

# SOC 352 – HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

## SYLLABUS

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### COURSE DELIVERY:

Print-Based Correspondence Course

### CREDIT HOURS:

Three Semester Hours

### PREREQUISITES:

SOC 251: Social Problems

### COURSE MATERIALS:

To order textbooks or obtain information about book titles you may go to [www.exstudies.adams.edu](http://www.exstudies.adams.edu) and click on the “ASC Bookstore” icon.

Use **Section Number: 625** to order books from Bookstore site.

### Required Textbook:

Longres, J.F. *Human behavior in the social environment*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Stamford, CT: Brooks/Cole-Thomson Publishers, 2000. ISBN: 0-875-81426-3.

### CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This course offers information about the private troubles of individuals and families in terms of the social problems or issues that affect them. It gives the student a look at life from the standpoint of marginalized and disadvantaged people and avoids blaming the victim or blaming the society. It discusses the resilience and strengths of diverse populations-at-risk. It makes the case that human behavior is caused by many factors in reciprocal interaction. Individuals influence society just as they are influenced by society, and the troubles individuals face in their own lives are, as a rule, inseparable from the problems society experiences as a whole.

This course offers students information that will help them understand what social justice is and what inequalities are but also learn how to make critical judgments about society and the circumstances people find themselves in. It combines the use of the social systems theory approach with a commitment to social and economic justice. Each

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chapter of the text presents some content about what the implications for practice are.

This type of look at social systems will be applied to people within their communities, their families, large and small groups, and living within their own life span.

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- The students will be given information about human behavior and their social environment; their community, their family, social groups, and their life span using the systems approach/the person-in-environment.
- The students will be exposed to theories about social practice within each part of their social system and theories of caring that emphasize critical thinking about social problems and how to make a better society.
- The students will understand the concepts of systems and their boundaries, norms and institutions, and social roles.
- The student will gain an understanding about communities as a social system in general and life in racial and ethnic communities as well. This includes information about the social history of ethnic communities, the patterns of immigrants and ethnic community relations in our society.
- The students will be able to analyze the family as a social organization; as a social institution, the diverse forms it takes on, its functioning and its problems.
- The students will be exposed to a balanced presentation of a wide range of theories about social interaction in groups. This will include information about social exchange and Marxian theories as well as others.
- The student will develop an understanding of three psychological perspectives for understanding the human life span. Those perspectives are the psychodynamic perspective, the cognitive perspective and the learning perspective. It will include a presentation about the growth and development of human behavior at early life, childhood, and adult life.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

This course has four assignments that total 300 points. Two of the assignments are in the form of objective, multiple-choice exams based on the information in the text. These assignments will document the student's learning of the material in the text. The exams must be proctored and will count 100 points each towards the 300 point total. Information on obtaining and taking a proctored exam may be found in the *Guidelines for Proctored Exams* page. There are also two papers, each three to five pages in length. One paper requires the student to use "Discussion Questions" at the end of each chapter of the text. The second paper requires the student to use a news worthy article written about human behavior and the social environment and respond to the article using the concepts/analysis learned in the text. Each of the papers counts 50 points towards the total of 300 points.

## **GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:**

In alignment with ASC academic policies, no D may apply to a major or minor field.

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## **Grade Distribution:**

2 Proctored Exams @ 100 pts	200 points
2 Papers @ 50 pts	<u>100 points</u>
Total	300 points

## **Scale:**

300 – 270 points:	A
269 – 240 points:	B
239 – 210 points:	C
209 – 180 points:	D
179 and below:	F

## **ADA STATEMENT:**

Students who need special accommodation to complete this class should contact the instructor and the Office of Student Affairs, 719.587.7221 as soon as possible.