

PSY510 Social and Cultural Issues in Counseling

Reformed Theological Seminary - Orlando
Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., 3 credit hours
Fall Semester, 2008
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PURPOSE

The purpose of this course is to expose students to the psychosocial similarities, differences, and adversities which exist among people groups in the United States and to encourage the development of (1) a healthy awareness/understanding of people both inside and outside the student's frame of reference, (2) an understanding of his/her own learned and socially prescribed attitudes and beliefs concerning "others," and (3) a multidimensional contextual framework for understanding people and providing counseling services.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will:

1. Identify and evaluate his/her own cultural values, attitudes, and behaviors and how they affect his/her ability to develop effective counseling relationships with persons from other cultures/people groups.
2. Increase his/her respect for persons with cultural values different from his/her own.
3. Be a learner in a cross-cultural situation.
4. Develop an understanding of the attitudes, beliefs, understandings, acculturative experiences, and mental health needs of various people groups.
5. Be able to identify barriers to effective multidimensional contextual counseling.
6. Be a more culturally competent counselor.
7. Be familiar with various theories of multicultural counseling and identity development.

LEARNING FORMAT

Students will learn through lecture, class discussion, small group interactions, student presentations, guest lecture, cross-cultural immersion experiences and interviews, and self-assessment exercises.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Berry, W. (1989). *The hidden wound*. New York: North Point.
Lingenfelter, S. G., & Mayers, M. K. (2003). *Ministering cross-culturally: An incarnational model for personal relationships (2nd ed.)*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker.

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED READING

Dyrness, W. A. (1997). *The earth is God's: A theology of American culture*. New York: Orbis. Chapters 3-4.
Paniagua, F. A. (2005). *Assessing and treating culturally diverse clients: A practical guide*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. Chapters 3-6.

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED READING

Romanowski, William W. (2001). *Eyes wide Open: Looking for God in popular culture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Chapters 2-3.

The following articles (available on reserve in the library) by John Piper:

The Reformed Faith and Racial Harmony

The Sovereignty of God and the Soul Dynamic: God-centered Thinking and the Black Experience in America, Past and Future

Every Race to Reign and Worship

Class, Culture and Ethnic Identity in Christ

Race and Cross

God Pursuit of Racial Diversity at Infinite Cost

Jesus Is the End of Ethnocentrism

Taking the Swagger Out of Christian Cultural Influence

SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Aug. 26	Principles of Multidimensional Contextual Counseling	
Sept. 9	Principles of Multidimensional Contextual Counseling	Romanowski, Ch. 2-3; Piper
Sept. 16	Principles of Multidimensional Contextual Counseling	Dyrness, Ch. 3-4
Sept. 23	“The Color of Fear” with discussion	
Sept. 30	Principles of Multidimensional Contextual Counseling	Lingenfelter/Mayers
Oct. 7	African Americans	Paniagua, Ch. 3; Berry
Oct. 14	No class, fall break	
Oct. 21	Latinos and Latinas	Paniagua, Ch. 4
Oct. 28	Asian and Pacific Islander	Paniagua, Ch. 5
Nov. 4	Native Americans	Paniagua, Ch. 6
Nov. 11	Gay Men	
Nov. 18	Lesbians	
Nov. 25	Women	
Dec. 2	People with Disabilities	

REQUIREMENTS

1. Complete assigned reading.
2. Participation in structured exercises and class discussion. This class is experiential and participatory. You will be graded on your participation.
3. Classroom presentation. Each student will be assigned a specific people group to study. Each student will make an in-class presentation reporting his/her findings. Presentations should be 75 minutes. DO NOT invite a guest speaker without first getting approval from the professor.

Guidelines for presentations

A. Answer the following questions:

- a. What has been the historical experience of this group in the U.S.? Discuss how this history has led to:

- i. the development of normative behaviors/relational patterns of the group.
 - ii. their immediate social problems and needs.
 - iii. specific issues caused by economic, social, and educational deprivation/disadvantage.
 - b. What are the core cultural values of the group (include aspects of their worldview, the role of family and of religion)?
 - c. How may cultural values/historical experiences affect the group's perception of counseling?
 - B. You may (but do not have to) use brief video clips or music, but they must be clearly tied to the point you are trying to convey.
 - C. A electronic presentation outline and bibliography with at least 5 references must accompany your presentation and be distributed to the professor and students in the class.
 - D. Make sure your presentation is balanced such that you address the three questions above. Failure to do so will be reflected in your grade for your presentation.
 - E. If you present statistics, they must be as up-to-date as possible.
 - F. Demonstrate evidence of reading outside of class readings.
4. An "in-community" experience and journaling.
- Guidelines
- A. The purpose of the journal assignment is to have you record your cross-cultural experience.
 - B. Attend an event (e.g., ministry event, cultural gathering or festival, club meeting) or visit at setting (e.g., retirement home, social service agency, ministry center) in which the cultural or minority composition of the event or setting represents a people group(s) other than your own. Attending a religious service does not meet the requirement of this assignment. This should not be an event, persons, or a setting with which you have previous involvement. The amount of time spent with this group should be no less than four hours. These four hours may be in one block of time, or can be broken into smaller time segments. Any event you attend must be presented, at least in part, in a language that you speak fluently. (Hint: if you feel comfortable in this setting, you are not fulfilling the intent of this assignment). The event must be approved by the professor prior to attending it.
 - C. You must attend this experience alone. Do not attend an event if you believe there may be a safety risk involved.
 - D. Write shortly after your involvement with these persons, preferably within a couple of hours. Waiting to write diminishes your recall and risks losing important information. It is preferable not to write in the presence of the group members or during the event but to wait until you get home to write in your journal.
 - E. Keep material in chronological order.

What to write:

- A. Write about the event or setting you attended. Describe the people who were present, the physical setting, the mood of the people, etc.
- B. Write about your observations of and internal responses to the people and the setting. What do you see, taste, feel, smell, etc. Ask yourself questions like, "What things are

going on?,” “Who is doing what?,” “How do I feel about it?,” “How does it affect me?,” “How are they responding to me?” **Be descriptive and elaborate** in your journal. Rather than assuming anything, capture it while it is fresh in your mind.

- C. Write about your level of involvement. Reflect on questions like, “What is my involvement?” “How much am I involved?” “How do I feel about my involvement?”
- D. Write your reflections or hypotheses as to how your worldview is similar or contrasts with this people group.
- E. What are the implications of this for counseling with persons from this people group?
- F. This write-up should be no less than 4 pages in length. Include a sentence in your paper stating “I attended ___ hours at this/these event/s.”

Due Tuesday, October 21 at the beginning of class.

- 5. Attend a religious service of ethnic/culturally different group. You must attend this service **alone** and it should not be one that you have ever visited. Do not attend a service spoken in language that you do not speak unless there is an interpreter present. Be prepared to discuss your experience in class. The intention of this experience is for you to attend a service and not just talk to a religious leader. (Attending a predominately white Catholic church does not meet the criteria of being “ethnic/culturally different.”) The location must be approved by the professor prior to attending it.

A bulletin or some piece of literature from the religious service that you attended is due November 11 at the beginning of class.

- 6. A cross-cultural interview with write-up.
Guidelines for interviews and write-up:
 - A. The purpose is to have you become acquainted a person from a **culturally different group**.
 - B. Avoid cultural matching (i.e., do not interview individuals of a racial/ethnic group of your same background. Do not select a person just on the basis that he or she is of the opposite gender of you).
 - C. In the interview process:
 - a. Watch your non-verbal communication.
 - b. Be aware of ethical issues (e.g., inform your interviewees and get permission if you will be tape recording, taking notes, etc.; provide confidentiality if requested; etc.).
 - c. Use discretion in choosing your topics. Avoid topics that are not germane (e.g., sex life), and issues that might be too personal (e.g., divorce). Remember—you are not counseling these people.
 - D. Your write-up should include:
 - a. A background on the individual as a member of a particular people group(s).
 - b. Special problems/issues that they face because of their membership in the group.
 - c. Their perceptions about their situation (i.e., their groups relation to the dominant society).
 - d. Some institutional barriers, if any (e.g., the school system, law enforcement, job market).

- e. Special situations such as housing, health care, transportation, relations with police, family issues, employment, coworkers in the workplace, etc.
 - f. Analyze the individuals' situations with regard to such issues as racism, segregation, oppression, etc., if appropriate. Discuss their experiences in the U.S.—barriers, adjustment, racism/discrimination, or their relation to the dominant culture.
 - g. Your assessment of their degree of assimilation/acceptance/acculturation (Use the identity development scale discussed in class).
 - h. Use the “Culture-centered Interview Guide” to guide you in obtaining information about the person's social customs, family life, housing, clothing, food, employment, political patterns, religion and folk beliefs, economics, arts, and value systems. Report the relevant information in your write-up. Do not just list these pieces of information; instead, focus on their experiences of them.
- E. Your write-up should be in narrative form. It should not be written with a Q & A transcript format.
 - F. Use pseudo names in the write-ups.
 - G. This interview needs to be conducted separately from the other assignments.
 - H. This write-up should be no less than 5 pages in length.

Due Tuesday, December 2 at the beginning of class.

7. Cultural identity analysis.

Create a list of the top five life experiences that you consider significant in the shaping of your cultural identity. Obviously, your ability to do this presumes a degree of understanding of your cultural uniqueness. Address the **learned** elements of your cultural identity (these go beyond ethnic and/or racial features you are born with). Include typical and/or exceptional events from your childhood, school years, religious life, family life, etc.; memorable encounters with individuals of various backgrounds; etc. Some people never consider themselves as cultural; rather they associate “culture” with minorities, immigrants, and foreigners. I want you to think of yourselves as cultural as well as multicultural beings in an anthropological sense. Also address how you see or expect to see this self-understanding impacting your counseling work. Your analysis will be shared in class during one of the last two days of the course. An electronic or typed copy of your list with the implications for counseling is due the date of your presentation. Assignment dates will be assigned.

GRADING

Class participation and attendance: 50 points
 Class presentation: 50 points
 In-community experience write-up: 50 points
 Religious service attendance: 30 points
 Interview write-up: 40 points
 Cultural identity analysis: 30 points
 Total possible points: 250

Course grades will be determined by adding points from your class participation, class presentation, in-community experience write-up, interview write-up, and cultural identity analysis. Grades will be based on the following scale:

A = 239-250 points	C+ = 185-194 points
A- = 227-238 points	C = 176-184 points
B+ = 216-226 points	C- = 167-175 points
B = 205-215 points	D = 139-166 points
B- = 195-204 points	F = 138 points and below

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Classroom attendance and participation are required at all class sessions. If you should miss a class, you are expected to contact another student regarding the information covered. It is the student's responsibility to inform me if he/she cannot attend class. Unexcused absence will affect the students' grades.

As we will be discussing a number of topics deemed controversial, it is imperative the classroom discussions are done with the utmost respect of others. This means not interrupting others and understanding others may have opinions different from yours.

All assignments will be due on the date specified in the syllabus. For each day an assignment is late, 5 points will be deducted from the total score.

Writing format: APA style, 5th edition.

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Elderly

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Children

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Hispanic/Latino

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Asian Americans

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Native Americans

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Arabs

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African Americans

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Disabled

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Gay & Lesbian

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