Course Title:
Special Topics/Seminar: The Prevention/Intervention of Critical Social Issues

Course Number:
HR 5970-420

Course Description:
Social issues refer to the problems that affect people living together in a society. In the US, some predominant social issues include the growing divide between rich and poor; youth violence; unemployment; pollution; urban decay; racism and sexism; and many others. Social problems faced by developing countries include issues of poverty, food shortages, lack of basic hygiene, spread of incurable diseases, ethnic cleansing, and lack of education. Solving problems before they become a national crisis benefits entire at-risk populations and saves time, money, and resources. Effective prevention and intervention programs can make these benefits a reality. This course will provide a synthesis of prevention/intervention efforts, research, and methodology targeting today's most pressing social problems that affect society on both a domestic and international level.

Course Dates:
November 1 – December 31, 2011
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: November 1, 2011

Site Director:
Please see your local Site Director or e-mail Carolyn Taylor at cataylor@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Shannon Bert, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: University of Oklahoma
Department of Human Relations
601 Elm Ave., PHSC #706
Norman, OK 73019
Telephone Number: (405) 325-1766
E-mail Address: bert@ou.edu
Virtual Office Hours: Please contact professor for this information.
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students during the above listed Virtual Office Hours and other methods by arrangement.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Student materials are available at the Follett/AP Bookstore located in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahomaunion.bkstr.com or by telephone at 866-369-9713 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-5960 (outside the U.S.). E-mail orders may be sent to oklahomaunion@bkstr.com. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Friday. Summer hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day to 866-223-5607 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-1557 (outside the U.S.).


**Choose one additional textbook from the list below based on student interest:**


Note: The Follett/AP Bookstore is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through the Follett/AP Bookstore.

**OU E-Mail:**
All official correspondence from distance learning instructors will be sent only to students’ ou.edu address.

**Online Learning Resource Center:**
The Online Learning Resource Center of the University of Oklahoma’s College of Arts and Sciences Online Program is here to serve you and assist you with any questions, problems, or concerns you may have. For assistance go to [http://casweb.ou.edu/olr/](http://casweb.ou.edu/olr/) or contact us by telephone at: (405) 325-5854 or Email: casonline@ou.edu

**Course Objectives:**
- Closely examine prevention efforts, including its structure, scope, target population, methodology, and results.
- Consider the characteristics of successful prevention programs.
- Clarify the challenges that future efforts still need to address.
- See the interplay between the science of research and the art of practice — and appreciate the profound difference prevention efforts can make in the lives of oppressed populations.
- Envision model prevention programs to address current social issues.

**Assignments, Grading, and Due Dates:**
This course has three written assignments. All assignments are due no later than December 31st. If at all possible, assignments should be placed in their corresponding D2L dropbox for this course.

**Assignment 1:**
Read *Prevention Is Primary*, which provides models, methods, and approaches for building health and equity in communities. First, summarize the main points in each chapter. Next, give your opinion of the authors’ ideas. How do they compare to your experiences and to other ideas you have about social issues and prevention. What most interested you?
Assignment 2:

Read *Early Intervention Practices*, which spotlights effective, innovative practices at work in China, Sweden, Ethiopia, Portugal, India, Israel, Australia, Germany, and more. Along with a detailed overview of and rationale for early intervention, chapters highlight intervention practices within specific international areas. First, summarize the main points in each chapter. Next, give your opinion of the authors’ ideas. How do they compare to your experiences and to other ideas you have about social issues and intervention. What most interested you? Lastly, discuss how the concepts of prevention and intervention relate to one another when addressing social issues. How do they compare and/or differ. Use references from *Prevention is Primary* and *Early Intervention Practices* to support your statements.

Assignment 3:

Choose an additional textbook to read based on your interest: (1) Gender Issues; (2) Environmental Protection; (3) Youth Violence; or (4) Human Rights. First, describe the social issue. Summarize the background of this social issue. Provide a rationale for its significance. Second, identify what you feel is the most important issues related to your specific social issue. Lastly, using the knowledge you have gained from the course readings, design a prevention/intervention program aimed at alleviating your specific social issues. Make sure to include a discussion of the program’s structure, scope, target population, methodology, possible challenges, and potential results.

Document Preparation:

Please ensure your name, course name and number, and date appear on each one of the assignments you turn in. Use headings to organize your paper and to ensure that each section of the assignment has been addressed. Minimum page limits have not been set as quality is more important than quantity. All assignments are to be word-processed, double spaced, paginated, and saved to either Word (.doc) or Rich Text Format (.rtf) documents. The textbooks are identified and shown in American Psychological Association (APA) citation format. When used as a reference in an assignment, they must be appropriately cited and listed separately on a reference page. If you have questions, you may contact me for clarification.

Grading:

This course is graded Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory (S/U). A grade of S is equivalent to B or better.

NOTICE: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.

Incomplete Grade Policy:

A grade of “I” is not automatically assigned, but rather must be requested by the student by submitting to the instructor a “Petition for and Work to Remove an Incompleted Grade” form. An “I” can never be used in lieu of an “F” nor can an “I” be assigned because of excessive failure to participate in class activities.

Technical Support Information:

If you experience technical problems, contact Information Technology by visiting their website at: [http://webapps.ou.edu/it/](http://webapps.ou.edu/it/) or contacting them by telephone at: (405) 325-HELP (4357).
Important information you should know about online courses:

- To sign on to Desire2Learn (D2L), go to [www.learn.ou.edu](http://www.learn.ou.edu) and log in using your 4+4 and your OU network password (note that this is the same 4+4 and password that you use to access your OU email). Once you are logged in, please look on the right-hand side for “My Courses,” locate your course and click on it. Remember to check your course site on D2L every day.

- Students enrolled in online courses may be required to take the CAS student orientation in Desire 2 Learn. To take the orientation, sign-on to D2L and then click on “Self Registration” at the top left corner of the page. Information about and instructions for the orientation can be found at [http://casweb.ou.edu/olr/public/students/orientation.htm](http://casweb.ou.edu/olr/public/students/orientation.htm)

- If the course is using a course website, you will find a link for the website on the first page of this syllabus. Please click on this link to start your course.

- Course Materials are available at Follett/AP Bookstore. On this syllabus you will find a link to the Follett Bookstore.

- If you need to drop or withdraw from a course, please contact your Site Director. You can drop a course without a penalty up to the add/drop date. Courses dropped after the add/drop date may result in a penalty.

- After the class has started, you can only withdraw from the course with the professor’s permission; you will not receive a refund for your tuition. You can only drop without a penalty after the add/drop date by providing proper documentation and receiving approval from the Advanced Programs Theater Director. Provide this documentation to your Site Director.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

**Note:** Attendance/absences do not apply to online courses. However, participation in all course activities is extremely important to student success in online courses.

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy.

Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Accommodation Statement

The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Copyright

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA

Shannon S.C. Bert, Ph.D.

Education

• 2006  Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology, University of Notre Dame, IN
• 2004  MA in Developmental Psychology, University of Notre Dame, IN
• 2001  BA Psychology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

Current Positions

• 2008 - Present  Assistant Professor, Department of Human Relations, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK.
• 2008 – Present  Graduate Program Instructor, Advanced Programs – Department of Human Relations, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK.
• 2008 – Present  Adjunct Assistant Professor, Women’s and Gender Studies Program, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK.
• 2010 – Present  Adjunct Assistant Professor, Liberal Studies Program, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK.

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

• HR 5403  Psychosocial Development
• HR 5013  Current Problems
• HR 5743  Violence Against Women and Children
• HR 5970  The Prevention/Intervention of Critical Social Issues

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

• Developmental Theory
• Applied Research Methods and Advanced Research Methods
• Protective Factors and Resilience
• Biracial/Multiracial Identity Development
• Prevention and Intervention Programs for Disadvantaged Populations
• Emergent Adulthood
• Current Problems
• Violence Against Women and Children
• Women, Work, and the Family

Representative Publications and Presentations

Refereed Publications


**Book Publications**


**Chapter Publications**


**Presentations**

• Carothers, S.S. (2004, August). Social support as a coping resource for at-risk children exposed to negative life events. Poster session presented at the meeting of the American Psychological Association, Honolulu, HI.

Symposia Presentations

**Representative Honors and Awards Received**

- Received University of Notre Dame KANEB Teaching Certificate
- Listed in Cambridge Who’s Who Among Executive and Professional Women Psychologists
- Received University of Oklahoma New Faculty Seminar Certificate for “High Attendance”
- Received University of Oklahoma, Research Council Junior Faculty Award in 2008
- Received University of Oklahoma, College of Arts and Sciences Junior Faculty Award in 2009 and 2010
- Selected to participate as a protégé in the University of Oklahoma, Office of the Vice President of Research, Excellence in Proposals Pilot Project.

**Major Professional Affiliations**

- American Psychological Association
- Society for Research in Child Development
- Society for Research on Adolescents