Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed to assist students in understanding and valuing diversity so that they can strive towards becoming increasingly culturally competent. Specifically, students will be asked to examine their own cultural background, values, and biases, and the impact of those things on them as professionals. We will explore various cultural groups, examine influences of different cultural assumptions and worldviews, and consider counseling strategies through in-class exercises, videos, discussions, and experiential components.

The primary objectives of this course are:

(1) to increase students’ awareness of their own cultural background, biases, and worldviews

(2) to increase students’ knowledge and understanding of the experiences and histories of various cultural groups within the United States

(3) to increase students’ ability to develop appropriate intervention strategies

(4) to introduce students to the multicultural counseling research literature. Ultimately, the goal is for students to understand the social-cultural contexts of human development and behavior and to be able to competently apply the knowledge base of their discipline in a culturally-responsive manner.

IDEA Objectives
1. Gaining a basic understanding of the subject (e.g., factual knowledge, methods, principles, generalizations, theories)
2. Developing knowledge and understanding of diverse perspectives, global awareness, or other cultures
3. Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)

IDEA Course Evaluation Link for Students

Each course you take in the School of Education is evaluated through the IDEA Campus Labs system. We ask that when you receive an email alerting you that the evaluation is available that you promptly complete it. To learn more about IDEA or to access the website directly to complete your course evaluation go to: http://luc.edu/idea/ and click on STUDENT IDEA LOGIN on the left hand side of the page

School of Education Conceptual Framework

Social Action Through Education CF: As a professional counselor, higher education professional, school psychologist, or counseling psychologist you can be a vehicle for justice in whatever setting you work. This class is designed to help you consider social justice as a critical aspect of your professional work

Course Requirements

You will write a 5-7 page paper describing your cultural identity. The project asks you to consider your racial/ethnic, gender, socioeconomic, and sexual orientation identities and how they have shaped your life experiences. What factors have contributed to the development of your cultural identity? Specifically, how has your identity been influenced by your experiences of oppression, power, and privilege? What values and perspectives of the world around you can you attribute to your cultural identity? Include examples of specific life experiences that you consider relevant. For example, what are your earliest memories of an experience involving race? Gender? Describe the impact of your cultural identity on your ideas/views of therapy.

Grading rubric
1 – 13 points “FAIR/POOR” Did not address topic, minimal self-reflection
14 – 20 points “GOOD” Answered all questions adequately, self-reflection is somewhat superficial
21 – 25 points “EXCELLENT” Shows superior insight and self-reflection ability, willingness to be open

*Cultural Autobiography due on March 22

2. Learning Excursions (5 points each)

You will complete two learning excursions of your own choosing during the semester. The excursions are designed to increase your knowledge of the experiences of others by stepping outside of your personal comfort zone. Chicago is rich in cultural diversity, and you will have the opportunity to explore a culture different from your own. You may choose to attend a religious service, movie/concert, attend a lecture, go to a neighborhood festival, go to a museum, attend a play, explore a neighborhood, etc. It is recommended that you discuss your excursions with the instructor before you "travel". You may collaborate with other classmates on these excursions (although reaction papers are to be submitted individually). After each excursion, you will write a 1-2 page typed reaction paper about your experience for each excursion.

Questions to consider for your reaction paper include the following (but not limited to):
What were your preconceptions about the group?
What was it like to be in the minority during this experience? What feelings did you experience?
What did you learn about this cultural group?
What did you learn about yourself?

Grading Rubric

1 – 2 points “FAIR/POOR”: Does not address each question, minimal self – reflection
3 points “GOOD”: Describes background adequately, self-reflection is somewhat superficial
4 – 5 points “EXCELLENT”: Shows superior insight and self-reflection ability, willingness to be open to self – exploration, clearly written

*Learning Excursion papers are due on February 22 and April 5

3. Novel Paper (20 points)

This assignment is designed to increase students’ knowledge and understanding of the experiences of a cultural group different from their own and to aid students in thinking about intervention strategies and issues of social justice. This is an opportunity to gain an insider's perspective into a racial, ethnic, cultural group that the student does not know very much about. Students will read a contemporary novel or autobiography set in the United States representing a racial, ethnic, or cultural group about which that they need to learn more about. Students will write a 3 –4 page reaction paper discussing their initial assumptions about the cultural group and answering the following questions:
What injustices and inequities were faced by the characters?

How did the main character feel about their cultural identity?

If this character presented for counseling what sort of treatment goals and intervention strategies might be appropriate?

What new knowledge or insights have you gained from the book?

What sort of social justice implications arise from this book?

Grading Rubric

1 – 13 points “POOR/FAIR”: Too much summary and not enough analysis, did not address each question, several APA style errors

14 – 20 points “MARGINAL/GOOD”: Adequately addresses each question, cursory response to treatment goals or ignores/minimizes cultural issues, minimal self-reflection

21 – 25 points “VERY GOOD/EXCELLENT”: Answers to each question demonstrate superior knowledge of the constructs of oppression and cultural identity, treatment goals were creative, superior insight and reflection, flawless APA style

*Novel Paper due April 26

4. Group Presentation (25 points)

Student will form groups and sign up a topic related to working with diverse populations. Please select an issue that is particularly relevant for the population that you have selection. For your presentation, please highlight the history of the issue that you have identified and related counseling implications. You should prepare a handout for your peers that includes useful references and resources related to your presentation topic.

Presentation Topics:

Topic 1: Counseling American Indians/Native Americans and Alaska Natives
Topic 2: Counseling Latinas/os
Topic 3: Counseling African Americans
Topic 4: Counseling Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders
Topic 5: Counseling Arab Americans & Muslim Americans
Topic 6: Counseling Jewish Americans
Topic 7: Counseling Women
Topic 8: Counseling Older Adults
5. Reaction Papers (5 points each)

You will write three reaction papers over the course of the semester. These assignments are similar to journal entries, which should explore the cognitive and affective reactions you experience in response to course reading material, in-class discussions and activities, and assignments. The reaction papers are a place for you to reflect on your internal process during and outside of class. Each paper should be 1-2 pages

Grading Rubric

1 – 2 points “FAIR/POOR”: Minimal self–reflection

3 points “GOOD”: Self-reflection is somewhat superficial

4 – 5 points “EXCELLENT”: Shows superior insight and self-reflection ability, willingness to be open to self – exploration, clearly written

Reaction papers due on February 8, March 15, and April 19

LiveText

All students, except those who are non-degree, must have access to LiveText to complete the benchmark assessments aligned to the Conceptual Framework Standards and all other accreditation, school-wide and/or program-wide related assessments. You can access more information on LiveText here: LiveText.

Evaluation

Grades will be distributed according to the following scale and will be based on the course requirements as listed in this syllabus:

Cultural Autobiography Paper- 25 points
Reactions Papers 20points total
(2) Learning Excursions- 5 points each/10 point total
Novel Paper- 20 points
Class Presentation- 25points

Total points = 100

Late work will have a 5% grade deduction for each day beyond the due date. No papers will be accepted 4 days after the due date without prior permission from the instructor. In case of urgent personal emergencies, the instructor should be contacted as soon as possible to discuss alternative arrangements. Please note that computer and work related difficulties are not considered personal emergencies and therefore students should plan accordingly.

Final Grading Scale (total points out of 100):

100-93 A, 92-90 A-, 89-87 B+, 86-83 B, 82-80 B-, 79-70 C, 69 and below F

Note: Attendance is mandatory. Students should see the course catalogue for the official attendance policy.

Course Schedule

January 18  Introduction and Course Overview
              Ground Rules, Dialogue, and Communication

January 25  Intersection of Identities
            Hays Addressing Article

February 1  The Color of Fear (Film)
            Chapter 1

February 8  The Color of Fear Cont’d
            Power, Privilege, & Oppression
            Chapters 2 & 3
            Vera & Speight (2003)
            Reaction Paper #1

February 15 Political & Social Justice Implications
            Chapters 4 & 6
            Microagressions
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 22</td>
<td>Social Class</td>
<td>Chapter 25</td>
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<td>Excursion #1</td>
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<td>March 1</td>
<td>Gender</td>
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<td>March 8</td>
<td>No Class: Spring Break</td>
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<td>March 15</td>
<td>Religion and Spirituality</td>
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<td>Reaction Paper #2</td>
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<td>March 22</td>
<td>Race &amp; Ethnicity</td>
<td>Chapters 11 &amp; 12</td>
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<td>Whiteness &amp; Privilege</td>
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<td>March 29</td>
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<td>April 5</td>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
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<td>April 12</td>
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<td>April 19</td>
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Please note that the course schedule is tentative and subject to change. If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to check on announcements made while you were absent.

Syllabus Addendum Link

- [www.luc.edu/education/syllabus-addendum/](http://www.luc.edu/education/syllabus-addendum/)

This link directs students to statements on essential policies regarding academic honesty, accessibility, ethics line reporting and electronic communication policies and guidelines. We ask that you read each policy carefully.

This link will also bring you to the full text of our conceptual framework that guides the work of the School of Education – Social Action through Education.

Diversity

The School Counseling Program is committed to issues of diversity including, but not limited to, race, gender, sexual orientation, social class, ethnicity, ability status. This class is designed to facilitate your development as a culturally competent professional, able to work effectively with diverse clients and communities.

Dispositions

All students are assessed on one or more dispositional areas of growth across our programs: Professionalism, Inquiry, and Social Justice. The instructor in your course will identify the
dispositions assessed in this course and you can find the rubrics related to these dispositions in LiveText. For those students in non-degree programs, the rubric for dispositions may be available through Sakai, TaskStream or another platform. Disposition data is reviewed by program faculty on a regular basis. This allows faculty to work with students to develop throughout their program and address any issues as they arise.