



SW 2100

Division: Social and Behavioral Science

Department: Criminal Justice

Course: SW 2100

Title: Human Behavior and the Social Environment

Catalog Description:

The purpose of this course is to study and understand why people behave as they do and how their development is shaped by the cultural systems and social stimulus.

General Education Requirements: N/A

Semesters Offered: Spring

Credit/Time Requirement: Credit: 3; Lecture: 3; Lab: 0

Clock/Hour Requirements: 0

Offered for Non-Credit: No

Prerequisites: SW 1010 Introduction to Social Work (formerly SOWK 1000)

Corequisites: N/A

Justification:

This course is required at four year institutions as part of their lower division course work for BS or BA degrees in the Social Work department. Similar courses are offered at USU and Weber State. (USU SW 2560, Weber State SW 2100)

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- be aware of the bio-psycho-social basis of human behavior
- understand interactions between individuals and social systems
- examine how the elements of diversity and social status influence human behavior
- identify values and ethical signs related to human development and behavior
- understand the holistic view of human behavior through multiple sources (biology, economy, political, science, etc.)
- examine the internal and external variables that influence social functioning.

Content:

Course objectives will be accomplished by providing students with learning experiences in the following subject areas:

- theoretical perspective on human behavior
- social and biological systems and their impact on childhood
- ethnocentrism and racism

- gender roles and sexism
- physical changes and middle age
- sexual orientation
- the impact of life events on the elderly
- adolescence
- puberty
- moral development.

General Education Outcomes:

1) Read effectively, constructively, and critically.

Students are given weekly reading assignments and are graded on their participation in discussions on reading assignments. Students also take 8-10 quizzes on reading assignments.

2) Write clearly, informatively, and persuasively.

Students are required to write short essays or a longer research paper as part of the class projects.

3) Speak effectively in a variety of contexts.

Students are required to do class presentations and/or attend individual conferences with instructor.

4) Retrieve, evaluate, interpret, and deliver information through a variety of traditional and electronic media.

Students are required to prepare three projects during the semester. They must use two or three different methods. (research papers, multi-media, or class presentations)

8) Apply ethical reasoning to a variety of contexts.

Students discuss ethical issues in the social environment.

Key Performance Indicators:

Outcome assessment will be determined by:

- 8-10 quizzes: 20% of final grade
- 3 projects: 60% of final grade
- attendance and participation: 20% of final grade.

Percentages are approximate.

Representative Text and/or Supplies:

- Charles Zastrow and Karen Kirst-Ashman, *Understanding Behavior and the Social Environment*, current edition.

Optimum Class Size: 30

Maximum Class Size: 40

Signatures:

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

Eldon Barnes, MSW, Assistant Professor

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Criminal Justice Department:

, , , Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Social and Behavioral Science Division:

Sue Dalley, M.S., Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)