



THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

National Catholic School of Social Service

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SSS 225

Human Behavior & the Social Environment II

Understanding How The Social Environment Behaves

Sociological Theories and Environmental Behavior

Spring, 2009

(3 credits)

Instructor: Theda Rose, MSW

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I. COURSE PURPOSE

This is the second course of a two-semester sequence on human behavior and the social environment. This course examines the development and operation of functional and dysfunctional systems that lie at the group, organizational, community and societal levels. Consistent with generalist practice, this course provides students with information on how systems in the environment behave. Mezzo and macro theories are addressed in this course, with an emphasis on conflict theory and the order perspective. Theories are explored in relationship to concepts consistent with generalist social work macro practice in the environment, including order/change; sociological/epidemiological problem definition, the search for the ideal community, population homogeneity/diversity, the rights and obligations of citizens/societies, conflict and healing between societal subgroups, and troubled relationships between individuals/ families and societal organizations/institutions. Applications are made to contemporary social problems using classic and current readings to: provide content that enables students to recognize the dynamics of oppression and discrimination on all populations, with a special emphasis on diverse populations and populations-at-risk; prepare generalist practitioners to use theories of human behavior to enhance the well-being of groups, organizations, and communities; and challenge students to develop a deep commitment to the promotion of social and economic justice, including the elimination of poverty, discrimination, and oppression in the context of the tradition of Catholic social teachings, the mission of The Catholic University of America, and the value base of the social work profession.

II. EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

1. Define problems in the social environment from two perspectives: order and conflict.
2. Articulate the dynamics of function and dysfunction as they apply to groups, organizations, communities and societies.
3. Analyze contemporary social problems that lie at the group, community, organization, and societal levels using macro theoretical frameworks of order and conflict.
4. Identify the dynamics of environments that place populations at-risk or at health.
5. Understand the environmental dynamics that create societal diversity or societal homogeneity; tolerance or intolerance.
6. Compare and contrast the environmental dynamics that create violence or peace.
7. Promote social and economic justice.
8. Appreciate the resources, assets, and strengths that lie within groups, organizations, communities and societies that benefit citizens and citizen groups.
9. Apply knowledge of the NASW Code of Ethics and social work values to understanding ethical dilemmas associated with social work practice in the environment.
10. Apply knowledge of how environments behave in order to solve or alleviate contemporary problems and prevent their recurrence or the occurrence of new problems.
11. Integrate knowledge from SSS 326, Diversity in a Multicultural Society, to build a framework for generalist practice that is respectful, knowledgeable, skillful, and nondiscriminating.
12. Build a knowledge base as a foundation for generalist social work practice with diverse religious and spiritual client populations.
13. Apply knowledge of macro theories and social justice theories during a service learning experience in the community.
14. To appreciate the importance of research in providing an empirical basis for theoretical knowledge.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Required Texts

Eitzen, Stanley D. and Zinn, Maxine Baca (2007). *In conflict and order: Understanding society*. 11th ed. Allyn & Bacon: Boston
ISBN: 0-205-30644-6

Ferguson, Susan J, (2005). *Mapping the social landscape: Readings in Sociology* (4th ed). Mcgraw-Hill.
ISBN: 0-07-255523-8

Selected Readings from Social Work texts and journals on Macro Practice as assigned.

B. Recommended Texts

Eitzen, D.S., & Zinn, M.B. (2000). *Social Problems* (8th ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Ritzer, G. (2000). *Sociological theory*. NY: McGraw-Hill.

Robbins, S.P., Chatterjee, P., & Canda, E.R. (2006). *Contemporary human behavior theory: A critical perspective for social work* (2nd ed). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

C. Other Recommended Resources and Media

National Catholic School of Social Service <http://ncsss.cua.edu/>

Please refer to this article for a listing of social work journals. Thyer, B.A. (2005). A note from the editor: A comprehensive listing of social work journals. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 15(4), 310-311.

D. Course Assignments

Assignment 1: Exam 1:	2/26/09
Assignment 2: Exam 2:	Final Week
Assignment 3: Student Presentation:	As scheduled
Assignment 4: Quizes (3):	Unannounced
Assignment 5: Service Learning:	10 Hours

E. Grading Policy

Assignment 1: Exam 1	25%
Assignment 2: Exam 2	25%
Assignment 3: Presentation	15%
Assignment 4: Quizes	15%
Assignment 5: Service Learning	10%
Attendance and Participation	10%

F. Course and Instructor Evaluation

NCSSS requires electronic evaluation of this course and the instructor. At the end of the semester, the evaluation form may be accessed at <http://evaluations.cua.edu/evaluations> using your CUA username and password.

Additional, informal written or verbal feedback to the instructor during the semester is encouraged and attempts will be made to respond to requests.

G. Attendance and Participation

Students are required to classes and are expected to participate meaningfully in class discussions. The grade for attendance and participation will be lowered by 5 points for each unexcused absence, unless the student notifies the instructor and requests an excused absence before the class. Excused absences will not be granted if the instructor is notified after the class. A consistent pattern of late arrival to class will also result in the grade for attendance and participation to be lowered by 5 points for each late arrival.

IV. CLASS EXPECTATIONS

A. Scholastic Expectations

Please refer to NCSSS Announcements, or appropriate Program Handbook for Academic Requirements, including scholastic and behavioral requirements. All written work should reflect the original thinking of the writer, cite references where material is quoted or adapted from existing sources, adhere to APA format, and should be carefully proof read by the student before submission to the instructor for grading.

B. Academic Honesty

Joining the community of scholars at CUA entails accepting the standards, living by those standards, and upholding them. Please refer to University Policy and appropriate Program Handbooks.

C. Accommodations

Students with physical, learning, psychological or other disabilities wishing to request accommodations must identify with the Disability Support Services (DSS) and submit documentation of a disability. If you have documented such a disability to DSS that requires accommodations or an academic adjustment, please arrange a meeting with the instructor as soon as possible to discuss these accommodations.

Class Schedule

Class	Topics and Readings
1	Order & Conflict Perspectives– 1/13/09 Eitzen & Zinn: Chapter 3 Duality of Social Life
2	Order & Conflict Perspectives– 1/15/09 Robbins, Chatterjee, & Canda: Chapter 3 (Reserve)
	1/20/09 – No Class – Inauguration Holiday
3	Sociological Perspective – 1/22/09 Eitzen & Zinn: Chapter 1 Sociological Perspective Ferguson: C. Wright Mills, The Promise, 1-7 Gaines, Teenage Wasteland, 7-19
4	Social Control: Structural Functional Theory – 1/27/09 Eitzen & Zinn: Chapter 6 Social Control Robbins, Chatterjee, & Canda: 28-33 (Reserve)
5	Social Control: Social Stratification – 1/29/09 Eitzen & Zinn: Chapter 9 Social Stratification Kozol: In Class: Selected Chapters from <i>Amazing Grace</i>
6	Socialization: Personality as Social Product – 2/3/09 Eitzen & Zinn: Chapter 5 Socialization Ferguson: Lorber, Night to His Day, 102-114 Granfield, Making it by Faking It, 114-126 Lewis, Learning to Strip, 127-143 Dyer, Anybody's Son Will Do, 144-154
7	Socialization: Communitarianism – 2/5/09 Etzioni: Intro (1-15), Old Chestnuts & New Spurs (16-34) (Reserve) Ferguson: Etzioni, Community Building, 665-672 (Copy) Lowney, Baring our Souls: TV Talk Shows and the Religion of Recovery, 530-539 (Copy)
8	Deviance & Ecological Perspective – 2/10/09 Eitzen & Zinn: Chapter 7 Deviance Robbins, Chatterjee, & Canda: 33-36 (Reserve) Ferguson: McLorg & Taub, Anorexia & Bulimia, Development of Deviant Identities, 219-230

- 9 Deviance: Gangs, Delinquency, Criminal Behavior – 2/12/09**
 Ferguson: Boswell & Spade, Fraternities & Collegiate Rape Culture, 242-255
 Jankowski, Gang Business, 170-180
- 10 Culture, Symbolic Interaction & Role Theory – 2/17/09**
 Eitzen & Zinn: Chapter 4 Culture
- 11 Culture: Interactional Self, Multiculturalism – 2/19/09**
 Ferguson: Bourgois, In Search of Respect, Selling Crack in El Barrio, 231-242
 Glassner, Culture of Fear, 62-69
 Veliquette & Murray, The New Tattoo Subculture, 70-82
- 12 Social Groups: Leaders & Followers – 2/24/09**
 Eitzen & Zinn: Chapter 2 Structure of Social Groups
 Zastrow: Chapter 3 (Reserve)
 Ferguson: Adler & Adler, Peer Power, Clique Dynamics, 155-170
- 13 Exam 1 – 2/26/09**
- Spring Break – No Class – 3/3/09, 3/5/09**
- 14 Institutional Isms – Racism – 3/10/09**
 Eitzen & Zinn: Chapter 11 Racial Inequality
 Ferguson: LeDuff, At a Slaughterhouse, 383-393
 Lee & Bean, Beyond Black and White, 375-382
 Kim, Out of Sorts, 393-406
- 15 Institutional Isms – Classism – 3/12/09**
 Eitzen & Zinn: Chapter 10 Class
 Ferguson: Domhoff, Who Rules America? The Corporate Community & the Upper Class, 266-279
 Ehrenreich, Nickel and Dimes, 292-305
 Shapiro, Hidden Cost of Being African American, 280-291
- 16 Institutional Isms – Gender Inequality, Sexual Orientation – 3/17/09**
 Eitzen & Zinn, Chapter 12 Gender Inequality
 Ferguson: Risman, Gender as Structure, 306-315
 Williams, Glass Escalator, Hidden Advantages for Men in the Female Professions, 342-352 (Copy)
 Lesko, Our Guys/Good Guys, 330-342
 Loe, Working at Bazooms, 342-359

- 17 Institutional Isms – Gender Inequality, Feminist Theory – 3/19/09**
Dietz: Responding to Oppression and Abuse: A Feminist Challenge to Clinical Social Work (Reserve)
- 18 Families & Society – 3/24/09**
Eitzen & Zinn: Chapter 15 Families
Ferguson: Cherlin, Deinstitutionalization of American Marriage, 604-618
Crittenden, The Mommy Tax, 619-630
Lareau, Invisible Inequality, 630-649
Hochschild, Time Bind, 494-503
- 19 Religion & Society/ Catholic Social Teachings – 3/26/09**
Eitzen & Zinn: Chapter 17 Religion
Ferguson: Chaves, Abiding Faith, 511-516
Weber, The Protestant Ethic & Spirit of Capitalism, 504-511
Shorto, Faith at Work, 517-527
- 20 Health & Society – 3/31/09**
Ferguson: Oberlander, US Health Care System, 528-539
Klinenberg, Dying Alone, 540-556
- 21 Education & Society – 4/2/09**
Eitzen & Zinn: Chapter 16 Education
Ferguson: Dog & Erdoes, Civilize Them with a Stick, 571-578
Kozol, Still Separate, Still Unequal, 578-594
Ferguson, Bad Boys, 595-603
- 22 Mental Health & Society – 4/7/09**
Ferguson: Rosenhan, On Being Sane in Insane Places, 209-219
Karp, Illness & Identity, 557-570
- No Class – 4/9/09 – Holy Thursday**
- 23 Incremental Change Theories – 4/14/09**
Ritzer: Chapter 12 (Reserve)
Ferguson: Ritzer, McDonaldization of Society, Contemporary Theory of Social Change, 662-672
- 24 Revolutionary Change Theories – 4/16/09**
Eitzen & Zinn: Chapter 14 Power & Politics
Ferguson: Clawson, Neustadtl, Weller, Dollars and Votes, 414-427
- 25 Economic Theories – 4/21/09**
Eitzen & Zinn: Chapter 13 The Economy
Ferguson: Mantsios, Media Magic, 450-458

- 26 Theories of Redistributive Social Justice & Social Work Values–
4/23/09**
USCCB. Seven Key Themes of Catholic Social Teaching. Available at
<http://usccb.org/sdwp/projects/socialteaching/excerpt.htm>
NASW Code of Ethics
- 27 Social Movements that Change Social Structure – 4/28/09**
Eitzen & Zinn: Chapter 18 Human Agency
Ferguson: Best, Social Progress and Social Problems, 650-661
Johnson, What Can We Do, 697-708
Brecher et al, Globalization and Social Movements, 680-696
- 28 Application of Theories & Synopsis – 4/30/09**