

Sociology 210
The Human Services System

Instructor: Joseph E. Williams, LCSW, ACSW
Office: PPHAC 310

Fall Term 2009 (T Th 1:10-2:20pm)

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Text; Zastrow, *Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare*, 9th ed.

Course Objectives and Goals:

The purpose of this course is to provide a general perspective of the scope of human services and human service professions. The student will view social problems as they exist in our society and approaches human service professionals employ to address these problem areas. At the end of the course students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of interventions used by professionals. They also will practice using some of the skills required by members of the various human service professions that have multiple applications. The students also will develop the ability to be educated consumers should they ever be in need of services themselves.

Information and Requirements:

1. Office Hours: The instructor is available to students on an appointment basis or before and after class. Please call the office to arrange for help as needed. Help is better sought earlier in the semester than later.
2. Tests: There will be two midterms and one final examination. Dates of the midterms are **Tuesday, September 29, 2009** and **Tuesday, November 3, 2009**. The date of the final will be announced at a later time. The final is not cumulative and is simply the last test. Makeup tests will not be given without documented need and may be of an alternative form such as an oral exam.
3. An optional term paper is a possibility to help improve the final grade. Guidelines for the paper will be distributed separately. The paper is due **Tuesday, November 17, 2009**.
4. Class attendance and participation is essential to learning. Class participation that is both regular and quality will help to improve the final grade. Students who have more than two unexcused absences will drop one final grade level—for example, a B to a B-. Excused absences include illness, family emergency, job interview, jury duty, etc. Documentation of the excuse will be requested for verification.
5. Grading: The *final grade* will be based on the average score of the examinations and the paper if done. Class participation can alter the final grade by as much as three points based on regularity and quality. The instructor reviews class participation at midterm and at the end of classes, and assigns 0-3 points based on his evaluation of quality.
6. The Academic Honesty Policy outlined in the Student Handbook will be followed as per procedures stated in that document.

Term Paper Guidelines

Choose any major social problem and prepare a critique.

1. Who describes this as a social problem? Is it defined by legislation or pushed forth by an interest group? Document the definition of the problem and cite references of the above.
2. What methods are being employed in an attempt to deal with this problem? How are human service professionals involved in addressing this issue? What methods are being employed—casework, group work, community organization, etc.? Be sure to document these by references.
3. What about the future? What new methods on legislation are being developed to address this problem more effectively? What new roles will human service professionals be playing? What things do you think should be done that are not now being done?
4. The paper should be between 11 and 14 typed pages in length with a minimum of eight references. You may use your textbook as one of the references. The paper must be spell and grammar checked.
5. You must include a bibliography and footnotes. The footnotes may be at the end of the paper. Consult any English handbook for information on setting up the bibliography.
6. The paper is due on Tuesday November 17, 2009 Your topic is to be handed in by Tuesday, November 3 Late papers will NOT be accepted. Papers will be returned on the last day of class.