I. COURSE OVERVIEW

The changing demographics in the world reflect a growing social diversity and require a heightened awareness of the need to develop culturally competent practitioners. A primary challenge is acknowledging our and others multiple social and cultural identities in an inclusive rather than exclusive way. This course is designed to heighten students’ knowledge, awareness and understanding of differences among people, as well as raise students’ consciousness and sensitivity to socially constructed problems resulting from difference. As social workers we engage the world in the service of helping the most vulnerable and disenfranchised populations. Thus, understanding social injustice, the dynamics and consequences of power and oppression on life experiences, and the need for social change become the foundation for a dialogue on diversity of all types. Social workers are the border crossers and agents of change in this experience.

A critical dimension of the course is understanding power, oppression and social justice in the context of ethnicity and race, language, poverty, denial of access to resources and services, powerlessness, racism, sexism, heterosexism/homophobia, classism, and ageism. Through a process of didactic reading, critical thinking and analysis and self-examination, students will explore themselves and the society in which we live, develop an appreciation for the multifaceted meanings of diversity, and cultivate professional alternatives for combating discrimination, stereotyping and oppression across age groups, races, genders, classes, religions, physical and mental disabilities, and sexual orientation.

The course is the second in a series of courses that focuses on self-awareness and builds upon the understanding developed in HBSE I and lays the groundwork for Jewish Social Philosophy. Additionally, the macro focus continues the consciousness begun in Social Welfare Organization and continues to build a foundation for the macro methods approaches. While practice is not a co-requisite of this course, the nature of practice issues related to diversity is presented as a foundation for working with differences, understanding issues of oppression and privilege, and developing an appreciation for the social justice and non-judgmental perspectives of the social work profession.

II. COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this course, students will demonstrate:

1. Acquisition of knowledge in understanding the historical accounts of the relations among various populations and the current status of those relations and issues.
2. An ability to define and analyze diversity, oppression and social justice.

3. An ability to critically articulate an understanding of the interrelatedness of eliminating oppression, promoting social justice and appreciating diversity.

4. An understanding of the societal forces that operate to maintain and create group boundaries and power differences;

5. Critical development of self-awareness in dealing with individuals who are different from oneself;

6. Self-awareness about one’s own cultural heritage, background, and biases through class discussion and class exercises.

7. An understanding of the effects of institutional and individual prejudice and discrimination in the helping process

8. Knowledge of the impact of migration and immigration on individual, group and institutional behavior

9. The ability to critically articulate an appreciation of the different support systems devised by various ethnic and racial groups to cope with hostile social/political environments;

10. An understanding of the evolving impact roles of power, control and access to resources have on the ethnic/racial/gender experience

11. The knowledge of social work values and ethics and an ability to incorporate them into a conceptual frame that fosters a commitment to combating oppression, social injustice in both direct and indirect service delivery and advocating on behalf of disenfranchised or less powerful populations.

II. COURSE COMPETENCIES

COURSE COMPETENCIES
This course addresses Council on Social Work Education Competencies #1, #2 and #3. Competency #2 is measured with student outcome data.

Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior

Social workers understand the value base of the profession and its ethical standards, as well as relevant laws and regulations that may impact practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels. Social workers understand frameworks of ethical decision-making and how to apply principles of critical thinking to those frameworks in practice, research, and policy arenas. Social workers recognize personal values and the distinction between personal and professional values. They also understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions influence their professional judgment and behavior. Social
workers understand the profession’s history, its mission, and the roles and responsibilities of the profession. Social Workers also understand the role of other professions when engaged in inter-professional teams. Social workers recognize the importance of life-long learning and are committed to continually updating their skills to ensure they are relevant and effective. Social workers also understand emerging forms of technology and the ethical use of technology in social work practice.

Social workers make ethical decisions by applying the standards of the NASW Code of Ethics, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical decision-making, ethical conduct of research, and additional codes of ethics as appropriate to context;

Social workers use reflection and self-regulation to manage personal values and maintain professionalism in practice situations.

Social workers demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior; appearance; and oral, written, and electronic communication.

Social workers use technology ethically and appropriately to facilitate practice outcomes; and

Social workers use supervision and consultation to guide professional judgment and behavior.

**Competency 3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice**

Social workers understand that every person regardless of position in society has fundamental human rights such as freedom, safety, privacy, an adequate standard of living, health care, and education. Social workers understand the global interconnections of oppression and human rights violations, and are knowledgeable about theories of human need and social justice and strategies to promote social and economic justice and human rights. Social workers understand strategies designed to eliminate oppressive structural barriers to ensure that social goods, rights, and responsibilities are distributed equitably and that civil, political, environmental, economic, social, and cultural human rights are protected.

Social workers apply their understanding of social, economic, and environmental justice to advocate for human rights at the individual and system levels;

Social workers engage in practices that advance social, economic and environmental justice.

**III. COURSE COMPETENCY OUTCOMES**

Competency 2 is measured with student outcome data.

**Competency 2: Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice**
Social workers understand how diversity and difference characterize and shape the human experience and are critical to the formation of identity. The dimensions of diversity are understood as the intersectionality of multiple factors including but not limited to age, class, color, culture, disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, marital status, political ideology, race, religion/spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status. Social workers understand that, as a consequence of difference, a person’s life experiences may include oppression, poverty, marginalization, and alienation as well as privilege, power, and acclaim. Social workers also understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and recognize the extent to which a culture’s structures and values, including social, economic, political, and cultural exclusions, may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create privilege and power.

Social workers apply and communicate understanding of the importance of diversity and difference in shaping life experiences in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels;

Social workers present themselves as learners and engage clients and constituencies as experts of their own experiences; and

Social workers apply self-awareness and self-regulation to manage the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse clients and constituencies.

**Competency #2 Measures**

**Competency Indicators 2A, 2B, and 2C**

2A - Recognizes the extent to which a culture’s structures and values may oppress, marginalize, alienate, create or enhance privilege and power.

2B – Gains sufficient self-awareness to eliminate the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse groups.

2C – Recognizes and communicates their understanding of the importance of difference in shaping life experience.

**PLAGIARISM**

Students should remember that the School will not condone plagiarism in any form and will sanction acts of plagiarism. A student who presents someone else’s work as his or her own work is stealing from the authors or persons who did the original thinking and writing. Plagiarism occurs when a student directly copies another's work without citation; when a student paraphrases major aspects of another's work without citation; and when a student combines the work of different authors into a new statement without reference to those authors. It is also plagiarism to use the ideas and/or work of another student and present them as your own. It is not plagiarism to formulate your own presentation of an idea or concept as a reaction to someone else's work; however, the work to which you are reacting should be discussed and appropriately cited. Any student who can be shown to have plagiarized any part of any assignment in this course will automatically **FAIL** the course and will be referred to the Associate Dean for disciplinary
action that may include expulsion.

**HIPAA ALERT**
In line with the new HIPAA regulations concerning protected health information, it is important that you understand that any case information you present from your work, will need to be de-identified. What this means is that any information that would allow another to identify the person needs to be changed or eliminated. This includes obvious things like names and birth dates but may also contain other information that is so unique to the person that it will allow for identification, including diagnosis, race/ethnicity, or gender. If diagnosis, race/ethnicity, or gender is directly related to the case presentation it can be included if it will not allow for identification.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**
Given the nature of classroom discussion and the presentation of case materials and at times personal revelation in class, students are reminded that the same commitment to confidentiality with clients extends to classmates. What is shared in class stays in class.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**
Students with disabilities who are enrolled in this course and who will be requesting documented disability-related accommodations are asked to make an appointment with the Office of Disability Services, Abby Kelsen, MSW at 646-685-0118, akelsen@yu.edu, during the first week of class. After approval for accommodations is granted, please submit your accommodations letter to Disability Services Office immediately.

**E-RES (Electronic Reserve)**
Most of the articles mentioned in the curriculum are available on electronic reserve [ERES]. You can access the full text articles from your home or from a university computer at no charge.

**How do I Use E-RES?**
1. Go to the library’s online resources page:
   
   [http://www.yu.edu/libraries/online_resources.asp](http://www.yu.edu/libraries/online_resources.asp)

2. Click on E-RES. If you are off-campus, at this point you will be prompted for your Off Campus Access Service login and password.

3. Click on “Search E-RES” or on “Course Index,” and search by instructor's name, department, course name, course number, document title, or document author. [all Foundations courses will be listed under Streets, the sequence chair]

4. Click on the link to your course.
5. Enter the password given to you by your instructor.

**ERES PASS WORD FOR SPRING 2016 IS SPRSC.**

6. Locate and click on the item you wish to view. Titles beginning with "A", "An", or "The" are alphabetized under "A" and "T" respectively.

7. When the article text or book record appears on the screen, you can print, email, or save it to disk.

To view documents that are in pdf format, the computer you are using must have Adobe Acrobat Reader software. You can download it FREE at www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html

### III. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

**Course Requirements**

Students are expected to attend all classes and to be on time. Tardiness is not acceptable, it is considered unprofessional behavior.

#### Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Attendance. Class participation which may include role play, short presentations and/or quizzes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Assignment 1: Reflection on Self and Diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Assignment 2: Midterm: Self Awareness through Film</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Assignment 3: Final: Diversity and the Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Additional short assignments:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students are expected to complete assigned readings and to be prepared for participation in class discussion.

**A. Required Texts**


*The book can also be found at:* https://libcom.org/files/FreirePedagogyoftheOppressed.pdf


**PLEASE NOTE: ADDITIONAL READINGS WILL BE ASSIGNED THOROUGHOUT THE COURSE.**

**B. Supplemental Texts**


**ASSIGNMENTS**

**ASSIGNMENT I- Due Session 3- REFLECTION ON SELF AND DIVERSITY**

This assignment is an opportunity for you to think about and examine yourself, your thoughts, your ways of knowing, your ways of being and your behavior. It is an opportunity for you to begin to hear and define your voice. We often define our voice in the romanticized process of what should be or might be, however, we need to learn to define our voice within the reality of life. Thus, we must accept the sameness and difference in our values and beliefs with all the fallibilities.

This is a self-reflective paper and does not require use of theoretical material. You are to write a 3-4 page paper, (NO MORE), reflecting on the following areas. (1) Who are you? Consider the factors of gender, ethnicity, racial identity, sexual orientation, disability and ability, nationality, citizenship status, age, and economic/class status. (2) How do you imagine others perceive you? How do you feel about their perception? How would you like others to perceive you? How do your cultural background, group identities, values and beliefs fit with your definition of the majority cultural group? (Define and describe the majority cultural group.) What attributes or dimensions influence the difference between you and those you may consider “other”? (3) How do your ethnicity, religious beliefs, culture and socio-economic status, values, social privilege or disenfranchisement and previous education inform the way you think about and respond to issues of diversity and social justice?
This paper is self-reflective, therefore the criteria for grading will be how well you are able to articulate your thoughts in writing rather than the accuracy of content. All papers must be typed double spaced using 12 point font. Place the cover page at the end of the paper so that the identity of the writer is not known until after the paper is read and graded. LATE PAPERS ARE NOT ACCEPTED.

ASSIGNMENT II-Due Session 7- SELF AWARENESS THROUGH FILM Competency #1

This second assignment requires that you watch the film, The Visitor, and respond to a series of questions. In the film there is a protagonist and a different social conflict that offers you an opportunity to explore an experience different from your usual family, work, community or group experience. The difference may relate to gender, ethnicity, racial identity, religion, spirituality and the full spectrum of beliefs, political ideology, sexual orientation, age, economic/class status, national identity, immigration status, and different abilities.

You are to answer the following questions in this Essay. This should not be written in question and answer, it is an essay. Support your insights with class readings and discussions. Use examples from the film to validate your impressions and be as specific as possible.

1. How do the protagonists or social conflicts in The Visitor offer an opportunity for you to explore a lived experience that is different from yours?
2. Who is the visitor? (And why?)
3. How do factors of intersectionality at the micro level, (e.g. class, age, ethnicity, immigration status etc.) of the lived experience reflect multiple inter-locking systems of privilege and oppression at the macro, social structural level (e.g. racism, classism, ageism etc.).
4. What specific examples of are there of group put downs, stereotypes, myths, and conflicts? How do these alter, develop or change in the film?
5. How do examples of oppression, marginalization, discrimination, ethno-centrism, privilege and powerlessness affect the experiences, interactions and growth of the character(s) in the film?
6. Using the film as an example, discuss Freire’s, (2006) observation that “the oppressors do not perceive their monopoly on having more as a privilege which dehumanizes others and themselves…The oppressed are regarded as potent enemies who must be watched” (p. 59).
7. Using the film as an example, in the context of “humanization” and “dehumanization”, what does Freire (2006) mean when he observes that “almost always the oppressed, instead of striving for liberation tend to become oppressors” (p.45)?
8. What examples of strengths, perseverance, empowerment, resilience, pride, and/or determination did you observe among the characters’ behaviors and the playing out of social conflicts in the film?
9. What did you learn about the cultures portrayed in the film? What surprised you?
ASSIGNMENT III Final -Due Session 13- UNDERSTANDING AND EXPLORING A DIVERSE COMMUNITY-A WALKING TOUR

This assignment gives you the opportunity to explore a community different from your own and fairly unfamiliar to you. You may visit the community in groups but each paper must be written by the individual student. Depending on the day of the week and the time of day, you may have access to different community resources. During the course of your visit you should speak with residents, and community professionals. Attempt to interview a local politician, a member of the police department, clergy from a religious institution, and/or the head of a social service agency.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMUNITY: This should include the name and definition of boundaries of the community. How did it get its name? Who lives in this community? What is the total census for this community? Is there an identifiable group living in this community that might be defined by the majority culture as having “minority group status”? When did those with minority group status begin to move into this community?

HISTORY: What historical events of the 19th and 20th centuries had an impact on this community? Is there evidence that the community is changing? Define. Is there more than one cultural group in the community? When did various immigrant groups begin to move into this community? What is the history of the interaction between and among the groups? What tensions if any exist between the groups today?

COMMUNITY RESOURCES: What is the evidence of sufficient or insufficient available resources to meet the needs of the community? (e.g. garbage collection, hospitals and clinics, schools, religious institutions, grocery stores, clothes stores,
restaurants, libraries, housing, newspapers, police station). Describe the availability and condition of the resources.

**RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**: What recreational facilities are available? Identify historical sites, cultural sites, play opportunities for children and adults, parks. Are the facilities accessible to all group members in the community?

**IMPRESSIONS AND CRITICAL ANALYSIS**: Did you observe indications of possible oppression, powerlessness, discrimination, racism, classism, ageism, ethnocentrism, and/or hetero-sexism?
Is there evidence of segregation in housing, education or health care? What examples of cooperation exists in the community? Were there differences in different parts of the community? What were the positive and negative issues related to diversity and intersectionality in the community? What are the macro level issues that might influence the discrete functioning of individuals in this community? What are some of the mitigating circumstances that might explain some of the “negative” impressions of and functioning in the community? (If appropriate)

Given the facts of your observations and interviews, what was surprising, unusual or upsetting to you? How might this community support or hinder the growth and development of individuals who live here? What were your feelings and reactions walking through the community? In what ways are you similar or different from the members of the community? Did you learn something about yourself in doing this assignment? What? You are a community social worker who has the opportunity to speak to the Community Board and recommend how to resolve one need in the community. Identify what you believe to be the primary need of the community, briefly explain the impact on quality of life of the residents, and recommend an action/plan to meet the need. This paper should be no less than 10 and no more than 12 written pages plus a reference page. You must use both texts and a minimum of 7 additional resources. Use APA 6 style of writing. Place the face sheet at the end of the paper. LATE PAPERS ARE NOT ACCEPTED.

**Competency #2 Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice**

**Competency #2 Measures**

**Competency Indicators 2A, 2B, and 2C**

2A - Recognizes the extent to which a culture’s structures and values may oppress, marginalize, alienate, create or enhance privilege and power.
2B – Gains sufficient self-awareness to eliminate the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse groups.
2C – Recognizes and communicates their understanding of the importance of difference in shaping life experience.

**COURSE OUTLINE**
I. CONCEPTUAL OVERVIEW FOR UNDERSTANDING HUMAN DIVERSITY & CULTURALLY COMPETENT SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

Content Covered:
- Social justice as the foundation of diversity education
- Societal forces that operate to maintain and create group boundaries.
- The roles of power, control and access to resources as they impinge on the ethnic/racial and gender experiences.
- Examples of multicultural social work practice
- Opportunities for student self-awareness about one’s own identity

Required Readings:


Part I: Cultural diversity and social work

Chapter 1-“Culture”. Culture affects individual behavior; social workers can acknowledge different backgrounds and acquire skills to work with different groups.

Chapter 2- Cultural diversity, oppression and action: A culturally-grounded paradigm”. The effects of oppression on members of different cultural groups require that social workers use a cultural approach to empower members of the group and their communities.

Chapter 3 “The intersectionality of race and ethnicity with other factors”. The complexity of intersectionality in human experience has a profound effect on the development of multiple identities.


**Additional Readings:**


**II. UNDERSTANDING RACE/RACISM/ETHNICITY & PRIVILEGE**

**Content Covered:**
- Developing empathy for clients (including individuals, families, groups & communities) who are racially/ethnically different from oneself
- The effects of institutional and individual prejudice and racism in the helping process
- The effects of race and racism on client lives and the role of ethnicity in the helping process
- The role of racial and class privilege in the helping process

**Required Readings:**


• [http://www.vanderbilt.edu/cft/resources/newsletters/vol2-2/mcintosh.htm](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/cft/resources/newsletters/vol2-2/mcintosh.htm)


• You Tube- Black Lives Matter

**Additional Readings**


**III. THEORIES AND PERSPECTIVES ON DIVERSITY AND OPPRESSION**

**Content Covered**

• Theoretical perspectives on diversity
• Social work perspectives on diversity
• Globalization of social work

**Required Reading**

Part II Theories and perspectives on oppression 73-164

Chapter 4 Exploration of diversity requires understanding the social and cultural contexts in relation to the social and political forces that shape oppression and inequality.

Chapter 5 The different theoretical perspectives inform our understanding of diversity and intergroup relations.

Chapter 6 The existing socioeconomic and racial disparities inform the development of disease and social problems.

Chapter 7 Contemporary social work theories borne of these perspectives with a focus on resiliency

You Tube - Black Lives Matter

**IV. CULTURAL IDENTITIES**

**Content Covered:**
- The role of gender in the lives of clients (including individuals, families, groups, & communities)
- The forces such as sexism and misogyny in human cultures
- How women’s lives are affected by these forces
- How forces such as sexism overlap with racism in the helping encounter with clients
- The importance of developing self-awareness and empathy related to gender

**Required Readings:**


Part III Cultural Identities

- Chapter 8-Formation and legacies of racial and ethnic minorities  The social and historical contexts of minority status informs the definition of current demands.

- Chapter 9- Gender The historical contexts of gender awareness must be understood in terms of intersectionality and socialization

- Chapter 10- Sexual Orientation Social categorization of individuals in terms of sexual orientation informs their status in society and self esteem
Additional Readings:


- Lewis, S. (2004), AIDS has a woman’s face. *Ms. (Fall), 27-28.*


V. UNDERSTANDING HETEROSEXISM, HOMOPHOBIA AND GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER CLIENTS

Content Covered:

- The role of sexual identity in the lives of clients (including individuals, families, groups, and communities)
- The forces such as heterosexism and homophobia in human cultures
- How gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered clients are affected by these forces
- How forces such as heterosexism overlap with sexism and racism in the helping encounter with clients
The importance of developing self-awareness and empathy related to gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered clients

**Required Readings:**


- Chapter 10-Sexual orientation and society’s response can affect the development of behavior

- Freire: Chapter 3

**Additional Readings:**


VI. UNDERSTANDING AGING AND AGEISM; UNDERSTANDING DISABILITIES

**Content Covered:**

- The role of aging in the lives of clients (including individuals, families, groups, and communities)
- The role of disability in client lives
- The forces such as ageism in human cultures
- How clients are affected by age, ageism, and the experience of disability
- How forces such as ageism overlaps with sexism and racism in the helping encounter with clients
- The importance of developing self-awareness and empathy related to age and disability

**Required Readings:**


• Freire: Chapter 4


VII. UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENCES IN RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY

**Content Covered:**

- Social work values related to diverse religions and spirituality practices
- Identities, and oppression experienced by members of diverse religions and
spiritual practices

- Forces such as anti-Semitism in the lives of clients (including individuals, families, groups and communities)
- Ways of communicating religious and spiritual competence in encounters with clients
- The importance of developing self-awareness and empathy related to different religions/spiritual practices

**Required Readings:**


**Part I Cultural diversity and social work**

- Chapter 3-“ Intersectionality of race and ethnicity with other factors”, 42-55

**Part IV The profession of social work grounded in culture**

- Chapter 12-“ Culturally grounded community based helping” 216-228

**Additional Readings:**


**VII. UNDERSTANDING THE EXPERIENCE OF ETHNIC GROUPS**

*Written Assignment on Diverse Communities is due on the 13th Session*

**Content Covered:**
- The impact of migration and immigration on individual, group, and institutional behavior
- The experiences of people seeking asylum in the United States
- Ways to communicate cultural competency to immigrant, refugee, or asylum seeking individuals, families, and communities
- The importance of developing self-awareness and empathy related to the immigrant or refugee experience, both nationally and internationally

**Required Reading:**


- Chapter 7-“The formation of legacies of racial and ethnic minorities 114-135

**Additional Readings:**


**USEFUL WEB PAGES** (Many contain links to other related pages)

- [Amnesty International](http://www.amnesty.org)
Anti-Defamation League (ADL)
http://www.adl.org/

Association for Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
http://www.aapcho.org/

FEDSTATS - Federal Interagency Council on Statistical Policy
http://www.fedstats.gov/

Feminist Majority Foundation
http://www.feminist.org/

Foundation for Ethnic Understanding
http://www.ffeu.org/

Gerontological Association of the United States
http://www.geron.org/

Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD)
http://www.glaad.org/

Human Rights Campaign
http://www.hrc.org/

Institute on Independent Living
http://www.independentliving.org/

National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium
http://www.napalc.org/

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
http://www.naacp.org/

National Coalition of Hispanic Health and Human Services Organization
http://www.cossmho.org/

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF)
http://www.ngltf.org/

National Low Income Housing Coalition
http://www.nlihc.org/

National Urban League
http://www.nul.org/

Native American’s Rights Fund (NARF)
National Organization for Women (NOW)  
http://www.now.org/

Simon Wiesenthal Center  
http://www.wiesenthal.com/

Women’s Equality in Access to Care and Treatment  
www.we-actx.org/

Women for Women International  
Womenforwomen.org

World Association of People with Disabilities  
http://www.wapd.org/

The Stephen Lewis Foundation (Women & AIDS in Africa)  
http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY
ARTICLES


**BOOKS**


