

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

University of Montana Course Syllabi

Open Educational Resources (OER)

9-2002

SW 300.01: Human Behavior in the Social Environment

Monica Trimble

University of Montana - Missoula

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Trimble, Monica, "SW 300.01: Human Behavior in the Social Environment" (2002). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 3294.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/3294>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Educational Resources (OER) at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana Course Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

HUMAN BEHAVIOR IN THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT
SOCIAL WORK 300
FALL SEMESTER 2002

Instructor: Monica Trimble, MSW, LCSW
Office: 25 Jeanette Rankin Hall
Office hours: Tuesday 1:00 – 2:00, Thursday 3:00 – 4:00 and by appointment
Telephone: 243-2750
Email: trimblem@selway.umt.edu

This course examines and focuses on the development and dynamics of human behavior within a biological, social, psychological, cultural and spiritual context. Emphasis will be placed on a working knowledge of systems theory, the ecological perspective and the interaction between social systems and the developing individual. Underlying the course will be an appreciation for human diversity and the changes across the life span. Students will be encouraged to organize and use knowledge of human development and social work practice already acquired along with materials presented in this course. Practice – relevant content will be reviewed and special emphasis placed on the incorporation of content relating to ethnic, racial, cultural, gender, ability/disability and sexual orientation diversity.

This course will help the student preparing for multi-level integrated social work practice develop an understanding of the individual in interaction with his/her environment and as a continuously developing product of biological, psychological, social, cultural, and spiritual influences. Exposure to the ecological perspective on social work practice will give students the ability to integrate knowledge of individuals and families within their environments into all aspects of the social work process.

Enrollment in SW 300 is concurrent with enrollment in the first advanced social work practice course, SW 350. Social work majors enrolling in SW 300 should have completed at least six of the eight of the extra-departmental requirements established by the Department of Social Work. In particular, students must have completed or be concurrently enrolled in Psychology 240 and 245: Developmental Psychology. Additionally, social work students must have been officially approved as social work majors at the upper division level.

Course Objectives

The student will be able to integrate human behavior and human development concepts within an ecological systems framework.

The student will demonstrate an understanding of the individual as a social/psychological/biological/cultural/spiritual being, incorporating individuality and environmental influences.

The student will demonstrate an appreciation for the complexity and diversity of developmental processes across gender, race and other variables of diversity.

The student will develop analytic and assessment skills for use in understanding the interaction of the individual and the environmental systems that influence behavior.

The student will understand the individual as a component part of various social systems, and as able to influence the social systems of which they are a part.

The student will increase in understanding of human development, value systems, and life styles that differ from one's own, as well as in commitment to empowering individuals and groups in pursuit of their goals. This includes an emphasis on groups who are subject to stereotyping, oppression and discrimination.

Required Books

Robert L Berger, James T. McBreen and Marilyn J Rifkin, *Human Behavior: A Perspective for the Helping Professions*. Fourth Edition. (New York: Longman, 1996.)

Anne Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*. (New York: Noonday Press, 1997)

Photocopied Readings, available through the U.C. Bookstore

Class Attendance and Participation Requirements

Students are expected to attend class regularly, to do the assigned reading and to be prepared to participate in class discussion and activities. Poor attendance and failure to participate in discussions will lower students' overall grades. **Attendance will be taken.** Late papers are unacceptable. All papers must be typed.

Class Assignments

Introduction Paper 2-3 pages, addressing questions 1 and 2 in text on page 24. Due September 12, 2002 at the beginning of class.

Family Event Paper 3-5 pages. Identify a vital event in the life of your family or another family. Interview at least three people from three different generations about the event. Describe how each person perceived the event and identify the differences in perception. Generate ideas about why each would view the event differently.
Due October 8.

Reaction Paper 2-3 pages. Attend an art exhibit or view a film. Describe how culture is experienced through art. Due November 7.

Mid-term written exam October 15, 2002

Class presentations by small groups. . . . topics TBA Due dates December 5&10

Final Exam will be on Monday, December 16, 10:10 – 12:00

Grading

Introduction Paper	100 points
Reaction Paper	100 points
Family Event Paper	150 points
Attendance	100 points
Mid-term Examination	150 points
Group Presentation	50 points
Final Examination	<u>150 points</u>
Total	800 points

Class Schedule

Week 1:	September 3 Introduction to course Berger: Chapter 1	September 5 Behavior, Knowledge, Skill and Commitment Membership exercise
	Read <i>The Spirits Catches You and You Fall Down</i> at your own pace during the semester. Must be completed by November 19. There will be a final exam exercise on this book.	
Week 2:	September 10 Families Berger: Chapter 2, pages 33-63	September 12 Family Systems - Rituals and Secrets Introduction paper due
Week 3:	September 17 Dimensions of Human Behavior Berger: Chapter 3, pages 69-121	September 19 Film: <i>Beyond Killing Me Softly</i> Group discussion
Week 4:	September 24 Communities and Social work practice When I'm 64 exercise	September 26 Aging in Place Neighborhoods and older adults
Week 5:	October 1 Myths and Truths about Aging Berger: Chapter 4, pages 129-167	October 3 <i>Surfing for Life</i> Group discussion
Week 6:	October 8 Advance Directives Family Event Paper due	October 10 Choices Bank and My Choices Guest Speaker
Week 7:	October 15 Mid-term Exam (first 50 minutes) Individual and family loss	October 17 Cultural and group loss

Week 8:	October 22 Human Diversity Gender, Sexual Orientation Case Study	October 24 Racism in America <i>Strange Fruit</i>
Week 9:	October 29 Experiencing culture through the arts	October 31 Native American Culture
Week 10:	November 5-Election Day	November 7 Homelessness Berger: pages 125-128 Reaction paper due
Week 11:	November 12 Focusing on Practice Assessment in a healthcare setting Berger: Chapter 5, pages 175-212	November 14 Ethics and case studies Group discussion
Week 12:	November 19 Class discussion of <i>The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down</i>	November 21 Cultural competency and the Kleinman questions
Week 13:	November 26 Dependency and Frailty	Thanksgiving
Week 14:	December 3 End of Life Cultural Considerations	December 5 Group presentations
Week 15:	December 10 Group presentations	December 12 Concluding session and review
Week 16:	December 16, Monday 10:10 –12:00 Final Exam	

The instructor may make revisions to the class schedule. Students will be advised of changes as soon as possible.

Please remember to turn off cell phones and pagers during class.

