

## CUMBERLAND COUNTY COLLEGE

Course: SO 217: Human Behavior and the Social Environment 1

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: SO 201

Description:

This sequence of these two courses explores individual and family dynamics from an ecological/systems and development framework focusing on human functioning from birth through adolescence and into geriatric stages of life. This course provides an understanding of the relationships among biological, psychological, sociological, spiritual and cultural development. Major consideration is given to building knowledge and a value based practice with individuals and families, descriptive and analytical reasoning and assessment skills. Because as social workers we view the person within his/her environment, the goals of this course are not only to focus on our life-span development; but to also explore the various systems, i.e. family, groups, community, culture and social institutions in which we live. The application of this content to diversity, populations-at-risk, and social and economic injustice is included.

Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Describe the various human developmental stages and the issues related to each stage in the womb, infant and toddler.
- Discuss systems theory, particularly the impact of micro and macro systems on human behavior.
- Identify and apply the interactions among human dimensions of biological, psychological, social, spiritual, and cultural systems as they affect and are affected by human behavior and the social environment.
- Recognize various aspects of family organizations, family diversity and family problems and other social system structures.
- Recognize and support optimal conditions for human behavior and development.
- Demonstrate enhanced written and verbal communication skills.
- Analyze and formulate individuals assessments of the biological, psychological, social and spiritual dimensions using case examples

Topical Outline:

- A multidimensional framework
- The biophysical dimension
- The psychological dimension
- The social dimension
- Pregnancy Birth and the newborn
- Infancy

### Texts:

Ashford, J, LeCroy and Lorti, K. (2001). *Human Behavior and the Social Environment: A Multicultural Perspective*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks Cole Publishing.

Walls, Jeanette. (1995). *The Glass Castle*. ISBN: 9780743247535

Pelzer, Dave. (1995). *A Child Called It*. ISBN: 978-1-55874-366-3

Student Assessment: Self-Help Group Observation required. Additional assessment may be accomplished through projects, portfolios, exams, presentations and/or papers

\* Students should be reminded to save all course work for portfolio development.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism is cheating. Plagiarism is presenting in written work, in public speaking, and in oral reports the ideas or exact words of someone else without proper documentation. Whether the act of plagiarism is deliberate or accidental [ignorance of the proper rules for handling material is no excuse], plagiarism is, indeed, a “criminal” offense. As such, a plagiarized paper or report automatically receives a grade of **ZERO** and the student may receive a grade of **F** for the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

Note: If you are having difficulty with work in this class tutoring is available through the Center for Academic & Student Success. If you think that you might have a learning disability, contact Project Assist at 856.691.8600 x 1282 for information on assistance that can be provided to eligible students.

### **Before Withdrawing From This Course**

If a student experiences adverse circumstances while enrolled in this course and considers withdrawing, s/he should see an advisor (division or advisement center) BEFORE withdrawing from the class. A withdrawal may cause harmful repercussions to completion rate standards and overall GPA which can limit or eliminate future financial aid in addition to causing academic suspension.