Course Title:
Current Problems in Human Relations

Course Number:
HR 5013-224

Course Description:
American society continues undergoing rapid and significant changes. Relationships between majority (dominant) and minority (subordinate, marginalized) groups in this country are an integral facet of societal changes and contemporary problems. Economic, historical, political, and social factors are linked to individual, group, and institutional disparities and multiple forms of oppression. This unequal distribution of resources and power intersect to create stressful conditions and human relations problems.

This 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 inequality (class, race, and gender), intra- and interpersonal tension (individual stress, personal relations in groups, and violence), and intergroup tension (multicultural and multinational). In addition, major change strategies are identified, analyzed, and assessed relative to past and future effectiveness. Contextual, demographic, and statistical data are integrated throughout to inform the discussions, facilitate understanding, and strategize amelioration of the range of human relations problems.

A wide variety of instructional approaches and student participation will be employed throughout the course. These may include lectures, films, poetry, in-class exercises, class discussion, oral presentations, journaling, book reviews, group projects, web-based technologies, as well as required reading.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

Dates: March 6-11, 2012
Location: Lajes, The Azores, Bldg. T-146 on Lajes Field. See site director for classroom location.
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: February 6, 2012

Site Director:
Christina Adams. Lajes Education Center. Phone: DSN 314-535-3171; CIV 011-351-295-57-3171 (ask operator for ext. 3171); E-mail: aplajes@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor: Rodger Randle, J.D.
Mailing Address: Department of Human Relations, Room 1J06
OU Tulsa Schusterman Campus
4502 E 41st Street
Tulsa, OK  74135-2553
Telephone Number: (918) 660-3495
E-mail Address: randle@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:
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.

Recommended Reference Text:

Course Objectives:
- To identify the structural conditions and historical contexts that contributes to a broad range of societal problems.
- To systematically analyze the intersections of race, class, and gender through existing systems of privilege and power.
- To develop an awareness of the social construction of complex economic, political, and social phenomena that contributes to a broad range of current problems.
- To creatively, critically, and practically analyze a significant current problem and develop a realistic strategy to ameliorate a given problem.
- To understand, develop, implement, and evaluate a plan of advocacy around a specific issue related to human relations.

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:
The course will be conducted as a series of lectures, interactive group discussions, and media presentations, as well as individual and team presentations of selected projects.

Before the first class, students should have read all the assigned readings. There will be one major assignment during the course:

Written Assignment: Students will select one “current problem” of their own selection and present that issue to the class in a brief oral report about 15 minutes length. This report will be made on Saturday of the class. The final written paper is due one week from the last day of class and shall be submitted to the drop box at the learn.ou.edu site. The final report shall be at least ten (10) pages in length, double-spaced in 12 point Times New Roman type. At least 6 research sources shall be cited, and the paper shall follow APA style. The paper will describe a problem, analyze its origins, explain its contemporary consequences, and will identify and evaluate alternative proposals for amelioration of the problem and a plan for individual action in pursuit of the recommended solution. Further detailed instruction will be provided on the website for the class on the learn.ou.edu website.

References may come from online sources as long as they are appropriate. Fact references must be from sources with known authors; references from sources such as “Wikipedia” will result in an automatic grade reduction.

In addition, each student will be assigned one topic from the posted class readings and will present a brief summary in class of the reading contents (which might be more than one item). The student will also assist in leading class discussions of the topic. (This assignment is ungraded.)

Students are expected to check their OU email for messages concerning the class, and to monitor the class website at learn.ou.edu.

Grading: This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F. Grading will be based on the report and classroom presentation of the presentation and written report for the “current problem” report. 90% or above constitutes an “A”, 80-90% a “B”, 70-80% a “C”, 60-70% a “D”, and below than 60% shall not be considered passing.
Attendance Policy: Class attendance is important. Absence at more than 20% of class hours will result in a one grade reduction if the absence is not approved in advance or taken in accordance with Provost Policies or State law. Absence at more than 30% of class hours will result in a reduction of two letter grades from what was otherwise earned by the student. Please notify the professor of any duty requirements (or personal needs) that will keep you from class so that you may get an excused absence.

Policy on Late Assignments: We understand that military responsibilities may occasionally cause students to be late in turning in assignments. Students should follow the assignment deadlines provided to the class, but late papers will not be penalized when the delay is caused by military responsibilities. However, when papers are submitted after the deadline, there may be delays in grading and processing of paperwork, depending on other academic obligations that may have been scheduled. Late papers must be submitted through the learn.ou.edu website, and the professor should be notified by email when the late submission is placed in the drop box. Papers sent by email or handed to the professor in paper format during class are NOT considered to have been officially submitted. Only papers submitted through the drop box at the learn.ou.edu class website are considered to have been officially submitted.

Visit the website for the Department of Human Relations at: http://ou.edu/cas/hr

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.
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
Rodger Randle, J.D.

Education
- 1967 B.A., University of Oklahoma
- 1979 Juris Doctor, University of Tulsa

Current Positions
- Advanced Programs professor since 2005
- Professor of Human Relations, OU Tulsa
- Director of the Center for Studies in Democracy and Culture, http://tulsagrad.ou.edu/csdc

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses
- HR 5013 Current Problems in Human Relations
- HR 5110 International Human Relations

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest
- International Cultures
- Public Policy

Major Professional Affiliations
- Governor’s International Economic Development Team
- Oklahoma Humanities Council
- President of the Tulsa Global Alliance (the organization that operates Tulsa's Sister City and international visitor programs, among other activities)
- Co-Chair of the Bond Oversight Committee of the Tulsa Public Schools which is monitoring the expenditures made under the Tulsa School District's largest ever bond issue