

MASTER SYLLABUS

Social Work 3510 - HUMAN BEHAVIOR IN THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT (3 credits)

I. Course Domain and Boundaries

The purpose of this course is to introduce the social work student to knowledge of human development as a base for social work practice. Human problems are viewed within their environmental context. Individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities are in constant transaction with each other in the physical and social environmental context. Thus, people and environments reciprocally affect one another, and adequate assessments of human problems and plans of intervention must consider the reciprocal impact of people and a range of environmental systems.

Life span development from conception to very old age is examined. The course focuses on theories and knowledge related to biological, sociological, psychological, spiritual and cultural processes and development across the life span. It addresses the environmental conditions that support or inhibit individual and family growth; and variations arising form ethnicity, class, cohort, gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, and other differences. Particular attention is given to factors that contribute to persons being at risk and the issues and concerns of multi-cultural, urban populations.

COMPETENCIES

7: Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment

II. A Benchmarks:

Adolescent paper: students address significant personal life events during adolescence and integrate three theories *construct a genogram to assess interrelationships

II. Learning Outcomes

By the end of course, students will be able to:

- Describe the unique roles and Services that social workers provide (Competency 7-A)
- Apply theories and knowledge of biological, sociological, cultural, psychological and spiritual development across the life span, including attachment theory, role theory, cognitive theory, learning theory, and theories of moral development. (Competency 7-A)
- Recognize individual and family developmental stages calibrated with such variables as family structure gender biophysical processes, culture, class, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and social change. (Competency 7-A)

- Use the ecological perspective and other theoretical models to describe and assess the development of individuals and families. (Competency 7-A)
- Apply theory and knowledge of life span development (individual and family) to social work practice.(Competency 7-A)
- Evaluate theories of human behavior with an understanding of their implicit value base and their relevance to social work practice. (Competency 7-A)
- Recognize the role research plays in generating, supporting and revising theories and concepts of human behavior. (Competency 7-B)
- Employ an ecological-bio-psychosocial framework for assessment, intervention and evaluation (Competency 7-B)
- Apply the ecological person-in-environment perspective. (Competency 7-B)
- Utilize social systems theory as a way of thinking about the units and levels of interactions. (Competency 7-B)
- Distinguish between personal and professional values pertaining to human behavior. (Competency 7-B)
- Apply basic social work purposes and values to the study and analysis of human behavior in the social environment. Competency 7-B)

III. Performance Criteria

Students are to demonstrate comprehension of the course content and acquisition of the expected knowledge and skills through a variety of assignments. Students are expected to develop their competence in oral and written communication. Papers which do not adhere to college-level standards for scholarly writing will be down-graded. Students are also expected to work to master the recommended style of the American Psychological Association (APA) as delineated in the most recent edition of the APA's publication manual (4th), including orderly presentation of ideas, grammar, punctuation, spelling, capitalization, reducing bias in language, abbreviations, headings, subheadings, quotations, and referencing (in-text as well as bibliographic). Students cognizant of the need for ongoing development of their writing skills are strongly urged to make use of the University Writing Center.

IV. Course Text

Required Text

Ashford, J. B., LeCroy, C. W., & Lortie, K.L. (2010). Human Behavior in the Social

Environment: A Multidimensional Perspective (4th ed.). Belmont CA:

Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

Additional Readings

Students are encouraged to study selectively in areas related to relevant class topics. The bibliography of reading that accompanies this syllabus is intended to serve as a guide.

V. Organization of the Course

This course is structurally comprised of an organizing framework, the ecological/social system perspective. Students are introduced to concepts of person-in-environment transactions. Human diversity is stressed throughout material on life span development.

VI. Role of Student and Instructor

Students are expected to attend all class sessions; absences from class may affect the student's grade, particularly excessive absences and tardiness. For further details about your role as a student, see the University's Statement of Obligations of Faculty and to the Instructional Process in the Wayne State University Graduate Bulletin.

More than three absences will result in students being asked to withdraw from the class. Students are expected to arrive for class on time and stay until the end of the class session. Students are expected to be prepared at class time for discussions pertaining to assigned readings.

In order to be courteous to classmates, I ask that cell phones use be restricted to vibrations—no rings. Please limit beeper use to emergencies only.

<u>Academic Honesty</u>: All students are expected to submit their own original work. The presentation of another's words or ideas as your own, without giving credit to the source, is regarded as plagiarism. Plagiarism is the same as lying and stealing. Any work that is submitted in this class and found to contain portions that are plagiarized will receive a ZERO.

VII. Course Outline

Session	Date	Topic/Activity	Readings
1		Introduction and Overview of Course	
		What is human behavior?	
		Why do social workers study human behavior?	
		How does human behavior relate to social work	
		practice?	

2	A Multidimensional Framework for Assessing	Ashford et al., chapter
	Social Functioning	1
	Dimension of Human Behavior and Social	UIA Module 4:
	Environment	Social, Cultural &
	Ecological Perspective	Personal Influences
	Systems Theory	
	 Multidimensional Framework 	
	 Life-span versus Life-Course Perspectives on 	
	Human Development	
3	Biophysical Dimension for Assessing Social	Ashford et al., chapter
	Functioning	2
	Biological Theories	
	Biological Growth and Development	
	Biochemical Systems in the Neurons Systems	
4	Psychological Dimension for Assessing Social	Ashford et al., chapter
	Functioning	3
	Pyschodynamic Theory	
	Erikson's Pyschosocial Development	
	Learning Theory	
	Social-Learning Theory	
	Cognitive Development and Information Processing	
	 Jean Piaget's Structural Approach to 	
	Cognition Information Processing	
	Attitudes and Emotions	
	The Nature and Functions of Attitudes	
	Theories of Attitudes and Their Change	
5	Social Dimension for Assessing Social Functioning	Ashford et al., chapter
	Social Theory	4
	Ecological Systems Theory	
	Modern Functionalism Theory	
	Conflict Theories	
	Postmodernism and Theories of Society	
	Families and Groups	
	Support Systems, and Communities	
	Multicultural and Gender Considerations	
	Racial and Ethnic Considerations	
	Gender and Sexism	
	Homophobia	

6	Pregnancy, Birth, and the Newborn	Ashford et al., chapter
	Biophysical Dimension	5
	Biophysical Growth and Development	
	Biophysical Strengths and Hazards	
	Psychological Dimension	
	Cognitive Development and Information Processing	
	Attitudes and Emotions	
	Social Cognition and Regulation	
	Psychological Strengths and Hazards	
	9 115	
	Social Dimension	
	Families, Groups Support Systems, and Communities	
	Multicultural and Gender Considerations	
-	Social Strengths and Hazards	
7	Infancy	Ashford et al., chapter
	Biophysical Dimension	6
	Biophysical Growth and Development	
	Biophysical Strengths and Hazards	
	Psychological Dimension	
	Cognitive Development and Information Processing	
	Piaget's Sensorimotor Stage	
	Attitudes and Emotions	
	Attachment Theory	
	Social Cognition and Regulation	
	Psychological Strengths and Hazards	
	Social Dimension	
	Families and Groups	
	Support Systems and Communities	
	Multicultural and Gender Considerations	
	Social Strengths and Hazards	

8	Early Childhood	Ashford et al., chapter
		7
	Biophysical Dimensions	
	Biophysical Growth	
	Biophysical Strengths and Hazards	
	Davish alo sigal Dimension	
	Psychological Dimension Cognitive Development and Information Processing	
	Cognitive Development and Information Processing	
	 Piaget's Preoperational Stage Attitudes and Emotions 	
	 Aggression Social Cognition and Regulation 	
	Self-Esteem vs. Competency	
	Psychological Strengths and Hazards	
	Diagnostic and Assessment Issues	
	 Diagnostic and Assessment issues Anxiety Disorders 	
	Childhood Depression	
	Ciliditodd Depression	
	Social Dimension	
	Families and Groups	
	 Parenting 	
	 Nontraditional Families 	
	 Effects of TV on Preschool Children 	
	Support Systems and Communities	
	 Preschool Environment 	
	Multicultural and Gender Considerations	
	Social Strengths and Hazards	
	Child Abuse	

9	Middle Childhood	Ashford et al., chapter
	Biophysical Dimensions	8
	Biophysical Growth	
	Biophysical Strengths and Hazards	
	Psychological Dimension	
	Cognitive Development and Information Processing	
	Communication	
	Attitudes and Emotions	
	Psychological Strengths and Hazards	
	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	
	Social Dimension	
	Families and Groups	
	Parental Relationship and Discipline	
	Support Systems, and Communities	
	Power of Peers	
	Multicultural and Gender Considerations	
	Social Strengths and Hazards	
	Marital Conflict and Divorce	

10	Adolescence	Ashford et al., chapter
	Biophysical Dimensions	9
	Biophysical Growth and Development	
	Puberty Process	
	Biophysical Strengths and Hazards	
	Psychological Dimension	
	Cognitive Development and Information Processing	
	Racial Differences and Intellectual Ability	
	Identity	
	Moral Development Theory	
	Developmental Theory	
	Psychological Strengths and Hazards	
	Delinquency	
	Social Dimension	
	Families and Groups	
	Development of Autonomy:	
	 Peers Pressure, Conformity and Friendships 	
	Support Systems and Communities	
	Multicultural and Gender Considerations	
	Heterosexuality & Homosexuality	
	Social Strengths and Hazards	
	 Adolescent Pregnancy and Childbirth: 	
	Sexually Transmitted Diseases	
	Alcohol and Other Drug Use	

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11	Young Adulthood	Ashford et al., chapter
	Biophysical Dimensions	10
	Biophysical Growth and Development	
	Reproductive System	
	 Effect of Hormones on Women 	
	Biophysical Strengths and Hazards	
	<u>Psychological Dimension</u>	
	Cognitive Development and Information Processing	
	 Development of Post formal Thought 	
	Attitudes and Emotions	
	 Love/Isolation and Loneliness 	
	 Levinson's Eight Stages of Adult Development 	
	Psychological Strengths and Hazards	
	 Serious Mental Illness 	
	Social Dimension	
	Families and Groups	
	 Homosexual Relationships 	
	 Transition to Parenthood 	
	 Childless Couples: Voluntary and Involuntary 	
	Support Systems and Communities	
	Multicultural and Gender Considerations	
	Blending Religions	
	 Gender Roles: Equal? and Consequences. 	
	Social Strengths and Hazards	
	 Parents of Child with a Disability 	
	• Divorce	
	Sexual Harassment	
	Rape and Sexual Assault	
	Domestic Violence	

12	Middle Adulthood	Ashford et al., chapter
	Biophysical Dimensions	11
	Biophysical Growth and Development	
	Menopause	
	Psychological Dimension	
	Cognitive Development and Information Processing	
	Attitudes and Emotions	
	Midlife Crisis	
	Psychological Strengths and Hazards	
	Alcohol and Drug Addiction	
	Codependency	
	Social Dimension	
	Families, Groups, Support Systems, and Communities	
	Blended Families or Stepfamilies	
	Relationships with their Children and Aging	
	Parents	
	Grandparents Raising their Grandchildren	
	Multicultural and Gender Considerations	
	Social Strengths and Hazards	

13	Late Adulthood	Ashford et al., chapter
	Biophysical Dimensions	12
	Biophysical Growth and Development	
	• Sexuality	
	Biophysical Strengths and Hazards	
	Chronic Health Problems	
	Alcoholism in Late Adulthood	
	Psychological Dimension	
	Cognitive Development and Information Processing	
	Information Processing, Memory, and	
	Learning	
	Attitudes and Emotions	
	 Grief and Loss 	
	Psychological Hazards	
	Alzheimer's Disease	
	Depression/Suicide	
	Social Dimension	
	Families and Groups	
	Support Systems, and Communities	
	Relationships with Family, Couples, Children, and	
	Friendships	
	 Religion and Spirituality 	
	Hospice	
	Retirement	
	Multicultural and Gender Considerations	
	Social Strengths and Hazards	
	Elder Abuse	
	Discrimination	
14	Review for final exam	
	Student evaluations	
	Class responsibility	
15	Final Exam	

VIII. Assignments and Grades

A. Ethnographic study of one's family of origin (100 points). Each student will write a case report about his/her family of origin. Students are to study and cite relevant literature related to their family's culture(s), ethnicity(ies), and development (at least 3 references must be cited). Ethnographic research techniques are also to be used (study of family artifacts, documents, photo albums, observations and interviews). You may choose to explore factors that led to crises

and challenges for the family, and the typical styles of coping and adaptation are to be considered. Other characteristics that the student may choose to explore are migration patterns, family organization, child rearing practices, religious beliefs, approach to eating, secrets, rituals, attitudes toward illness and death, help seeking behavior, attitudes toward other cultures and deviance, family and gender roles. Finally, how might your cultural identity influence your work as a social worker? How might your cultural identify influence your values as a social worker? If more than one culture comprises the culture of origin, ways that these differences were negotiated should be discussed. (5-6 typed pages, plus attachments). Use APA guidelines for writing style and format. **Due October 26**th. **Late papers will be reduced by 4 points per calendar day.**

- **B.** Quizzes (70 points). Students will take periodic quizzes (7) throughout the semester over readings. Quizzes will be given in varied formats (multiple choice, short answer, essay) but will primarily be given on Blackboard. Quizzes will be geared to ensuring that class materials are read. All quizzes <u>must</u> be turned in on the day the material is covered in class. I will not accept quizzes via email. I will not accept quizzes if you do not attend class.
- C. Adolescent Paper (100 points). Write a paper reviewing your experiences during adolescence. Your paper should address significant issues and life events that you experienced during adolescence and the effect these events and issues had on you at the time and may currently still have. (Issues that should be addressed include sexuality, drugs, peer pressure, body image and family dynamics.) How did issues of diversity affect your adolescence? Discussion of at least 3 theories must be integrated into your paper. Show how the theories can be used to explain your behavior. For example, you may want to discuss how social learning theory may explain your involvement with certain friends. The paper should be 6-8 typed pages. References should be used in regard to your discussion of theories. Use APA style of referencing. A reference list must be included.
- **D. Oral Research Report (30 points).** In the first class, students are to sign up for one session in which they will make an oral report on related behavioral science research study reported in scholarly journals. This may be selected from the selected bibliography attached or located by the student in a current journal (published since 1995). Students should base their report on at least 2 scholarly articles related to the topic. Students will have a maximum of 10-15 minutes for their presentation. The presentation will be made on the class day that the topic is covered on the syllabus. A handout summarizing the 2 articles read and listing key information of utility to social workers should be provided to each class member (1-2 pages). Students are encouraged to work from an outline and not read their report, to practice and time their presentation carefully. The research studies

should be summarized and <u>critiqued</u>. Presentation skills will be considered when grading this assignment.

- E. Final Exam (100 points). Students will choose to complete an in-class or take home final exam. The final exam will focus on how biological, psychological social, cultural, and spiritual dimensions influence human development. The inclass exam is December 21st. Take home exams are due December 20th 10am. All late take home exams will be reduced 4 points per calendar day.
- F. Class Responsibility (25 points). Class responsibility entails regular class attendance, class preparedness and active class participation with consideration for When students participate actively in class discussions, learning is others. enhanced. To be able to participate actively and with relevance to the course subject matter, it is important that you complete reading assignments prior to each class session. It is the student's responsibility, whether present or absent, to keep abreast of assignments. Each student and the instructor will assign portions of the grade. Honest self-evaluation is a critical component to social work practice. Missing classes and repeated tardiness will affect a student's grade in the course. You will use the class responsibility form attached to this syllabus to complete the assignment at the end of the course—in class. Any student missing more than 3 classes will be asked to drop the course or could receive a failing grade for the course.

G. Grading Criteria.

Adolescent Paper	100 points
Oral Research Report	30 points
Quizzes	70 points
Ethnographic study of one's family of origin	.100 points
Final Exam	.100 points
Class Responsibility	25 points

Letter grades will be calculated as follows:

Percent	Points	Grade
95.0-100	403-425	A
90.0-94.9	382-402	A-
87.0-89.9	369-381	B+
83.0-86.9	352-368	В
80.0-82.9	340-351	B-
77.0-79.9	327-339	C+
73.0-76.9	310-326	С

70.0-72.9	297-309	C-
67.0-69.9	284-296	D+
63.0-66.9	267-283	D
60.0-62.9	255-266	D-
<59.9	<254	F

A grade of "A" indicates excellent/outstanding performance in all expected areas; a grade of "B" indicates that a student has done good work and satisfactorily met the course objectives; etc.

CLASS RESPONSIBILITY

Class responsibility allows students to complete a self-evaluation relative to their class attendance, preparation, and participation. This will be completed in class on December 9th. Please do not complete prior to this time. Please respond honestly when evaluation yourself.

1. Attendance: It is expected that students attend each class session. In the event that a student is

unable to attend a session due to illness, emergency or special circumstances, he or she is expected to notify the instructor. If at all possible, notification should occur prior to the particular class session the student will be missing. Students should arrive to class on time. Arriving and departing early is disruptive to the class. 1) How many session have you been absent? _____ a) In how many of these sessions did you notify the instructor prior to the session in? Which you were absent? 2) How many sessions did you arrive late for class? _____ 3) How many sessions did you depart early from class? 2. Preparation: It is expected that students will complete reading assignments and be sufficiently prepared to discuss readings in class. Students are encouraged to discuss readings with peers, classmates, and instructor. Students are encouraged to consult additional readings and read recommended articles when time allows. 4) I completed all of the assigned readings prior to each session approximately (check one): 100% of time 99-90% of time 89-80% of time 79-70% of time less than 70% of time

5) I felt adequately prepared to discuss the readings at each session (check one):

all of the time

some of the time
rarely
never
6) In order to prepare for class sessions, I typically (check all that apply):
Reread required materials more than once
Read recommended materials
Identify materials:
Read supplemental materials other than recommended ones
Identify materials:
Read notes from prior class sessions
Made written note of any questions I had
() Consulted with instructor:
about every week
about 6-10 times
about 3-4 times
2-3 times
never never
advance of questions and possible resolutions to questions. all of the timesome of the timerarelynevernot applicable
6. Participation : It is expected that students will contribute to the maintenance of a healthy learning environment. It expected that all course participants (students and instructor) would respect the dignity of one another. It is expected that students actively participate in class discussions and exercises.
9) I actively participated in classroom discussions (check one):
all of the time
most of the time
some of the time
rarely
never
Briefly describe your classroom discussion participation efforts:

10) I was respectful and supportive of the rights of participation of my student peers in the class
always
almost always occasionally
rarely
··· ,
11) I was respectful and supportive of the rights of participation of the instructor in the class:
always
almost always
occasionally
rarely
12) I feel I contributed to a healthy classroom learning environment (check one):yes
no
Briefly provide some key examples that support your response:

On at least one occasion, I detracted from a healthy classroom learning environment (check one)
yes
no
If yes, briefly describe how you detracted (on at least one occasion) from a healthy
classroom learning environment:

SUMMARY:
1. Attendance: Based upon your responses to items (1) through (3), enter a number 0 and 10 a
your score for attendance:
Briefly justify this score:
2. Preparation : Based upon your responses to items (4) through (8), enter a number between (
10 as your score for preparation: Briefly justify this score:
orieny justify this score.

and 10 as your sco	Based upon your responses to items (9) through (13), enter a number between 0 re for participation:score:
4. Enter your tota	score (add the 3 scores above)

IX. Selected Bibliography

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