

Indiana University
School of Social Work

Fall, 1984

S520
Koleski
First

HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT:
SELECTED SUBJECTS IN MACRO SYSTEMS

I. Course Description

This is a foundation course in the Human Behavior and Social Environment area. It is a companion course to the area's Micro Systems course. The course offers social and behavioral science perspectives that are under-pinnings for other courses in the curriculum.

The purpose is to examine behavior in the context of those societal problems, forces and factors which impact on the life situation for persons and groups in need of social welfare provisions. Major concepts and theories are selectively drawn from sociology, economics, political science, anthropology and social psychology.

The organizing rationale for selection of social science content is based on the view that social problems and conditions of inequality result from underlying forces and factors that must be understood in order to develop effective policies, programs and service delivery in social welfare. Thus, attention will be given to the analysis of factors related to the understanding of poverty, discrimination and issues such as sexism, racism, etc.

Major school of thought in the social science disciplines are presented for comparative analysis and concepts in systems theory are utilized in analyzing complex problems, community processes and service organizations. The course should afford the student a social science base for subsequent learning in policy, practice, research and other related areas of the curriculum.

II. Course Objectives

The course is intended to help the student do the following:

- A. Understand the relationship between the larger units and processes of society and individuals; with special emphasis on how economic, political and social institutions facilitate or impede the individual's striving toward the essentials of well being and the "good life."
- B. Understand how major social theories and philosophical perspectives ("consensual," "deviance," "conflict," "symbolic interaction," etc.) each produces its own definition of social conditions as "social problems" which in turn leads to its own unique proposals for social policies and programs.

- C. Understand the nature and scope, causes and consequences of discrimination and inequality (sexism, racism, ageism, etc.) in society.
- D. Apply selected social science theories and concepts (social stratification and mobility, power and influence, social conflict, socialization and social control, alienation, etc.) in analyzing a condition of discrimination and inequality.
- E. Understand and be able to use an open systems analysis within a human service organization or a sub-division thereof.
- F. Be familiar with various macro perspectives on the future (those of Toffler, Harris, Naisbitt, Cetron, Schumpeter, Kahn, etc.) of our and other societies and its possible consequences for social work and social welfare.

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III. Course Content and Readings

Unit A

Institutions and individuals: their reciprocal relationships of needs and offerings. The absolutely essential importance of the individual having access to institutional position/roles for the sake of survival and well being.

Selected Readings:

Assignments to be made from these:

M. Harris, America Now. Simon and Schuster, 1982.

D. Yankelovich, New Rules. Anchor, 1982.

H. Johnson, Sociology. Harcourt, Brace, 1975.

B. Moyers, "An Interview with Mortimer Adler." Bill Moyers Show, PBS, June 13, 1978.

R.B. Reich, "Ideologies of Survival," The New Republic, September 20 and 27, 1982, pp. 32-37.

A. Toffler, Previews and Premises. Southend, 1983.

J.A. Perry and E.K. Perry, The Social Web, (Fourth Edition). Harper and Row, 1983.

Ronald A. Hardert, Leonard Gordon, Mary R. Laner and Mark Reader, Confronting Social Problems. St. Paul, MN: West Publishing, 1981.

Jean Lipman-Blumen, Gender Roles and Power. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1984.

Unit B

Perspectives on "social problems" and their consequences for social policy and programs.

Selected Readings:Assignments to be made from these:

M. Weinberg, E. Rubington, and S. Hammersmith, The Solution of Social Problems. Oxford, 1981.

A. Etzioni, Chapter II, "The Main Approaches," Social Problems. Prentice-Hall, 1976.

L. Thurow, Dangerous Currents: The State of Economics. Random, 1983.

J.R. Feagin, Social Problems. Prentice-Hall, 1982.

G. Gilder, Wealth and Poverty. Simon and Schuster, 1980.

R. Reich, "Ideologies of Survival," New Republic, September 20-27, 1983.

A. Toffler, op cit

J. and E. Perry, op cit

Hardert, et. al., op cit

Lipman-Blumen, op cit

Unit C

Discrimination and inequality: its consequences for individual and societal well being and its relationship to social work and social welfare.

Selected Readings:Assignments to be made from these:

W. Ryan, Inequality. Morrow, 1980.

L. Duberman, Social Inequality. Lippincott, 1976.

F. Piven and R.A. Cloward, The New Class War. Pantheon, 1982.

J.R. Feagin and C.B. Feagin, Discrimination American Style. Prentice Hall, 1978.

H.R. Rogers, Poverty and Plenty. Addison-Wesley Co., 1979.

H.P. MacAdoo, "Demographic Trends For People of Color," Social Work, January, 1982.

C. Jenck, "Divorced Mothers Unite," Psychology Today, November, 1982.

Unit C (continued...)

J.W. Green, Cultural Awareness in the Human Services. Prentice Hall, 1982.

A. Toffler, op cit

J. and E. Perry, op cit

Lipman-Blumen, op cit

Hardert, et.al., op cit

G. Guilder, op cit

L. Thurow, op cit

Unit D

Selected social science and economic theories and concepts and their utility and limitations for social work and social welfare.

Selected Readings:Assignments to be made from these:

R.L. Berger and R.C. Federico, Human Behavior: A Social Work Perspective. Longman, 1982.

M. Olsen, The Process of Social Organization. Holt, Rinehart, Winston, 1978.

L. Silk, Economics in Plain English. Touchstone, 1978.

R.A. Wallace and A. Wolf, Contemporary Sociological Theory. Prentice Hall, 1980.

M. Poloma, Contemporary Sociological Theory. Macmillan, 1979.

J.H. Turner, The Structure of Sociological Theory. Dorsey, 1979.

G.C. Kinloch, Sociological Theory. McGraw Hill, 1977.

A. Etzioni, "Human Beings Are Not Very Easy To Change After All."

R. Walton, "Two Strategies of Social Change."

G. Duncan, "Who Gets Ahead."

J. and E. Perry, op cit

J. Palmer and E. Sawhill, The Reagan Record. Urban Institute, 1984.

Hardert, et.al., op cit

Unit D (continued...)

Lipman-Blument, op cit

Unit E

Open systems analysis and its application in the human services field.

Selected Readings:Assignments to be made from these:

C.W. Churchman, The Systems Approach. Prentice Hall, 1966.

M. Rosenberg and R. Brody, Systems Serving People. Case Western Reserve University, 1978.

R.L. Berger and R.C. Federico, op cit

R. Katz and R. Kahn, The Social Psychology of Organizations, Wiley, 1978.

Unit F

Perspectives on the future and their implications for social work and social welfare.

Selected Readings:Assignments to be made from these:

A. Toffler, op cit

A. Toffler, The Third Wave. Anchor Books, 1980.

J. Naisbitt, Megatrends. Warner, 1982.

M. Cetron and T. O'Toole, Encounters with the Future. Random House, 1983.

G. Gallup, Americans Want To Know. A & W, 1983.

J. Schumpeter, Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy. Harper & Row, 1950.

Hardert, et.al., op cit

Lipman-Blumen, op cit

IV. Texts to purchase, specific assignments and expectations will be presented in forthcoming supplements. These may differ depending upon your section.