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Students will learn more about the challenges facing societies and the relationships between societies, governments, and individuals in these areas. Each unit will focus on a particular area of social concern, often with a global view, and examine possible solutions at both a structural and individual level.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Understand social problems and what elements are commonly found in social problems.
- Review the different stages of a social problem.
- Discuss some of the issues in studying social problems.
- Examine the two types of social problems.
- Discuss two approaches to social problems.
- Understand what makes up the mass media.
- Discuss how the media affect what is seen as a social problem.
- Learn how gate-keeping, agenda setting, and framing affect the perceptions of social problems.
- Examine how the media was used in the Rwandan genocide.
- Investigate claims that the media are connected to social problems like violence and racism.
- Understand the different ways of defining poverty and deprivation.
- Understand the extent of poverty in North America and around the world.
- Examine the possible causes of poverty.
- Investigate the costs of poverty for individuals and society.
- Discuss potential ways to decrease poverty.
- Understand some of the social problems affecting the educational system.
- Discuss the benefits of desegregation and the issues in implementing desegregation.
- Understand what tracking is and the effects that this practice can have.
- Examine school violence and some of the solutions that have been suggested.
- Investigate some of the solutions that have been suggested for educational problems.
- Understand the global AIDS epidemic and the patterns of transmission.
- Discuss the abortion and euthanasia controversies.
- Investigate how health is related to economics.
- Examine some of the problems in the United States health care system.
- Discuss how health care might become more equal throughout society.
- Review the different types of crime in society.

- Discuss the history of crime and how urbanization affects crime rates.
- Investigate theories on why individuals commit crimes.
- Understand how social issues like poverty influence crime rates.
- Think about how to decrease crime rates in society.
- Examine the effects that overpopulation has on individuals and society.
- Investigate how many people the earth can support and feed.
- Discuss different ways to reduce population growth globally.
- Learn how cultural values and practices influence environmental problems.
- Discuss the social consequences of environmental issues.
- Examine various theories on what causes war.
- Understand the costs of war for individuals, societies, and countries.
- Discuss how the arms race began and what form it currently takes.
- Investigate some of the different types of terrorism.
- Look at the weapons that terrorists might use and what effects they might have on individuals and society.

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**COURSE LENGTH:** One semester

**REQUIRED TEXT:** No required textbook for this course.

**MATERIALS LIST:** No required materials for this course.

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

**Unit 1: Analyzing Social Problems**

**Unit 2: Mass Media**

**Unit 3: Poverty**

**Unit 4: Education**

**Social Problems I Midterm Exam**

**Unit 5: Health Care**

**Unit 6: Crime**

**Unit 7: Population & the Environmental Crisis**

**Unit 8: War and Terrorism**  
**Social Problems I Final Exam**