The University of Oklahoma
College of Continuing Education
Advanced Programs – Course Syllabus

Course Title:
Current Problems in Human Relations

Course Number:
HR 5013-102

Course Description:
The course is developed and revolves around major conceptualizations of societal policies, changes, and policy consideration that can serve to inform your HR perspective about these issues. As American society is undergoing a rapid and significant change, these changes involve and produce stressful conditions for individuals and groups. This sets the stage for the emergence of human relations problems. Current problems and social issues have important natural histories, etiologies, social dynamics, contexts, and consequences to understand. There is a need for HR perspective to add to one’s own analysis and measured action of these issues.

The course is designed to expose seminar participants to an in-depth, scholarly, objective, and professional analysis of some of the major societal issues that HR students need to consider. Specifically, this course concentrates on the problem areas of social inequality (class, gender, and race), intrapersonal and interpersonal tension (individual stress and personal relations in groups and with others), and intra/inter groups tension common in many multi-cultural and larger societies. Also, the course provides recent contextual, demographic, and statistical data that bear on these issues. In addition, to major social changes, ensuing social dynamics and short to long term consequences, we will examine policies and strategies to address them. Our required readings will help identify, analyze, and assess these problems and societal reactions toward them.

The discussion will also touch on measured actions said to address this pressing issue or situation... A wide variety of teaching and instructional approaches will be employed to reach the course objectives.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

Dates:  September 12-18, 2011
Location:  Bldg. D, Offutt AFB, Nebraska.
Hours:  Mon-Fri 6:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.; Sat 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sun 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: August 14, 2011

Site Director:
Molly Cowgill. Phone: 402-291-8879 or 402-294-0649; DSN 271-0649; Fax: 402-291-5402; E-mail: apoffutt@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor:  Alberto G. Mata, Jr., Ph.D.
Mailing Address:  University of Oklahoma
Department of Human Relations
Physical Sciences Center Room 721
Norman, OK  73019
Telephone Number:  (405) 325-1756
Fax Number:  (405) 325-4402
E-mail Address:  agmata@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

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.).


4. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at http://learn.ou.edu; enter your OU NetID (4+4) and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

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.

Course Objectives:

All seminar participants will be introduced to Human Relation perspectives about a range of issues and problems impacting our respective community and society. Seminar participants will explore a range of issues and societal measures towards these issues. We will explore how they came to be, key problems associated with these issues; we will also explore their consequences and impact as well as explore meaningful alternatives to said condition, issues, and policies. Class will utilize a range of methods to cover course said objectives: lecture, videos, internet sessions, guest speakers, and focused class presentation discussions. Specific objectives include the following:

- Analyze at least one problem using a particular conceptualization of a problem within a Human Relations perspective, and by exploring a particular measured action or change approach;
- Examine and explore etiological, natural course, associated risk factors and conditions, consequences and prospects;
- Consider and assess major social issues in light of major think tanks, foundations, policy centers, and clearinghouses that allow for meaningful alternatives (given their data and understandings);
- Become familiar with traditional library, specialized professional resources and current internet research practices and techniques;
- Encourage non-traditional consideration and an analysis of related as well as current human relations problems within a social science framework and practice;
- Explore a range of ethical and legal implications in any HR analysis of a current problem or social issue and, consider at least one alternative;
- Encourage humanistic and social justice considerations and analysis of these problems and proposed alternatives.
Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

Seminar participants are expected to have read the assigned readings due for that class. All seminar participants will develop at least two chapter executive summary from each required texts and at least two oral presentations from each text. The student’s written and oral assignments will be assigned by the instructor and due dates will be given the first day of class. All will write a small opinion editorial which you may choose from one of your assigned readings. The written editorial needs to be informative measured sound over one several readings. Attendance and full participation is required. A comprehensive final examination will be given over all the lectures, IRB, texts and materials covered in class.

All work submitted to the instructor is expected to be typed and of a quality reflecting serious and mature graduate study. A factor in the grades assigned in all work will be its general organization, grammar, sentence structure, writing style, and evidence of thoughtfulness and planning. Missing class will be made-up by writing a review piece which will be assigned to you shortly thereafter.

Preliminary readings and Papers:

The primary purpose of these oral and written assignments is for each student to be able to succinctly, concisely, and accurately outline or summarize the assigned readings.

1. Each student will have at least two, but no more than three oral presentations and at least two, but no more than three written executive reviews. The oral presentations will serve as a brief overview by which to lead the seminar discussions.
2. The written reviews will serve to summarize the seminar’s key readings and course topics.
3. All will write a small opinion editorial which you may choose from one of your assigned readings.

The written opinion editorial should be 2 to 6 pages single spaced following format of professional journal. Again all chapters will be pre-assigned by the professor. **Unexcused absences, Missing, Late work will lower one’s grade by one overall mark**, unless one has made arrangements with the instructor. Several field visits will be scheduled and you may opt out by completing an additional 4 to 6 page opinion editorial that would go in professional journal or trade magazine. This may come from your required readings. This will be S/U graded.

Two copies will be submitted: Two copies of any work should be submitted: one to the Professor, to the GRA, and then please email a copy to ones classmates. (Please submit it to the designated folder on Desire to Learn (D2L). As one finishes their orals and written please send them to your classmates and the GRA and Professor! The email addresses of your classmates are listed on D2L. In this way, all seminar participants will have access to each other’s papers and thus a complete set of notes of the readings. Please be sure to use author’s initials to denote who, indicate which pages and chapter, and include an O or W to denote whether it is written or oral.

Orals:

All seminar participants will develop at least one chapter oral summary from each required text. All will be pre-assigned by the professor. Orals will be 10 to 15 minutes and will utilize either overheads or PowerPoint format. The oral presentations will determine 30% of the student’s overall grade. We will provide examples that you may follow. It must provide an overview of the chapter/article and summarize its key points and issues:

a. Statement of the problem;
b. Key ideas, concepts, components, etc.
c. Methods, data and research design
d. Data & support for each main idea/component/issue, and
e. Author(s) summary.
f. Include a “SO WHAT” section, i.e., what you thought of it.
g. It should be sufficient to cover the topic but no longer than 10-15 minute presentation
Written:

The instructor will provide the seminar of participants’ examples of a detailed executive summary assignment and editorial opinion essay. Unlike the oral assignments, which utilize a briefing PPT visual format ---the executive summary written follows a detailed narrative of at least 3 to 6 pages single spaced narrative! Please save this in MSWord or RTF (Rich text File format). The detailed executive summary assignments will comprise 30% of one’s total grade. The oral and detailed assignments must provide an overview of the chapter/article --- it should be concise, coherent, cogent, complete and succinct summary of the assigned chapter.

Examples will be made available thru D2L. Seminar participants shall provide reviews and critiques about the assigned readings. Each will serve as a summary about the issue(s) to be discussed and presented in the seminar. These will be pre-assigned and upon completion you will email them to your classmates, the professor and then please place them in the drop box on D2L.

Grading: This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F. Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities. A missed class will require an additional chapter review to makeup the work missed—this will also be pre-assigned by the instructor.

Full consistent regular and participating attendance is required

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<tr>
<th>Assignment:</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance each class period</td>
<td>S/U</td>
<td>Each Class Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>At least three Written Chapter Summaries</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>To be announced in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>At least two Oral In-class Presentations</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>To be announced in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>CITI/IRB</td>
<td>S/U</td>
<td>To be announced in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Due three Weeks after last class</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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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.

Recommended Readings

POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy
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

Alberto G. Mata, Jr., Ph.D.

Education

- B.A. in Political Science, University of Oklahoma
- 1971  M.H.R. in Human Relations, University of Oklahoma
- Ph.D. in Sociology & Anthropology, University of Notre Dame
- Post-Doctoral work in Community Mental Health, The University of California, Los Angeles
- 1986  Post-Doctoral work in Health Promotion, The University of Texas, School of Public Health

Current Positions

- Advanced Programs Professor since 1992
- Professor, Department of Human Relations, University of Oklahoma
- Research Associate, UTHSC Hogg Mental Health Foundation, WHO Collaborating Center for Mental Health

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

- HR 5013  Current Problems in Human Relations
- HR 5100  Voluntary Organizations and Non-Profits
- HR 5100  Gangs, Drugs & Violence
- HR 5113  Grant Writing
- HR 5100  AIDS and Substance Abuse
- HR 5063  Seminar in Strategies for Social Change
- HR 5413  Chemical Dependency

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- Strategies for Change
- US/Mexico Border: Drugs and Violence
- Social Welfare Policy
- Community Field Studies
- Community Health Interventions

Representative Publications and Presentations


Major Professional Affiliations

• American Public Health Association
• American, Midwestern and Southwestern Sociologic Associations
• US/Mexico Border Health Association
• National Council De La Raza
• COSSMHO
• SSSP
• NACS
• PAHO

Representative Honors, Awards and Fellowships Received

• VA/PAHO Recognition Award - El Paso, TX
• Midwest Latino AIDS Consortium Award - Chicago, IL
• Austin Police Dept. Victim Assistance Award - Austin, TX
• Surgeon General Service Appreciation Award - Los Angeles, CA
• Midwest Latino Substance Abuse Leadership Award – East Lansing, MI

Fellowships:

• Ford Foundation Fellowship
• NIMH NIDA Research Doctoral Fellowship
• Center for Health Promotion UTHSC-Houston
• NCMH Survey Research ISR, University of Michigan
• Spanish-Speaking Mental Health Research Center, UCLA
• Community Mental Health Evaluation Program, UCLA
• ISR/LEAA Program, University of Michigan