HR 5003-492: Theoretical Foundations in Human Relations

Course Description:
The goal of this course will be to familiarize you with the theoretical underpinnings of a degree in Human Relations. We will explore questions of race, gender, social class, and intersectionality. Throughout the semester we will explore the significance of race, gender, and class to the human experience. We will additionally locate this exploration in the international arena, and we will explore related theories of liberation.

Course Dates:
January 2 – April 30, 2020
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: December 4, 2019

Site Director:
This is a three-credit hour online course. Please see your local Site Director or email our online site coordinator at aponline@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Zermarie Deacon, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: 601 Elm Avenue; PHSC 728
Norman, OK 73019
Telephone Number: 405-325-2749
E-mail Address: zermarie@ou.edu
Virtual Office Hours: Virtual Office Hours will be posted on Canvas at the start of the class.
Professor availability: The professor will be available via email to students during the above listed Virtual Office Hours and other methods by arrangement.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Student materials are available at the OU Bookstore Website at https://ou.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php. There is no longer a physical bookstore, the store will remain, but textbooks will not be stocked. The website has book selling, renting, buying, returning, and order tracking capabilities. If you need help with an order, or if you have any questions contact the toll-free phone at 1-(855)-790-6637, agents are available from 9a – 5p (EST) Monday – Friday. For more information or questions about textbooks, feel free to contact apsyllabi@ou.edu. Text prices are available online

4. Materials posted on the OU Canvas learning management system: Access Canvas at https://canvas.ou.edu, enter your OU NetID and password, and select course to access material. If you require assistance with Canvas, please click on the Help icon. You can search the Canvas guides, chat with Canvas support, or contact OU IT.

Please consult the Purdue University OWL website for information regarding APA format and general writing style: http://owl.english.purdue.edu. The OU Writing Center is also available to you at http://www.ou.edu/writingcenter.

OU Email:
All official correspondence from instructors will be sent only to students’ ou.edu address.

Online Orientation:
The College of Arts and Sciences offers an online orientation for students who are enrolled in online or blended courses. The purpose of the orientation is to ensure that students are well prepared both technically and practically to take online courses. The orientation can be found on their website at: http://www.ou.edu/content/cas/online/student-online-orientation.html

The College of Arts and Sciences Online and Academic Technology Services office is here to assist you with any questions, problems, or concerns you may have. For assistance visit their website at http://www.ou.edu/content/cas/online/student-information.html or contact them by telephone at: (405) 325-5854 or email: casonline@ou.edu

Course Objectives:
The goal of this course will be to familiarize you with key theoretical frameworks that underpin the work of Human Relations professionals. It is intended that by the end of the course you will be conversant with theories of race, gender, and class and that you will be able to articulate the need for social change and the process by which change is created.

Assignments, Grading, and Due Dates:
You will be able to follow the course progression under the “modules” tab on Canvas. You will be expected to complete module-specific work and assignments as well as four major assignments. Module-specific work and assignments will include completing the assigned reading, participating in discussion posts, and providing reactions to materials posted online (e.g., videos, notes, etc.). Each module-specific assignment will be worth ten points. Five points will be possible simply for completing the assignment, two points will be possible for following the directions correctly, and three points will be possible for the overall quality of the work that is completed. If you complete a module-specific assignment late, your grade for that particular project will be reduced by 50%. Major assignments will receive a grade out of 100. Specific grading criteria will be provided for each major assignment.

Information regarding coursework is provided below, including information about major assignments. In addition, module-specific content will be updated by Monday of each week. You should thus aim to log on to Canvas on Monday or Tuesday of each week. Relevant content will be placed under the “modules” tab. Please also check the announcements and calendar regularly.

All assignments are due by 5:00pm CST on the due date.

Reading Material:
Over the course of the semester, you will be expected to complete numerous reading assignments. You will be expected to complete two reaction papers. The papers will be in response to your assigned reading material. More information will be posted on Canvas. Finally, you will be expected to complete a book review relevant to this class. You may select a book from the list below, or you can select your own text. Any text that is not the list below needs to be approved by the instructor first. These books will not be provided by Advanced Programs.
Types of module-specific assignments:

Discussion posts:
During weeks where discussions posts are due, you will be expected to make two postings to the relevant discussion forum. First, you will be expected to post a response to the posed question. This response will be due by Wednesday of the week during which the assignment is due. Then, by Friday of that same week, you will be expected to post a response to at least one of your classmates. You are encouraged to engage in a dialogue with one another, however, a minimum of one response to your classmates is necessary. The professor will additionally make relevant postings to the forum.

During weeks that discussion posts are due, you will need to make both postings in order to receive full credit for the assignment. However, the assignment will only be considered late if you do not make the second posting on time. Failure to make the first posting on time will result in a two-point deduction for not following instructions correctly.

Reactions/responses:
During weeks that a response to online notes, videos, or the assigned readings are due, you will be expected to complete a written response to a reaction question. A question to which you are expected to respond, as well as the material needed to respond to the question and any relevant instructions, will be posted under the relevant module. Your response should be at least two double-spaced page long.

Major assignments:
Over the course of the semester, you will be expected to complete four major assignments. These will be outlined below.

Reaction paper:
Your reaction papers provide you with an informal, yet scholarly forum in which to respond to the assigned reading. Your papers should be three to five double-spaced pages long and should be proofread and spell and grammar checked. You are not expected to use outside sources, but rather, are expected to provide your own response and reaction to the assigned reading material. However, any outside sources should be cited appropriately. You should consider the following questions when completing your reaction papers: How are the issues the author raises relevant to human relations? Do you agree with the author’s perspective? Why or why not? What are your reactions to the paper?

Additional instructions for completing these papers will be posted on Canvas. Your reaction papers will receive a grade out of 100, with papers demonstrating a high degree of critical thinking in response to the framing questions receiving the highest grades.

Book review:
Throughout the semester, you should be reading your selected text. You will be expected to complete a written review of this book. The book review should be three to five double-spaced pages long and should include your critical analysis of the book. In addition to your perspectives on the materials presented by the authors, I would like you to relate the material to what we have learned in class. Any outside sources should be cited appropriately using correct APA formatting.

Your paper should be typed using 12-point font and conventional margins, should be proofread and spell and grammar checked, and should be formatted using APA stylistic guidelines. All papers should be submitted to Canvas. Your paper will receive a grade out of 100 and will be graded using the following criteria: 20% for using appropriate formatting, etc.; 30% for critical thinking (i.e., the degree to which you
provide a thoughtful analysis and discussion of the book); and 50% for the content of your paper (i.e., the degree to which you meet the requirements of the assignment).

Unless prior arrangements have been made with the professor, or you experience a documented personal emergency, all late papers will be subjected to a grade deduction. Five points will be deducted from papers handed in on the due date but after 5pm. Following the due date, ten points will be deducted for each day that your paper is late.

Please do not hesitate to contact the professor if you have any questions about this assignment.

Final paper:

For your final paper, you will be expected to select an issue relevant to human relations to analyze. Specific instructions for selecting a topic will be posted on Canvas. You will additionally be required to obtain approval for your topic from the professor by the relevant date.

For your final paper, you should provide a thorough analysis of the issue that you have selected. You should not only discuss the reasons why this issue is relevant to human relations. As such, your paper should provide a thoughtful analysis of the issue that you choose to address. Additional instructions will be placed on Canvas.

You should use at least seven outside sources in your analysis, of which at least four should be scholarly books and/or journal articles. The other three sources may be websites of non-governmental organizations or agencies, newspaper articles, and/or reports published by international organizations such as Amnesty International, etc.

Your paper should be ten to fifteen double-spaced pages long, should be typed using 12-point font and conventional margins, should be proofread and spell and grammar checked, and should be formatted using APA stylistic guidelines.

Your paper will receive a grade out of 100 and will be graded using the following criteria: 20% for using appropriate formatting, etc.; 30% for critical thinking (i.e., the degree to which you provide a thoughtful analysis of the issue that you have selected); and 50% for the content of your paper (i.e., the degree to which you meet the requirements of the assignment).

Unless prior arrangements have been made with the professor, or you experience a documented personal emergency, all late papers will be subjected to a grade deduction. Five points will be deducted from papers handed in on the due date but after 5pm. Following the due date, ten points will be deducted for each day that your paper is late.

Please do not hesitate to contact the professor if you have any questions about this assignment.

Course Outline:

- Module 1 – Overview of intersectionality
- Module 2 – Race
- Module 3 – Gender
- Module 4 – Class
- Module 5 – Culture and international considerations
- Module 6 – Liberation and social change

Grading:

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F. The following scale will be used: A = 90%-100%; B = 80%-89%; C = 70%-79%; D = 60%-69%; F = < 60%

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module-specific online assignments</td>
<td>See Canvas</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final paper topics due to the professor</td>
<td>February 2, 5PM CST</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>Due Date</td>
<td>Percent of Grade</td>
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<td>---------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reaction Paper 1 due</td>
<td>February 9, 5PM CST</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reaction Paper 2 due</td>
<td>March 15, 5PM CST</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book review due</td>
<td>April 12, 5PM CST</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper due</td>
<td>April 30, 5PM CST</td>
<td>30%</td>
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**Notice:** Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.

**Policy for Late Work:**
Please contact the professor regarding his/her policy for late work.

**Attendance Policy:**
In addition to interaction via Canvas and email contact, students are required to contact the instructor via email or telephone before the beginning of the course term for an initial briefing. Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, participation in all interactive, learning activities is required.

Student assignments and student/instructor communications will be conducted via Canvas, although students may contact the instructor via telephone, postal mail, email, or fax as needed.

**Incomplete Grade Policy:**
A grade of “I” is not automatically assigned, but rather must be requested by the student by submitting to the instructor a “Petition for and Work to Remove an Incompleted Grade” form. An “I” can never be used in lieu of an “F” nor can an “I” be assigned because of excessive failure to participate in class activities.

**Technical Support Information:**
If you experience technical problems, contact Information Technology by visiting their website at: [http://webapps.ou.edu/it/](http://webapps.ou.edu/it/) or contacting them by telephone at: (405) 325-HELP (4357).
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Note: Attendance/absences do not apply to online courses. However, participation in all course activities is extremely important to student success in online courses.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc…in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc…; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at http://studentconduct.ou.edu/

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Adjustment for Pregnancy/Childbirth-Related Issues

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see http://www.ou.edu/content/ooe/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html.
Title IX Resources

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24/7, counseling services, mutual no-contact orders, scheduling adjustments, and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at smo@ou.edu or (405) 325-2215 (8-5), or the Sexual Assault Response Team at (405) 615-0013 (24/7) to report an incident. To learn more about Title IX, please visit the Institutional Equity Office’s website at http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo.html

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA

Zermarie Deacon

Education
• 2003 M.A., Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan Department of Psychology. Thesis: The well-being of Muslim refugee women in resettlement: A needs assessment
• 1997 B.A. (Honours) Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa, Department of Politics; Major: Political Philosophy
• 1996 B.A., Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa, Major: Politics; Major: Philosophy

Current Positions
• 2007 - 2013 Department of Human Relations, University of Oklahoma, Assistant Professor
• 2007 – Present Affiliate Faculty, School of International and Area Studies
• 2008 - Present Women’s Studies Program, University of Oklahoma, Adjunct Professor
• 2012 – Present Women’s and Gender Studies Program Center for Social Justice, University of Oklahoma, Affiliate Faculty
• 2013 – Present Department of Human Relations, University of Oklahoma, Associate Professor

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses
• International Human Relations
• Current Problems in Human Relations

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest
• In addition to Current Problems in Human Relations I also teach International Human Relations and Strategies for Social Change at the graduate level. At the undergraduate level I teach a class entitled Gender and War as well as International Human Relations and Social Change Processes.
• My primary research interests are in cross-cultural definitions of health and wellbeing and factors that facilitate individuals’ attainment of wellbeing across different ecological contexts.

Representative Publications and Presentations

Refereed Publications:
• Presentations:
Criminology, Chicago, Illinois.


**Representative Honors and Awards Received**

- 2011 PI: Deacon; Co-PI: Pendley (Center for Applied Social Research, OU); Co-PI: Jervis (Center for Applied Social Research, OU) – CHRs as facilitators of health for Chickasaw elders. *OU Center for Research Program Development and Enrichment, Faculty Research Challenge Grant Program;* $44,225

- 2011 University of Oklahoma, College of Arts and Sciences, *Junior Faculty Summer Fellowship*

- 2011 University of Oklahoma, College of Arts and Sciences, *Faculty Enrichment Grant*

- 2011 PI: Miller; Co-PI: Deacon; Co-PI: Wedel; Co-PI: Fitzgerald – Norman Center for Children and Families Photovoice Project/Girl Power Photovoice. *Seed grant awarded by the OU-TULSA Program in Community Health Research;* $38,477

- 2010 University of Oklahoma, College of Arts and Sciences, *Faculty Enrichment Grant*