COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This is a course on how sociopolitical, economic, community, and organizational processes, structures and conditions affect human circumstances and conditions. Its purpose is twofold: (1) to advance student knowledge and understanding of the nature and operation of such macro-level processes, structures and conditions; and (2) to help students to critically analyze these processes, structures, and conditions, and to consider the implications for vulnerable populations, as well as for social work's place and role in contributing to improvements and change in society. Minimum competencies students are expected to demonstrate at the end of the course include:

a) an understanding of basic concepts and terms and how to use them descriptively in characterizing selected macro-level processes, structures, and conditions.
b) an understanding of the origin and nature of selected macro-level processes, structures and conditions, and the capacity to pose analytic questions about their implications for vulnerable populations, the structuring of service delivery systems, and social work's role in promoting social change and improvements.
c) an understanding of the origin and nature of the welfare state, how it is changing, and the implications for vulnerable populations, the structuring of service delivery systems, and social work's role in promoting social change and improvements.
d) an awareness that different ideological and theoretical perspectives, producing conflicting analysis, are used to interpret macro-level structures, processes, and conditions, and to develop prescriptions for change.

REQUIRED TEXTS
There are five required texts. All are available at the Shaman Drum Bookshop, 311-315 South State Street, Ann Arbor. Additional material pertaining to various themes and topics will be distributed or assigned from time to time by the instructor. The texts are:


DESIGN
The format is lecture, with questions and discussion, as well as organized class discussion.

GRADING AND REQUIREMENTS
The overall grade for the course will be based on two written assignments, and one final multiple-choice examination. The respective weightings are 25% for each written assignment and 50% for the final exam.

The first written assignment is due on February 13. The subject of this assignment will be a critical review summarizing your evaluations of the three books covered thus far in class, i.e., de Montigny, Dorfman, and Patterson. In the review, you should comment somewhere on the suitability, or lack thereof, of these books for use in orienting students to the requirements of becoming a professional social worker. The second written assignment is due on April 9. The subject of this assignment will be one of the following: (1) a comparative, critical analysis of at least two of the ideological perspectives in George and Wilding, and a consideration of implications for social work's role in dealing with vulnerable populations in society; or (2) an analysis of Mullay's approach for addressing a social problem or social issue of your choosing, such as racism, discrimination, poverty, child abuse and neglect, community disorganization, etc. Written assignments will be no longer than 5 double-spaced, type-written pages, including diagrams, charts, etc. Additional specifications on the focus, structure, and content of the each written assignment will be distributed 3 weeks prior to due dates. Note that a general rule for each written assignment is that emphasis is on analysis, and on the application of concepts and research covered in class and in the readings. It is not on problem-solving and prescription.

The final examination will be held during the University's exam week at the regular class time, no later than Tuesday, April 24. The exam will be a multiple choice, comprised of approximately 55 questions and based on material covered over the term, drawn from readings, lectures, and class presentations and discussions. Students will be given a study guide for the exam, and will be permitted a one page "cheat sheet" during the sitting of the exam.

Evaluation Criteria -- Following are the main criteria applied in the assessment of class presentations and written assignments:

1. Definition and maintenance of a clear focus.
2. Systematic and logical presentation of arguments
3. Appropriate use of evidence.
4. Development of relevant and interesting insights.
5. Familiarity with, and appropriate use of relevant literature.
6. Clarity of presentation.
7. Conformity with the requirements of the assignment.

CLASS SCHEDULE

1. Introduction and organization

2. Patterson -- Inventing Western Civilization

3. De Montigny -- Preface, Chs. 1, 2, 3 & 4.

4. Dorfman -- The Empire’s Old Clothes

5. De Montigny -- Remainder of the book
   Gassett, Jose Ortega y. 1966. Man and People. New York: W.W.Norton; 1963, Ch. 1 “Being in One’s self and Besides One’s self.”

6. George & Wilding, Chs. 1, 2 & 3.
7. George & Wilding, Chs. 4, 5 & 6

8. George & Wilding, Chs. 7 & 8.
   Review of key concepts.


10. Mullaly, Chs. 3 & 4.


12. Mullaly, Chs. 7 & 8.

   Review of key concepts

14. **Final Examination**

**OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

1. Submission dates for written papers are firm, with exception without penalty generally being granted only for medical reasons established by a physician's statement. Otherwise, papers turned in after the submission date will be penalized 1% per day to a maximum of 5% per week up to a total of 15%. Papers submitted more than 3 weeks after the submission date will be awarded an "E" i.e. failure, unless conditions for an incomplete, i.e. "I," have been satisfied (see "Student Guide to the Master's in Social Work Degree Program" The University of Michigan, School of Social Work).

2. All written submissions should be typed and double-spaced. They must follow an established academic convention for organization, pagination, footnoting, table and figure presentation and bibliographic references. Papers not complying with an established convention will be returned, with penalties for late submission being applied. For papers exceeding length requirements of assignment, only the first five pages will be graded.

3. Students are expected to attend all classes. Excessive absences may lead to a failing grade.

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