Course Title:
Current Problems in Human Relations

Course Number:
HR 5013-110

Course Description:
American society is undergoing a rapid and significant change. These changes involve and produce stressful conditions for individuals, groups, and institutions, which sets the stage for the emergence of human relations problems. Current problems and social issues have important natural histories, historical milestones, and contexts to understand as well as add to one’s own analysis and measured actions.

The course is designed to expose seminar participants to an in-depth, scholarly, objective, and professional analysis of some of the major human relations problems faced by the society. 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 as well as with others), and inter-group tension (multicultural and multinational). In addition, major change strategies are identified, analyzed, and assessed relative to past and future effectiveness. Also, the course provides recent contextual, demographic, and statistical data bearing on these problems.

The course is developed upon and class discussion revolves around major conceptualizations of human relations, problems, change, and culture. A wide variety of teaching approaches are employed in the course.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:
Location: Bldg. 201 SE, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma.
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: September 20, 2012

This military installation is not open to the general public. In order to take courses at this installation, students must have a current military or Department of Defense identification card which allows them to access the installation.

Site Director:
Chris Sartorius. Phone: 405-739-7365 or DSN 339-7365; Fax: 405-739-7365; E-mail: aptinker@ou.edu.

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Dorscine Spigner-Littles, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: University of Oklahoma
Department of Human Relations
601 Elm, PHSC, Rm #709
Norman, OK 73019
Telephone Number: (405) 325-1756
Fax Number: (405) 325-4402
E-mail Address: dslittles@ou.edu
HR Website: http://www.ou.edu/cas/hr
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:

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 problems, explore how they came to be key social processes and dynamics underlying them, explore their consequences and impact, and explore meaningful alternatives to said condition issues and problems. The class will utilize a range of methods to cover course objectives: lecture, videos, internet sessions, guest speakers, and focused class discussions.

Specific Objectives include:

- to analyze at least one problem using a particular conceptualization of a problem, human relations, culture, and by using a particular change approach;
- to examine and explore etiological, natural course, associated risk factors and conditions, consequences and prospects for meaningful alternatives given these data and understandings;
- to consider and assess major social issues, think-tanks, foundations, policy centers, and clearinghouses;
- to become familiar with traditional library, current internet research practices, and techniques;
- to encourage non-traditional consideration and analysis of related and current human relations problems within social science framework and practice;
- to explore a range of ethical and legal implications in any HR analysis of a current problem or social issue and, consider ones framework; and
- to encourage humanistic and social justice considerations as well as an analysis of these problems and proposed alternatives.

Assignments, Grading and Due dates:

Seminar participants are expected to have read all texts prior to the meeting of the first class. All seminar participants will develop at least two, but no more than three executive summaries from each required text and at least two oral presentations but no more than three. The student’s written and oral assignments will be assigned by the instructor and due the second class meeting. Attendance and full participation is required. A comprehensive final examination will cover all texts and be given in class at the end of the course.

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 overhead or
PowerPoint format. The oral presentations will determine 30% of the student’s overall grade. I will provide examples that you may follow. Please save these in RTF (Rich text File format) or Word.doc (NO DOCx files please) and email to classmates, professors, and GA and place in D2L dropbox.

**Written:**

The instructor will provide seminar participants examples of written assignments. Unlike the oral assignments that utilize a briefing outline, visual or handout format ---the written follows a executive summary format of 3 to 6 pages single spaced narrative! Please save this in RTF (Rich text File format). Please be sure to use author’s initials to denote who, which pages and chapter, and O or W to denote whether it is written or oral.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three Chapter Executive Summaries</td>
<td>First Class Session</td>
<td>10% each=30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three Oral In-Class Presentations</td>
<td>During Class Sessions</td>
<td>15% each=45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Class or Take-Home Final</td>
<td>Last Class Session</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>Each Class Period</td>
<td>S/U*</td>
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*Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory: If one receives an Unsatisfactory, it will result in a reduction of 10 points of his/her total grade.

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.
Recommended (not required) Readings for Current Problems in Human Relations (for brain matter consumption and stimulation):

1. Rights from Wrongs: The Origins of Human Rights in the Experience of Injustice by Alan Dershowitz
2. Understanding Poverty -- by Sheldon H. Danziger (Editor),
3. When Equality Ends: Stories About Race and Resistance by Richard Delgado
4. In the Arms of Others: A Cultural History of the Right-To-Die in America by Peter G. Filene
5. The Call of Service by Robert Coles)
7. No Mercy: How Conservative Think Tanks and Foundations Changed America's Social Agenda by Jean Stefancic,
8. The Working Poor : Invisible in America -- by DAVID K. SHIPLER;
11. Critical White Studies: Looking Behind the Mirror by Richard Delgado (Editor),
12. The New Insecurity: The End of the Standard Job and Family by Jerald Wallulis
13. The Coming Race War?: And Other Apocalyptic Tales of America After Affirmative Action and Welfare by Andrew Hacker
15. The Poverty of Rights : Human Rights and the Eradication of Poverty (Crop International Studies in Poverty Research) by Mary Robinson ,
16. "Can We All Get Along?": Racial and Ethnic Minorities in American Politics by Paula McClain
17. The Politics of Asian Americans: Diversity and Community by Pei-Te Lien
18. American Indian Politics and the American Political System (Spectrum Series) by David E. Wilkins
19. Counting on the Latino Vote: Latinos As a New Electorate by Louis Desipio
20. Black and Multiracial Politics in America by Yvette Marie Alex-Assensoh
27. Silent Covenants: Brown V. Board of Education and the Unfulfilled Hopes for Racial Reform by D. Bell,
29. Rebuilding Attachments With Traumatized Children: Healing from Losses, Violence, Abuse, and Neglect -- by Richard, Ph.D. Kagan,
30. Charred Souls: A Story of Recreational Child Abuse by Madelaine Pinkus-Rohn
31. Selected readings in Marriage and Family 2004 Greenhaven Press
32. Teens Who Hurt : Clinical Interventions to Break the Cycle of Adolescent Violence by Kenneth V. Hardy,
33. The Latino/a Condition: A Critical Reader by Richard Delgado (Editor), Jean Stefancic
34. Human Services: Contemporary Issues & Trends, Third Edition by H S. Harris, D C. Maloney,
35. Domestic Terrorism -- by Jay P. Farrington;
36. Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America -- by Barbara Ehrenreich
38. Urban Problems and Community Development -- by Brookings Inst
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
Dorscine Spigner Littles, Ph.D.

Education
1985 Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration, University of Oklahoma

Current Positions
• Advanced Programs Professor since 1994
• Associate Professor, Department of Human Relations, University of Oklahoma

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses
• HR 5033 Leadership in Organizations
• HR 5083 Seminar In Group Dynamics
• HR 5093 Introduction to Graduate Studies in Human Relations
• HR 5113 Racial Diversity In Organizations

Representative Publications and Presentations

Representative Honors and Awards Received
• Appreciation Award, Minority Graduate Student Association, 1993
• Outstanding Young Woman of America Award, 1982
• Minority High Academic Achievement Award, 1977-80

Major Professional Affiliations
• National Research Conference on African and African American Studies
• Strategic Planning Committee Research and Graduate Programs
• Quarterly Forum on Issues Facing the African American Community
• General Education Committee
• African American Studies Committee