

**UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK**

SW518 Social Work and Oppression
Course Outline
Summer 2006

Instructor: Rodney A. Ellis, PhD, CMSW
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Office hours: Monday and Wednesday, 5:00-5:30 and by appointment

Required Texts

Andersen, M.L. & Collins, P.H. (1998). Race, class, and gender (current ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Co.

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 5th ed. (2001). American Psychological Association

Sources of Additional Required Readings

Cohen, M.N. (1998). Transforming the culture of intolerance. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Cyrus, V. (Ed). (1993). Experiencing race, class, and gender in the United States. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Co.

Freeman, J. (Ed). (1994). Women: A feminist perspective (5th ed.). Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Co.

Katz, P.A. & Taylor, D.A. (1988). Eliminating racism: Profiles in controversy. New York: Plenum Press.

Kimmell, M.S. & Messner, M. A. (Eds.). (1995). Men's lives (3rd ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Ploski, H. A. & Williams, J. (Comps. & Eds.). (1989). The Negro American: A reference work on the African American. Detroit: Gale Research.

Rothenberg, P. S. (Ed.). (1995). Race, class, and gender in the United States. (3rd ed.). New York: St. Martin's Press.

Turner, J. H., Singleton, R., & Musick, D. (1980). Oppression: A socio-history of Black white relations in America. Chicago: Nelson-Hall.

All of the required readings are available online from the College website.

Students may note that some of the readings assigned for a given week might, on the surface,

appear to have better fit better the subject matter for a different week. For example, readings on racism appear throughout the Course Outline, as do readings on gender and class. In fact, these readings are not misplaced. They have been included where listed for two reasons: 1) because they illustrate a central characteristic of oppression that is relevant to that day's reading, and 2) because this course uses an iterative process in which subject area are periodically revisited to deepen or expand the student's knowledge of that area. Similarly, films such as *Eyes on the Prize* are shown at various points throughout the semester to illustrate concepts central to oppression and to provide iterative opportunities for learning.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. In order to receive a AB@ in the course, all students are to write four (4) brief papers. Credit will be given for a paper if it is responsive to the assignment, clearly written, and generally free of grammatical errors. That is, the paper must merit a grade of AB@ or better.

In the brief papers, students are to respond to the question or questions distributed in class that will address the readings in the syllabus units covered in the course from July 7 through August 4. The papers are to be three pages long, and typed, double-spaced. Please use size 12 font in Times New Roman or a similar style and have 1-inch margins. Starting with the class on July 7, a question or questions will be distributed in each Wednesday class. The paper responding to the question(s) is due that following week in Monday's class. These papers are to be distributed among the syllabus units as follows:

Paper # 1- Distributed July 10, due July 12

Paper #2- Distributed July 17, due July 19

Paper # 3- Distributed July 24, due July 26

Paper # 4- Distributed July 31, due August 2

2. For a grade of AB+,@students are to write four (4) brief essays as discussed in #1" above and write 4 brief papers regarding Oppression in the News. Students will need to look for evidence of ongoing oppression of various groups in the news. Students will bring in evidence of this oppression, either by bringing in the article or bringing a copy or web page (ex: from TV news) regarding their findings. Students must write a 2-page paper on this topic and staple all articles together prior to submission. Font and layout guidelines are outlined in #1. Papers must merit a grade of AB@or better. These papers and attached items are due as follows:

Oppression in the News #1, due July 17

Oppression in the News #2, due July 19

Oppression in the News #3, due July 24

Oppression in the News #4, due July 26

3. For a grade of AA,@students are to complete the four (4) brief essays, four (4) Oppression in the

News papers, and develop a presentation for the class on some aspect of oppression. Presentations will be 30-40 minutes long and will most likely be done in small groups.

CLASS POLICIES:

- 1) Students are expected to attend class regularly. They are expected to arrive on time and to remain in class until the completion of the class period. Any student missing more than 3 classes will receive a failing grade.
- 2) Incompletes will be given only according to the rules specified in the UT Catalogue. Please refer to the catalogue for additional information.
- 3) All written assignments are due at the beginning of the class period of the date specified on the course outline. Assignments received after that time will be marked down significantly.
- 4) Assignments are to be completed correctly at the time of submission. The instructor will be available to discuss papers and group assignments until one week prior to their due date. After that no assistance will be given. No papers or assignments may be resubmitted once a grade has been given.
- 5) Cheating and/or plagiarizing will not be tolerated. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will be subject to the disciplinary procedures outlined in the UT Student Handbook.
- 6) University policy regarding religious holidays will be observed. As stated by the UT student handbook, any student may request to be excused from class to observe a religious day from his/her faith.

COURSE OUTLINE

Class 1: Monday, July 10, 2006- Syllabus, introduction to the course

Introductions of class members
Review of syllabus
Discussion of examples of oppression in the news
Social work ethics and oppression
Brief Paper #1 distributed

Assignments for next class:

Turn in typed note with desired grade, along with name and contact information

Readings for next class:

Anderson & Collins, pp. 1-73; 310-353 (Introductory Concepts in Oppression); 395-482
(American Identity and Culture)
Sanchez, In Cyrus, *Sex, Class, and Race Intersections: Visions of Women of Color*, pp. 194-197.

Class 2: Wednesday, July 12, 2006- The mechanisms of oppression

Discussion of the basic mechanisms and processes the create and sustain oppression:
Outgroups
Colonization

Types of racism
Privilege
Exercises using the articles from today=s reading
Turn in desired grade to instructor

Assignments for next class:

Readings for next class:
Anderson & Collins, pp. 75-126 (Race and Privilege)
Kincaid, *AGirl@in Cyrus* (pp. 70-71)
Sklar, *Imagine a Country*, pp. 121-130

Class 3: Monday, July 17, 2006- Racial Oppression

Oppression in the news (Class discussion)
Eyes on the Prize I & II
Discussion of Eyes on the Prize I & II
Exercises and group discussion of today=s readings

Readings for next class:

Spickard, P.R., Fong, R., & Ewalt, P.L. (1995). *Undermining the very basis of racism, its categories*. *Social work*, 410, 581-584.
Turner, Singleton, & Musick, Chapter 2. *The Culture of Black Oppression*, 11-41.

Class 4: Wednesday, July 19, 2006- Racial oppression

Oppression in the news (Class discussion)
Eyes on the Prize III & IV
Discussion of Eyes on the Prize III & IV
Exercises and group discussion of today=s readings

Readings for next class:

Anderson & Collins, pp. 127-165 (Class & Inequality)
Zandy, In Cyrus, *Decloaking class: Why class identity and consciousness count*, pp. 103-112.
Greer, In Cyrus, *Something is robbing our children of their future*, pp. 141-146.
Sweet, In Cyrus, *We=re not Bums*, pp. 147-149.

Class 5: Monday, July 24, 2006- Class oppression

Oppression in the news (class discussion)
Exercises and group discussion of today=s readings

Readings for next class:

Anderson & Collins, pp. 266-309 (Effects of Racial and Ethnic Oppression on Families)
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, In Cyrus, *Historical Discrimination in Immigration Laws*, pp. 171-176.
Qoyawayma, In Cyrus, *To Be Hopi or American?*, pp. 23-25.
Novak, In Cyrus, *Neither WASP nor Jew nor Black*, pp. 25-30.
Alvarez, In Cyrus, *El Hilo Que Nos Une: Becoming a Puerto Rican Woman* pp.30-33.
Wu, In Cyrus, *In Search of Bruce Lee=s Grave*, pp. 33-35.
Henry, In Cyrus, *Beyond the Melting Pot*, pp. 53-57.
Dorris, In Cyrus, *Native Americans v. the U.S. Government*, pp. 188-193

Class 6: Wednesday, July 26, 2006- Ethnic oppression

Oppression in the news (class discussion)

Discussion of the contribution of various immigration processes to oppression

Completion of in-class computer lab assignment

Guest speaker from the Hispanic community

Exercises and group discussion of today=s readings

Readings for next class:

Anderson & Collins, pp. 166-265 (Gender and Sexism)

Lourde, *The Oppressor Within*

Phillips, In Cyrus, *In the Beginning there are Babies*, pp. 61-65

Reifler, In Cyrus, *Time Warp in A Toy Store*, pp. 65-67

Hyde, In Cyrus, *How Women are Treated in Language*, pp. 67-70

Chafetz, In Cyrus, *Some Individual Costs of Gender Role Conformity*, pp. 70-74

Hyde, In Cyrus, *Gender Roles and Ethnicity*, pp. 75-78

Allen, In Cyrus, *Where I Come from is Like This*, pp. 78-83

Thompson, In Cyrus, *The Male Role Stereotype*, pp. 85-87

Sheffield, *Sexual Terrorism*, pp.3-19

Class 7: Monday, July 31, 2006- Gender Oppression

Oppression in the news (class discussion)

Guest speaker

Exercises and group discussion of today=s readings

Class presentations

Readings for next class:

Altman, In Cyrus, *Why are Gay Men so Feared?*, p. 91

Pharr, In Cyrus, *Homophobia and Sexism*, pp. 303-307

Levine, In Cyrus, *The Life and Death of Gay Clones*, pp. 55-66

Katz, In Ore, *The Invention of Heterosexuality*, pp.137-149

Rust, In Ore, *Sexual Identity and Bisexual Identities: The Struggle for Self Description in a Changing Landscape*, pp. 160-177.

Class 8: Wednesday, August 2, 2006- Sexual Orientation Oppression

Oppression in the news (class discussion)

Exercises and group discussion of today=s readings

Guest speaker panel

Class presentations

Readings for next class:

Anderson & Collins, pp. 354-392 (State Institutions & Social Policy)

Anderson & Collins, pp. 483-559 (Policy and Intervention)

Class 9: Monday, August 7, 2006- Social Policy & oppression/Mechanisms for Change

Oppression in the news (class discussion)

Exercises and group discussion of today=s readings

Class presentations

Class 10: Wednesday, August 9, 2006- Presentations