Days and Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 – 10:50 a.m.
Instructor: Ericka Robinson-Freeman, LMSW
Classroom: COBA Room 140
E-mail: erickarobinson@uta.edu
Contact phone: 817-774-8420
Office Hours: MWF 8:30-10 a.m.; Tues 6-7 p.m.; Thur 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Course Description and Prerequisites
SOCW 3302 HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT II (3-0): The second of two required human behavior courses that explore, within the context of a strengths and empowerment based perspective, knowledge of the bio-psycho-social development of persons from adulthood to death. There is no prerequisite for this class.

Educational Objectives Addressed
1. Apply critical thinking skills within the context of professional social work practice.
2. Understand the value base of the profession and its ethical standards and principles, and practice accordingly.
3. Practice without discrimination and with respect, knowledge, and skill related to client’s age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation.
4. Use theoretical frameworks supported by empirical evidence to understand individual development and behavior across the life span and the interactions among individuals and between individuals and families, groups, organizations, and communities.

This course relates to and advances the program objectives by asking students to think through how to apply the course material, addressing the code of ethics as related to various groups of clients, advancing social and economic justice for oppressed groups, attaining evidence-based knowledge on stages of the life span, culture, small groups, organizations, and communities, and expressing in a written statement plans for life-long learning.

Student Learning Outcomes
1. Students will demonstrate comprehension of the major organizational scheme of social work: reciprocal relationships between human behavior and the social environment.
2. Students will examine theories, concepts, and empirically-based knowledge related to individuals as they live in various systems in their environment: families, groups, organizations, and communities.
3. Students will examine theoretical frameworks for understanding the interactions between and among the various systems such as individuals, groups, societies, and economic systems.
4. Students will examine, apply, and illustrate theories, concepts, and empirically-based knowledge related to individuals as they live in various systems in their environment: families, groups, organizations, and communities.
5. Students will examine, apply, and illustrate the development of persons through the life span based on theories and empirical knowledge of biological sociological, cultural, psychological, and spiritual aspects of development.
6. Students will examine, apply, and illustrate ways in which social systems promote or block the achievement and maintenance of health and well being.
7. Students will distinguish among individuals in terms of race, ethnicity, national origin, social class, religion, physical and mental ability, sexual orientation, and how a particular person is related or not to each area.
8. Students will describe in their own words what their views are of persons of different races, ethnicity, national origin, social class, religion, physical or mental ability, and sexual orientation.
9. Students will distinguish among the codes and values in the NASW Code of Ethics which ones relate directly to human diversity and regard for worth and dignity of all persons. They will assess and discuss what they think about these requirements for all social workers and how they plan to apply them in social work practice to persons who are different from them.

10. Students will describe their plan for further knowledge development about human behavior and the social environment and the life span.

ATTENDANCE POLICY, CLASS PARTICIPATION and COMMUNICATION

Attendance Policy
Due to the format and content of this course, regular and punctual attendance is imperative and expected. Attendance is part of your final grade. As a matter of fairness and equity, anyone missing more than three (3) scheduled class sessions will lose 5 points off his/her attendance-participation grade per day absent (unless emergency/extenuating circumstances as approved by instructor). Additionally, it is expected for students to be on time and not leave early. Repetitive lateness (e.g., 15 minutes late), as well as leaving class early, may affect your final attendance-participation grade. Role will be taken at the beginning of each class. If it is necessary for you to be late or leave class early, please let me know in advance.

Class Participation
It is important for students to come to class prepared to take part in informed discussion each week, based upon the class readings. This part of the grade will be determined by class attendance and participation in discussions.

Communication and Feedback
I will be available by email, phone or text to answer questions about assignments. Students should submit questions or requests for clarification at least 24 hours before an assignment is due. If an assignment is due in less than 24 hours, I cannot guarantee a timely response.

Feedback is two-way! During this course students will be asked to provide feedback on their learning in informal as well as formal ways, including the use of anonymous surveys. It is very important for me to know your reactions to what is taking place in class, so that adjustments can be made if necessary to best meet your needs. If you are concerned about your class performance, I am more than willing to work with you to help you improve your understanding of course content. I am happy to meet with you. Please contact me via email or phone to schedule a time to meet.

Class Environment
It is essential that we create an environment conducive to learning. Please avoid distracting or disrupting the class. There is also the possibility that you may disagree with another student or the instructor. This is to be expected with the issues social workers confront and our tendency to be passionate about our values and opinions. However, it is important that we be respectful of each other and their opinion. Each student will sign a course confidentiality agreement.

Use of technological devices (cell phones, iPods, mp3s, etc) is not permitted during class. A minimum of one (1) point will be deducted from the student’s attendance-participation grade each time an incident occurs. However, the use of a laptop for note-taking is permitted. If you are the caregiver for a child or other family member, you may leave your cell phone on vibrate/silent mode for emergency phone calls (calls should be taken outside the classroom).
Required Textbook

Recommended Text

Readings: Readings will be assigned from the textbooks and may be augmented with class handouts. Additional readings may be assigned that are both relevant to course material and will enhance student learning. A combination of lecture, discussion and in-class and out-of-class exercises (individual and small group) will highlight the major concepts covered in the course.

Blackboard: Blackboard is a Learning Management System licensed by UTA for faculty members to communicate electronically with students. It may be used as a mechanism to deliver supplemental materials. There are many Blackboard features that may be used during the course of this class.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 9 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days (effective November 29, 2012) prior to the first day of final examinations (December 6, 2012) is designated by the University as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMINATIONS, AND GRADING

EXAMS (2) – 30% Each
Two examinations will be given during the semester. The Final Exam (included in the 2 exams given) will NOT be comprehensive. Exam material will come from lectures, assigned readings, and any handouts given in class. Make-up exams will be provided at my discretion. If you must miss an exam for an unavoidable reason, you must contact me by email or phone before the time of the scheduled exam.

Major Paper - Case study - 20%
Description of a person: a child, young adult, midlife adult, or older adult focusing on life stage to reflect your understanding of the person. Apply development theory (ies) in description with internal
citations of text material used. Additional information on the content, style, and grading of this assignment will be provided in class and posted on Blackboard.

**Presentations: (Group) – 15%**
Working in groups of three to five students, students will prepare and make a PowerPoint Presentation demonstrating knowledge of a human development theory within the social environment with special attention to diversity. Students will choose either a middle or later adult age group that represents a diverse population in terms of gender, race/ethnicity, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, and disability. Each group will present a different topic. Presentation length will be limited to 20 minutes. Groups may be given some class time to work on presentations. Additional information on the content, style, and grading of this assignment will be provided in class and posted on Blackboard.

**ATTENDANCE-PARTICIPATION – 5% – (Addresses all learning outcomes)**
Each student is allowed up to three (3) excused absences without grade reduction penalty. Each absence after the third (3rd) absence will result in a 5 point reduction in attendance-participation grade per absence. (e.g. absence #4 = 95, absence #5=90, etc.)

**GRADING**
90 and Above = A
80 - 89.9 = B
70 - 79.9 = C
60 - 69.9 = D
Below 60 = F

Written work must be clear, concise, and grammatically correct. Deficiencies in areas such as spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, and incoherent organization will result in lower grades. Plagiarism (using someone else's words, thoughts, or ideas and claiming them as your own – i.e., using direct sentences written by others) will result in a failing grade for the course.

All papers must follow APA guidelines. At a minimum this means:
- Inclusion of a title page
- Margins set at 1 inch
- 12 point type in Arial or Times New Roman typefaces only
- Page number in upper right corner of the page starting with the title page
- Running head listing the assignment title

Points may be deducted if you do not follow these guidelines.

All written assignments will be due on the date listed on the Course Schedule. **Five points will be deducted for each calendar day the paper is late, including weekends.**

**Course Syllabus Modifications**
Modifications to assignments and the class schedule may be necessary. Modifications to these items and the course syllabus, if needed, will be made at my discretion based on new materials, class discussions, or other needs of the class. Modifications will be distributed to students in a timely fashion either via email, Blackboard, or classroom distribution.

**OTHER INFORMATION AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES**
1. **Dropping the Class:** If you choose to drop this course at any point during the semester, please be attentive to specific University calendar dates established for completing this process. It is the student's responsibility to complete the necessary paperwork according to the University's schedule. **Not doing so will result in a failing grade. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.**

2. **Student Support Services/Student Retention:** The University supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. They include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

3. **Academic Integrity:** It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts" (Regents’Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2). All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

   > *I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence. I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

For this class, be attentive to the manner in which you use and cite reference material. When in doubt, it is best to insert a citation. Avoid the excessive use of quotations – cited or not – and if you use any kind of a writing tutor, be careful about the degree of assistance they provide to you. Assignments are intended to represent YOUR work – for better or worse - so over-reliance on outside help is discouraged.

4. **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):** If you are a student who requires accommodations in compliance with the ADA, please see me at the beginning of the semester. Faculty members are required by law to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364, located in the lower level of the University Center.

5. **Bomb threats:** If anyone is tempted to call in a bomb threat, be aware that UTA will attempt to trace the phone call and prosecute all responsible parties. Every effort will be made to avoid cancellation of presentations/tests caused by bomb threats. Unannounced alternate sites will be available for these classes. Your instructor will make you aware of alternate class sites in the event that your classroom is not available.

6. **Librarian to Contact:** The Social Sciences / Social Work Resource Librarian is John Dillard. His office is in the Social Work Electronic Library (SWEL) located in Building A: Suite 111 of the UTA Social Work Complex at 211 South Cooper Street, Arlington, Texas. He may also be contacted via E-mail: dillard@uta.edu or by Cell phone: (817) 675-8962, or through the SWEL phone: (817) 272-7518. His SWEL office hours are usually: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday through Thursday. The SWEL web page is linked to the School of Social Work Main Page and through the Central Library web page. The SWEL library contains a number of computer work stations and printing facilities, and resource guides for conducting research.

7. **E-Culture Policy:** The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. All communication for this class will be conducted through the UTA email system. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. In particular, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email. All
8. Incompletes: Incompletes are given only in exceptional and very rare situations that involve Acts of Nature and/or other things beyond the ability of the student to anticipate or overcome.

9. Grade Grievance Policy: It is the obligation of the student, in attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor with whom the grievance originated. Individual instructors retain primary responsibility for assigning grades. The instructor's judgment is final unless compelling evidence shows preferential treatment or procedural irregularities. If students wish to appeal, their requests must be submitted in writing on an Academic Grievance Form available in departmental or program offices to the department chair or program director. Before considering a grievance, the department chair or program director will refer the issue to a departmental or program committee of graduate faculty. If the committee cannot reach a decision acceptable to the parties involved, the department chair or program director will issue a decision on the grievance. If students are dissatisfied with the chair or director's decision, they may appeal the case to the academic dean. If they are dissatisfied with the academic dean's decision, they may appeal it to the dean of Graduate Studies. Students have one year from the day grades are posted to initiate a grievance concerning a grade.

10. Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/sfs.
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<td>Middle Adulthood <em>Presentation Assignments</em></td>
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<td>Case Studies – class discussion groups</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving Holidays</td>
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<td>Semester wrap up Review for Final Exam</td>
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