

# **The University of Oklahoma**

## **College of Continuing Education**

### **Advanced Programs – Course Syllabus**

#### **Course Title:**

Current Problems in Human Relations

#### **Course Number:**

HR 5013-222

#### **Course Description:**

American society continues undergoing rapid and significant changes. Relationships between majority (dominant) and minority (subordinate, marginalized) groups in this country are an integral facet of societal changes and contemporary problems. Economic, historical, political, and social factors are linked to individual, group, and institutional disparities and multiple forms of oppression. This unequal distribution of resources and power intersect to create stressful conditions and human relations problems.

This course is designed to expose students to an in-depth, scholarly, objective, and systematic analysis of some of the major human relations problems faced by society. Specifically, this course concentrates on the problem areas of social inequality (class, race, and gender), intra- and interpersonal tension (individual stress, personal relations in groups, and violence), and intergroup tension (multicultural and multinational). In addition, major change strategies are identified, analyzed, and assessed relative to past and future effectiveness. Contextual, demographic, and statistical data are integrated throughout to inform the discussions, facilitate understanding, and strategize amelioration of the range of human relations problems.

A wide variety of instructional approaches and student participation will be employed throughout the course. These may include lectures, films, poetry, in-class exercises, class discussion, oral presentations, journaling, book reviews, group projects, web-based technologies, as well as required reading.

#### **Class Dates, Location and Hours:**

Dates: February 7 - 12, 2017

Location: Spangdahlem AB, Germany. Students should check with Site Director for classroom location.

Hours: Tuesday - Friday 6:00-9:30 pm; Saturday and Sunday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: January 9, 2017

#### **Site Director:**

Email: [apspangdahlem@ou.edu](mailto:apspangdahlem@ou.edu). Phone: DSN 452-7555, CIV 06565-61-7555.

#### **Professor Contact Information:**

Course Professor: Rodger Randle, J.D.

Mailing Address: Department of Human Relations, Room 1J06  
OU Tulsa Schusterman Campus  
4502 E 41<sup>st</sup> Street  
Tulsa, OK 74135-2553

Telephone Number: (918) 660-3495

E-mail Address: [randle@ou.edu](mailto:randle@ou.edu)

Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

### **Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:**

Student materials are available at the OU Follett Bookstore located at 1185 Asp Avenue; Norman, OK, and can be ordered online, by phone, by email, or by fax. Ordering online at <http://www.bkstr.com/oklahomastore/home> is strongly recommended – students can track the status of their order within 48 hours. If an order has not been shipped within three days, students can contact the Follett textbook manager by phone (405) 325-3511, (800) 522-0772 (toll-free) or email [0831mgr@fhg.follett.com](mailto:0831mgr@fhg.follett.com). Phone orders (ask for the textbook manager and identify yourself as an Advanced Programs student) can be placed 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. to 4p.m. on Saturday (CST). Summer hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (CST). Fax orders can be placed 24 hours a day at (405) 325-7770. Text prices are available online.

1. American Psychological Association (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, D.C.: Author. ISBN 9781433805615.
2. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at <http://learn.ou.edu>; enter your OU NetID and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

Note: Follett is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through Follett.

### **Course Objectives:**

- To identify the structural conditions and historical contexts that contributes to a broad range of societal problems.
- To systematically analyze the intersections of race, class, and gender through existing systems of privilege and power.
- To develop an awareness of the social construction of complex economic, political, and social phenomena that contributes to a broad range of current problems.
- To creatively, critically, and practically analyze a significant current problem and develop a realistic strategy to ameliorate a given problem.
- To understand, develop, implement, and evaluate a plan of advocacy around a specific issue related to human relations.

### **Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:**

The course will be conducted as a series of lectures, interactive group discussions, and media presentations, as well as individual and team presentations of selected projects. There will be one major assignment during the course. Students are expected to check their OU email for messages concerning the class, and to monitor the D2L class website.

### **Readings:**

Before the first class, students should have read all the assigned readings.

### **Classroom Presentation:**

Students will select one “current problem” of their own selection and present that issue to the class in a brief oral report of ten or 15 minutes length. This report will be made on Saturday of the class.

### **Written Assignment:**

The final written paper is due three weeks from the last day of class (**March 5, 2017**) and shall be submitted to the drop box on D2L. The final report shall be at least ten (10) pages in length, which is defined as 3,500 words (not counting the cover page or the reference pages), double-spaced in 12 point Times New Roman type. An abstract is not needed and will not count toward the length. The paper should follow **American Psychological Association manual of style**.

At least 8 research sources shall be cited and at least three of the sources should be from scholarly journals, books, or personal interviews (references to dictionaries, encyclopedias, course assigned readings, or the Wikipedia, will not count towards this requirement). References may come from online sources as long as they are appropriate. Fact references must be from sources with known authors; references should follow the “Guide to Reference Style” posted on the learn.ou.edu page for this class.

The paper will describe a problem, analyze its origins, explain its contemporary consequences, and will identify and evaluate alternative proposals for amelioration of the problem and a plan for individual action in pursuit of the recommended solution.

Further detailed instruction will be provided on the website for the class on the learn.ou.edu website.

### **Grading:**

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F. Grading will be based on the classroom presentation and written report for the “current problem” report. 90% or above constitutes an “A”, 80-90% a “B”, 70-80% a “C”, 60- 70% a “D”, and below 60% shall not be considered passing.

### **Attendance Policy:**

Class attendance is important. Absence of more than 20% of class hours will result in a one grade reduction if the absence is not approved in advance or taken in accordance with Provost Policies or State law. Absence at more than 30% of class hours will result in a reduction of two letter grades from what was otherwise earned by the student. Please notify the professor of any duty requirements (or personal needs) that will keep you from class so that you may get an excused absence.

### **Policy on Late Assignments:**

We understand that military responsibilities may occasionally cause students to be late in turning in assignments. Students should follow the assignment deadlines provided to the class, but late papers will not be penalized when the delay is caused by military responsibilities. However, when papers are submitted after the deadline, there may be delays in grading and processing of paperwork, depending on other academic obligations that may have been scheduled. Late papers must be submitted through the learn.ou.edu website, and the professor should be notified by email when the late submission is placed in the drop box. Papers sent by email or handed to the professor in paper format during class are **not** considered to have been officially submitted. Only papers submitted through the drop box at the learn.ou.edu class website are considered to have been officially submitted.

Visit the website for the Department of Human Relations at: <http://ou.edu/cas/hr>

**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.

## **POLICIES AND NOTICES**

### **Attendance/Grade Policy**

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

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](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/eoo/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](mailto: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. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

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**

**Rodger Randle, J.D.**

### **Education**

- 1967 B.A., University of Oklahoma
- 1979 Juris Doctor, University of Tulsa

### **Current Positions**

- Advanced Programs professor since 2005
- Professor of Human Relations, OU Tulsa
- Director of the Center for Studies in Democracy and Culture, <http://tulsagrad.ou.edu/csdc>

### **Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses**

- HR 5013 Current Problems in Human Relations
- HR 5110 International Human Relations
- HR 5110 International Conflict Resolution

### **Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest**

- International Cultures
- Public Policy

### **Major Professional Affiliations**

- Governor's International Economic Development Team
- Oklahoma Humanities Council
- President of the Tulsa Global Alliance (the organization that operates Tulsa's Sister City and international visitor programs, among other activities)
- Co-Chair of the Bond Oversight Committee of the Tulsa Public Schools which is monitoring the expenditures made under the Tulsa School District's largest ever bond issue