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

Course Title:
Current Problems in Human Relations

Course Number:
HR 5013-221

Course Description:
The world we live in is undergoing rapid and significant changes. We are experiencing advances in science, technology, transportation and communication. Out of these changes come stressful conditions that set the stage for problems in human relations. Our survival and the quality of our existence depend on successfully dealing with these modern human social problems.
The purpose of the course is to explore current human relations problems and their possible solutions. The course is designed to expose students to an in-depth, scholarly, objective, and systematic analysis of some of the major human relations problems faced by society. Specifically, this course concentrates on the problem areas of social justice and inequality (class, race, and gender), intra-personal and interpersonal tension (individual stress, personal relations in groups, and violence), and inter-group tension (multicultural and multinational).

Class Dates, Location and Hours:
Dates: September 13-18, 2011
Location: Ramstein, Germany. Classes held at Bldg. 2783, 3rd Floor, Kapaun Air Station.
Hours: Tue-Fri 6:00-9:30 p.m.; Sat-Sun 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: August 15, 2011

Site Director:
Kendra Burnside. Phone: DSN 480-6807, Civilian 06371-476807; Fax: 06371-479839; E-mail: apramstein@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Avraham Scherman
Mailing Address: 4105 Beechwood Drive
Norman, OK 73072-5016
Telephone Number: (405) 360-2787
Fax Number: Send to HR Office at (405) 325-4402
E-mail Address: ascherman@cox.net
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 at 866-223-5607 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-1557 (outside the U.S.).

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:
- Understand the biological, psychological, and sociological origins of human problems.
- Become familiar with data regarding the current status and extent of selected human problems.
- Critically evaluate proposed solutions to current human problems.
- Participate in discussion of human problems with other class members.

Course Outline:
1. Understand the biological, psychological, and sociological origins of human problems;
2. Become familiar with data regarding the current status and extent of selected human problems;
3. Critically evaluate proposed solutions to current human problems;
4. Participate in discussion of human problems with other class members.

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

Student performance in this course will be evaluated in terms of mastery and the final grade will be based on fulfillment of a contract between student and professor (see Attachment A at the end of this syllabus). The signed contract should be submitted on the first day of class.

To obtain a C in this course, the student will be required to:
1. Read the entire textbook (Kornblum, William & Julian, Joseph). Identify three issues in each chapter that need further clarification or discussion. Submit this assignment as a paper. You can submit it at the end of class but have the issues in draft form from the beginning of the seminar. In this way we can address some of these issues as we cover each topic.
2. Attend all classes (if a class is missed due to illness or a legitimate emergency, a make-up assignment must be completed); and,
3. Actively participate in class activities and discussion.

Failure to complete the above will result in a grade of D or F at the discretion of the instructor.

To obtain a B for the course, the student must do all that is required for a C as well as:
4. Make an oral presentation to the class on a social problem (see Attachment B at the end of this syllabus); and
5. Keep a journal beginning 21 days before class and continuing during class (total of 26 days), in which a daily entry is made regarding thoughts and observations relevant to the material covered in the course. Journal entries may be a couple of sentences or a paragraph in length, and should be dated. Appropriate content are your thoughts, reflections, ideas, reactions, experiences, etc., related to the social problems that are covered in the text and the class sessions.

To obtain an A in this course, the student must complete all work required for a B and the following assignment:
6. Following is a list of suggested readings. Choose one of the books suggested that you have not read before and read it. A book not listed may be substituted with prior approval of the instructor. Any book by a social reformer (e.g. Martin Luther King) about a social phenomenon (e.g. war—The Greatest Generation) or dealing with a social issue (e.g. Cokie Roberts We Are Our Mothers’ Daughters) may be selected. Suitable books can readily be found in the bookstore on the Base or on the Internet (e.g. Amazon.com or BarnesandNoble.com for new books and Bookfinder.com for used or out of print books). Books will also be sent promptly from the OU library if requested - see instructions
Write a 5-7 page review of the book in which you briefly summarize the content, critically analyze it and conclude with your own reaction to the book (e.g., you agree/disagree with the author, have had a similar or different experience in the same area, learned something or changed your views after reading the book).

Approved Reading List for Book Review and Reactions

4. Is there no place on earth for me?, Susan Sheehan, 1982 (mental illness).
17. The way we really are: Coming to terms with America’s changing families, S. Coontz, 1998.
23. Angela’s ashes, Frank McCourt, 1996 (alcoholism, child abuse).
27. The WPA Oklahoma slave narratives, T. Lindsay Baker and Julie P. Baker, 1996.
31. Augusta, gone, Martha Tod Dudman, 2001 (mental illness, parenting).
32. The price of motherhood: Why the most important job in the world is still the least valued, Ann Crittendon, 2001.
36. I will bear witness: A diary of the Nazi years, Victor Klemperer, 2000.
37. You just don’t understand: Women and men in conversation, Deborah Tannen, 1990
Course File:

On the final day of class, students will submit a file (use a standard office file folder) containing materials to be used to determine the course grade. The file should contain the following materials in the order listed (front to back) depending on the grade desired. You may submit number 2, 3, 4 and 5 below any time during the seminar.

1. Identify three issues in each chapter and submit as a paper.
2. Course journal.
3. One-page outline of oral presentation.
4. Book review and reactions.

Grading: This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

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.
Attachment A

Current Problems Grade Contract

Name: __________________________

Date: __________________________

I wish to earn a/an ______ in this course.

To accomplish this, I will:

1. Attend all class sessions and actively participate in discussions.
2. Take the Practice Tests ______
3. Keep a class journal ______
4. Make an oral presentation in class on the following social problem __________________________
5. Write required essays ______
6. Review a book and provide some reactions.

Instructor’s approval: __________________________ Date: __________________________

Student Contract Report

I fulfilled all of the terms of the contract above or, I fulfilled all of the terms above, with the following exceptions:

________________________________________________________________________________________

Based on this my grade should be _______ Date: _______

If there are discrepancies, I can be reached at ________________________________

Instructor’s Report:

My records agree completely with the report above ______

My records agree with the report above with the following exceptions __________________________

Final Grade ________ __________________________ (Instructor)
Directions for Topic Presentation

As you enroll in the class you are to select one topic from the ones listed below for your presentation. Each topic would be selected only once until all topics have been selected. Then students can again begin and select from the list of topics. Here are the topics:

1. Health and Health Care
2. Mental Illness and Treatment
3. Alcohol and Drug Abuse
4. Crime and Violence
5. Poverty Amid Influence
6. Racism, Prejudice, and Discrimination
7. Gender and Sexuality
8. An Aging Society
9. The Changing Family
10. Problems in Education
11. Problems in Work and the Economy
12. Urban Problems
13. Population and Immigration
14. Technology and the environment
15. Terrorism and War

Once you selected the topic, send the instructor an e-mail at ascherman@cox.net. I will confirm your selection (if the topic has not yet selected) through return e-mail. Only then your topic is approved. All topics should be approved prior to the beginning of the seminar.

The oral presentation should be 10-20 minutes in length. Suggested outline for this presentation is as follows (this may not be suitable for all presentations and you may use a different organization if you wish):

a) Discuss the origins of the problem you have chosen from three vantage points: biology, psychology, and sociology.
b) Which of these vantage points seems to be the most helpful in understanding the problem?
c) Suggest a possible solution to the problem from each vantage point.
d) Lead a discussion or direct the class in an exercise to illustrate the points you have made.

Students should be prepared to give oral presentations starting with the second class session to avoid having all the presentations the final day.
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

Avraham (Avi) Scherman

Education

• Ph.D., Michigan State University - 1972
• Oklahoma Licensed Professional Counselor #73
• Approved Supervisor #73

Current Positions

• Department of Educational Psychology
• Professor of Counseling Emeritus

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

• HR 5013 Current Problems in Human Relations
• HR 5433 Group Counseling in Human Relations
• EIPT 5430 Group Process in Education
• HR 5113 Working with Divorcing Families
• EIPT 6493 Divorce Related Counseling
• HR 5100 Family counseling

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

Avraham Scherman, Professor of Counseling a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in the State of Oklahoma, joined the faculty of the University of Oklahoma in the Fall of 1974. He is teaching Advanced Programs classes since 1975. He received his bachelor's degree from the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel, and his master's and doctoral degrees from Michigan State University. Prior to his appointment at OU, he was a teacher and principal of a high school in Israel, and on the Faculty of the University of Hartford for two years. He is the author of numerous publications in the area of crisis in the family, intervention with children of divorce and support systems available to the child in crisis. In addition, he has a small private practice where he sees clients and conduct support and growth groups.

Representative Publications and Presentations

Publications:


Presentations:

• 2002 Robbins, R., Lynn, L., Scherman, A., & Wilson, J. Native American Grandparents’ Involvement with their Grandchildren During Times of Crisis in the Family. Paper presented at the Oklahoma Association of Teacher Education Annual Conference, Edmond, Oklahoma, November
• Roles grandparents can play when crisis occur in the family. Paper presented at the Oklahoma Counseling Association Mid-Winter Conference, Oklahoma City, OK, February
• Grandparents as a support system for their grandchildren in US, Panama, and South Korea. Paper presented at the Oklahoma Counseling Association Mid-Winter Conference, Oklahoma City, OK, January

Representative Honors and Awards Received
• 1981 Regents' Teaching Award. University of Oklahoma, April.
• 1985 Associate Distinguished Lectureship Award, University of Oklahoma, October.
• 1986 Counselor of the year - Oklahoma, Central region, October.
• 1986 Associate Distinguished Lectureship Award. University of Oklahoma, October.
• 1987 Associate Distinguished Lectureship Award. University of Oklahoma, August.
• 1988 Associate Distinguished Lectureship Award. University of Oklahoma, August.
• Oklahoma Association for Counselor Education and Supervision – President.
• 1996 Oklahoma Counseling Association - President Elect.
• 1996 Oklahoma Association for Counselor Education and Supervision President.
• 1997 Oklahoma Counseling Association - President.
• 2000 Rufus G. Hall Faculty Award - College of Liberal Studies, University of Oklahoma
• 2004 Regents' Superior Teaching Award. University of Oklahoma, April
• Leadership and Citizenship Award. College of Education, University of Oklahoma. May

Major Professional Affiliations
• American Association for Counseling and Development.
• Association for Counselor Education and Supervision
• Oklahoma Association for Counseling and Development