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

Course Title:  
Current Problems in Human Relations

Course Number:  
HR 5013-109

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 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.

Class Dates, Location and Hours: 
Dates: August 17-19 & 24-26, 2012
Location: OCCE, Norman, Oklahoma. Classes are held at the Thurman White Forum Building of OCCE, 1704 Asp Avenue.
Hours: Fri 5:30-9:30 p.m.; Sat 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sun 1:00-5:00 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: July 19, 2012

Site Director:  
Cathy Yeaman. Assistant: Jan Plavchak. Phone: 405-325-3333; Fax: 405-325-9148; email: apnorman@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:  
Course Professor: Charles Butler, Ed.D.
Mailing Address: 3400 Marilyn Drive
Rte. 4, Box 505-J
OKC, OK 73121
Telephone Number: (405) 427-6771
E-mail Address: etbjtb@aol.com
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 405-325-7140 (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:

The objectives of this course are:

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

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

Students are expected to have read the general text prior to the meeting of the first class. All work submitted to the professor (except tests and small in-class assignments) are 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 appearance, grammar and sentence structure, writing style, and evidence of thoughtfulness and planning. Late work will be accepted only at the discretion of the professor.

1) Each student will develop a paper based on a specific problem/issue that fits within one of the several chapters of Social Problems. The paper, due the first day of class, should deal with the problem/issue from a self-identified perspective/position (i.e., a particular theory, research conducted, work experiences, personal experiences, and other perspectives that may be suggested by the text. However, the perspective/position cannot be one of the 3 many perspectives indicated in the first chapter of the text or a variation of them. The perspective/position should be identified within the introduction subheading and should shape and guide the paper. The paper will contain the following minimum subheadings: Introduction, Current Status of the Problem/Issue, and Recommendations. The student may add other subheadings as deemed appropriate. The paper should be from 7 to 10 pages in length and have a minimum of 1 reference per page, but it is not necessary to have a reference on each page. One of the references must be the text and the paper should be written in the 3rd person, objective case. Students should minimize the use of personal pronouns such as “me”, “I”, “us”, “our”, and “you”.

2) Each student will select any ten (10) of the issues dealt with in the Finsterbusch text as the basis for reaction and reflection. For each of the selected issues, the student will (a) summarize the primary “yes” and “no” positions presented and (b) present and discuss his/her own position on the issue under consideration. Each of the ten (10) reaction/reflection papers should be typed and be a
maximum of 2 pages, single-spaced in length. It is not necessary that these reaction/reflection papers be written in third person, objective case, as is the case in (2), above. Each student should be prepared to discuss at least one (1) of the issues in depth during the class.

3) On the first day of class, each student will submit a ranking of chapters in the Kornblum and Julian text (excluding Chapter 1) in descending order of importance. The chapter ranked #1 is perceived as most important; the chapter ranked #15 is perceived as least important. In addition, each student will submit the list of the ten (10) issues that will be included in assignment (2), above, in descending order of importance, using the approach indicated for the Kornblum and Julian text.

4) Student individual or group class activities related to the assignment in (1) and (2) above, will be developed and presented during the second half of the class. The format will be explained at the first class meeting.

5) Each student will maintain a one (1) page class log, due at the end of the course. The structure will be explained at the first class meeting.

6) A comprehensive final examination will be given on the final day of class.

**Grading:**

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F. Grades for the course will be determined on a 100 point/percentage basis, as follows: A (100-90); B (89-80); C (79-70); D (69-60); F (Below 60).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Problem/Issue paper</td>
<td>First class session</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controversial Issues Papers</td>
<td>2 weeks after last class session</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Log Diaries</td>
<td>Last day of class</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>All class sessions</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Last class session</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Assignments</td>
<td>All class sessions</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attendance and participation are related; students cannot participate if they are absent. Class attendance will be monitored and students having unexcused absences will be penalized with a loss of 5 points per class absence.

Students will be able to earn a maximum of 3 extra points for unusual contributions to the class. The number of points for an unusual contribution (UCs) will be based on the negotiated value of the contribution by the student and the professor. No UC will be credited unless it is first cleared with the professor.

Submission of Late Work: The acceptance of late work is at the discretion of the professor. Late work in connection with an excused absence will be accepted. Otherwise, circumstances dictate the decision to accept. Generally, students who have emergency military duties and deployments, either long or short term, or emergencies in connection with their family members’ health or other substantiated emergencies will have their late work accepted.

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. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

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
Charles E. Butler, Ed.D.

Education

1970  Ed.D. Secondary School Administration, University of Oklahoma

Current Positions

- Advanced Programs Professor since 1972
- Professor Emeritus, Human Relations and Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, University of Oklahoma

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

- HR 5113  Cultural Diversity in the Workplace
- HR 5013  Current Problems in Human Relations
- HR/EACS 5613  Human Relations in Education

Representative Publications and Presentations


Representative Honors and Awards Received

- Associate Distinguished Lectureship, 1988
- Nominee for Oklahoma Regents’ Service Professorship, 1983
- Inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame, 2006

Major Professional Affiliations

- Member, National Association for Human Rights Workers
- Member, Executive Committee, Southwest Center for Human Rights Workers
- Member, Board of Directors, Oklahoma Higher Education Historical Society
- Life Member, National Education Association
- Member, Oklahoma Retired Teachers Association
- Member, Oklahoma County Retired Teachers Association
- Member, Leadership Training Consulting Group, National Grand Lodge, F&AAY Masons
- Director of Christian Education, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma