Administrative Unit: Criminal Justice Administration and Social Work Department
Course Prefix and Number: SOWK 360
Course Title: Human Behavior and the Social Environment II

**Digital Descriptions:**

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<tr>
<th>STUDENT DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>PAY-HOUR DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tr>
<td># Cr Hrs — # Lec Hrs — # Lab Hrs</td>
<td>Total # = Lec Hrs + Lab Hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 — 3 — 0</td>
<td>3 = 3 + 0 X ( \frac{2}{3} )</td>
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Catalog Description: This course is designed to provide the student with an understanding of the normal processes of sequential biological, sociological, cultural, psychological, and spiritual development from young adulthood through later adulthood. Systems theory, ecological and strengths perspectives are emphasized as a means to understanding the interactive context of individuals and social systems (families, groups, organizations and communities) as they exist within a social environment and are impacted by a variety of social forces (political, economic, environmental and ideological). Offered Fall.

Prerequisites/Corequisites: SOWK 290.

Text:

Many suitable textbooks are available from various publishers and the following list is not comprehensive. Other textbooks may be judged by individual instructors to be more suitable.


Recommended Supplement:

CSWE Policy Statement:
Social work education programs provide content on the reciprocal relationships between human behavior and social environments. Content includes empirically based theories and knowledge that focus on the interactions between and among individuals, groups, societies, and economic systems. It includes theories and knowledge of biological, sociological, cultural, psychological, and spiritual development across the lifespan; the range of social
systems in which people live (individual, family, group, organizational, and community); and the ways social systems promote or deter people in maintaining or achieving health and well-being.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, student will be able to:

**Knowledge Objectives:**
1. Use theoretical frameworks supported by empirical evidence to understand individual development and behavior from young adulthood through later adulthood;
2. Understand the range of social systems in which people live (individual, family, groups, organizations, and communities);
3. Understand the reciprocal relationships between human behavior and social environments;
4. Understand the ways social systems interact to promote or deter people in maintaining or achieving optimal health and well-being;
5. Understand the influence of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and other attributes upon people's ability to make free and independent decisions and to attain optimal health and social well-being;
6. Understand how oppression, discrimination and inequality of opportunity are manifested on individuals, families, communities, and various populations-at-risk;
7. Understand the influence of religion and spirituality on people's lives;
8. Understand the complex nature of culture and personal identity;
9. Understand how social work practice, client lives, and life choices are influenced by the interaction of bio-psycho-social, spiritual and cultural variables.

**Skill Objectives:**
1. Apply theoretical frameworks as an aid to understanding the interactive context of individuals and social systems (families, groups, communities and organizations) as they exist within a social environment and are impacted by a variety of social forces (political, economic, environmental, and ideological);
2. Identify normal processes of biological, psychological, social and spiritual development from young adulthood through later adulthood;
3. Apply critical thinking skills in assessing the interactions among biological, social, psychological, spiritual and cultural systems as they interact with and influence human behavior;
4. Identify populations at risk, factors that contribute to and constitute being at risk, the dynamics of such risk factors, and strategies to address them;
5. Demonstrate cross-cultural knowledge and an understanding of the history, traditions, values, family systems, and artistic expressions of various racial and ethnic groups.
Value Objectives:
1. Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and advocate for nondiscriminatory social and economic systems;
2. Critically evaluate bio-psycho-social theories in terms of their utility and biases and apply them to ways of ethically addressing the needs of client populations.

Topical Outline:
- Course introduction
- Systems theory, the ecological and strengths perspectives
- The interactive nature of human behavior and the social environment
- The systems impact model
- The influence of human social systems including families, groups, organizations and communities as related to the following development stages:
  - Young Adulthood--Bio-Psycho-Social Variables
  - Middle Adulthood--Bio-Psycho-Social Variables
  - Older Adulthood--Bio-Psycho-Social Variables
- The importance of work
- Family diversity
- Domestic violence
- Substance abuse
- Poverty
- Death, Dying and Grief Management
- Race and ethnicity
- Developing cultural competence
- Gender and sexual orientation
- Spirituality and religion

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 25

Prepared by: Laura M. Parker

Name ___________________________ Signature ___________________________

Date: April 18, 2003

NOTE: The intention of this master course syllabus is to provide a general outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught, or where it is taught. This generic outline is not intended to restrict the way any individual faculty member teaches the course. The master syllabus, therefore, should be general enough to allow for a diversity of individual approaches to teaching the course, while at the same time it provides guidance on what the course should cover.