

**SW 620, Section 1 Fall 2014**

**Contemporary Cultures in the United States**  
**Thursday 2:00-5:00p.m.**

**Robert Joseph Taylor**

**Room 3752 SSWB**

1. Course Description:

This course will explore the origins and development of selected social variables characterizing racial, ethnic, gender, religious, class, ability and other cultural groups in contemporary U.S. society. Social and behavioral science theories and research findings on the allocation of different roles, status, and opportunities to these populations will be studied. Students will use a multidimensional, social justice, and multicultural framework to examine power, privilege, discrimination, and oppression. This course will emphasize that effective social work practice with diverse cultural groups involves understanding professional ethics in the context of the values of both the dominant society and the ethnic community.

2. Course Content:

The course content will include an exploration of historical, social, and political contexts for the study of diverse cultural groups, as gleaned from contemporary social science theories and conceptual frameworks. The current status of these cultural groups will be reviewed, including constructs such as the family, economic and educational attainment, development of informal and formal institutions within the cultural community, and modes of spiritual expression. This course will also explore the impact of multiple social group memberships on social roles, help-seeking and coping behavior, attitudes, and values. In addition, this course will contain a review of the contemporary conceptual frameworks influencing social science knowledge about intergroup relations and conflict, including but not limited to, culturally sensitive practice. The relationships among privilege, discrimination, and oppression for selected cultural groups, and the implications of these forces for social work practice, the administration of human service organizations, and the formulation of public policies will be covered.

4. Course Design:

The course format will include lectures, discussion, individual assignments, and class presentations.

5. Relationship of the Course to Four Curricular Themes:

*Multiculturalism and Diversity* issues will be central to this course. The course will cover non-Hispanic white ethnic groups, Muslims, African Americans, American Indians, Latinos, Asians, as well as women and gender issues.

*Social Justice and Social Change* issues will be discussed throughout this course. Discrimination and micro-aggressions are a major component of this course. The relationships among injustice, conflict, and social change will also be discussed.

*Promotion, Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation* approaches will be addressed within the section examining selected social identity groups in the United States. Students will use a strengths approach which links professional human service delivery systems with those formal and informal systems historically and currently available to these diverse cultural groups.

*Behavioral and Social Science Research* will be used throughout this course and will provide a foundation for evaluating the knowledge base on ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, religion/spirituality, and ability constructs in research and practice.

#### 6. Relationship of the Course to Social Work Ethics and Values:

This course will operationalize the NASW Code of Ethics, as it applies to ethical responsibilities to service consumers (clients), colleagues, and organizations. Other social work codes of ethics will also be examined in the treatment of these ethical responsibilities for selected cultural groups nationally and internationally.

7. *Intensive Focus on Privilege, Oppression, Diversity and Social Justice (PODS)*: This course integrates PODS content and skills with a special emphasis on diversity. In particular, the course investigates ethnic and cultural diversity with regards to racial and ethnic groups (African Americans, Black Caribbeans, Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans and Native Americans, Chinese Americans, Japanese Americans), as well as religious denominations (Muslims).

### **Class Schedule**

#### **September 4 Overview of Course and Disability**

#### **September 11 Religion and Aging, Life Course, Gender and Families**

#### **Required:**

Balkin, R. S., Schlosser, L. Z., & Levitt, D. H. (2009). Religious identity and cultural diversity: Exploring the relationship between religious identity, sexism, homophobia, and multicultural competence. *Journal of Counseling and Development, 87*(4), 420-427.

Silverstein, M. & Giarruso, R. (2010). Aging and Family Life: A Decade Review. *Journal of Marriage and Family, 72*, 1039 – 1058. (Read pages 1039, 1042-1050).

**Optional:**

- Goncalves, D. C., Albuquerque, P. B., Byrne, G. J., & Pachana, N. A. (2009). Assessment of depression in aging contexts: General considerations when working with older adults. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice, 40*(6), 609–616.
- Hodge, D. R. (2011). Using Spiritual Interventions in Practice: Developing Some Guidelines from Evidence-based Practice. *Social Work, 56*, 149-158.
- Thyer, B. A., & Myers, L. L. (2009). Religious discrimination in social work academic programs: Whither social justice? *Journal of Religion & Spirituality in Social Work: Social Thought, 28*, 144-160.

**September 18 LGBT Relationships and Families**

**Required:**

- Haas, A. P., Eliason, M., Mays, V. M., Mathy, R. M., Cochran, S. D., D'Augelli, A. R., ..., et al. (2011). Suicide and suicide risk in lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender populations: Review and recommendations. *Journal of Homosexuality, 58*, 10–51.
- Shelton, K., & Delgado-Romero, E. A. (2011). Sexual orientation microaggressions: The experience of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and queer clients in psychotherapy. *Journal of Counseling Psychology, 58*(2), 210–221.

**Optional:**

- Herek, G. M. (2009). Hate crimes and stigma-related experiences among sexual minority adults in the United States: Prevalence estimates from a national probability sample. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 24*(1), 54-74.

**September 25 American Indians**

**Required:**

- Gone, J. P. (2013). Redressing First Nations historical trauma: Theorizing mechanisms for indigenous culture as mental health treatment. *Transcultural Psychiatry, 50*, 683-706

**Optional:**

Mays, V. M., Gallardo, M., Shorter-Gooden, K., Robinson-Zanartu, C., Smith, M., McClure, F., ..., Ahhaitty, G. (2009). Expanding the circle: Decreasing American Indian mental health disparities through culturally competent teaching about American Indian mental health, *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, 33(3), 61–83.

## **October 2 American Indians 2**

### **Required:**

Walters, K. L., Mohammed, S. A., Evans-Campbell, T., Beltrán, R. E., Chae, D. H., & Duran, B. (2011) Bodies don't just tell stories, they tell histories: Embodiment of Historical Trauma among American Indians and Alaska Natives, *Du Bois Review*, 8, 179–189.

## **October 9 African Americans, Black Caribbeans and Racism and Health**

### **Required:**

Williams, D. R. & Mohammed, S. A. (2013). Racism and health I: Pathways and scientific evidence. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 57, 1152-1173.

Williams, D. R. & Mohammed, S. A. (2013). Racism and health II: A needed research agenda for effective interventions. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 57, 1200-1226.

### **Optional:**

Dominguez, T. P. (2008). Race, racism, and racial disparities in adverse birth outcomes. *Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology*, 51(2), 360–370.

## **October 16 Racial Microaggressions and African Americans, Black Caribbeans continued**

### **Required:**

Sue, D. W., Nadal, K. L., Capodilupo, C. M., Lin, A. I., Torino, G. C. & Rivera, D. P. (2008). Racial microaggressions against Black Americans: Implications for counseling. *Journal of Counseling & Development, 86*, 330-338.

Sue, D. W., Capodilupo, C. M., Torino, G. C., Bucceri, J. M., Holder, A. M. B., Nadal, K. L. & Esquilin, M. (2007). Racial microaggressions in everyday life: Implications for clinical practice. *American Psychologist, 62*(4), 271–286.

**Optional:**

Nadal, K. L., Wong, Y., Griffin, K., Sriken, J., Vargas, V., Wideman, M., & Kolawole, A. (2011). Microaggressions and the multiracial experience. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science, 1*(7), 36-44.

**October 23 Latinos**

**Required:**

Gándara, P. (2010). The Latino Education Crisis, *Educational Leadership, 75*(5).

Guerrero, E.G., Marsh, J. C., Khachikian, T., Amaro, H., Vega, W. A. (2013). Disparities in Latino substance use, service use, and treatment: Implications for culturally and evidence-based interventions under health care reform. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence, 133*, 805-813.

**Optional:**

Guarnaccia, P. J., Pincay, I. M., Alegría, M., Shrout, P. E., Lewis-Fernández, R. & Canino, G. J. (2007). *Assessing Diversity Among Latinos : Results From the NLAAS Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences, 29*, 510

Bauer, A. M., Chen, C., & Alegría, M. (2010). English Language Proficiency and Mental Health Service Use Among Latino and Asian Americans With Mental Disorders, *Medical Care, 48*, 1097-1014.

Tienda, M. & Mitchell, F. (2006). *Multiple origins, uncertain destinies: Hispanics and the American future*. Washington: National Academies Press.

## **October 30 Latinos continued and Asian Americans**

### **Required:**

Sue, D. W., Bucceri, J., Lin, A. I., Nadal, K. L., & Torino, G. C. (2009). Racial microaggressions and the Asian American experience. *Asian American Journal of Psychology, 13*(1), 72-81.

### **Optional:**

Kim, I., Chen, J., & Spencer, M. S. (2012). Social determinants of health and mental health among Asian Americans in the United States. *Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research, 3*, 346-361.

Spencer, M. S., Chen, J., Gee, G. C., Fabian, C. G., & Takeuchi, D. T. (2010). Discrimination and mental health–related service use in a National Study of Asian Americans. *American Journal of Public Health, 100*(12), 2410-2417.

## **November 6 Asian Americans Continued**

### **Required:**

Sue, S., Ka, J., Cheng, Y. & Saad, C. S. (2012). Asian American mental health: A call to action. *American Psychologist, 67*(7), 532–544.

## **November 13 Muslim Americans**

### **Required:**

Ciftci, A., Jones, N. & Corrigan, P. W. (2013). Mental health stigma in the Muslim community. *Journal of Muslim Mental Health, 7*(1), 17-32.

Nadal, K. L., Griffin, K. E., Hamit, S., Leon, J., Tobio, M., & Rivera, D. P. (2012). Subtle and overt forms of Islamophobia: Microaggressions toward Muslim Americans. *Journal of Muslim Mental Health*, 6(2), 15-37.

**Optional:**

Al-Krenawi, A., & Graham, J. R. (2000). Culturally sensitive social work practice with Arab clients in mental health settings. *Health & Social Work*, 9-22.

Amri, S., Bemak, F. (2013) Mental Health Help-Seeking Behaviors of Muslim Immigrants in the United States: Overcoming Social Stigma and Cultural Mistrust. *Journal of Muslim Mental Health*, 7, 43-63

**November 20            Immigration and Non-Hispanic White Ethnic Groups**

**Required:**

Suárez-Orozco, C., Yoshikawa, H., Teranishi, R.T., Suárez-Orozco, M. M. (2011). Growing Up in the Shadows: The Developmental Implications of Unauthorized Status. *Harvard Educational Review*. 81.

Cohen, J. E. (2010). Perceptions of Anti-Semitism among American Jews, 2000–05: A Survey Analysis. *Political Psychology*, 31(1), 85-107.

**November 27 Thanksgiving**

**December 4 Wrap-up, Unanswered Questions**