

COURSE OUTLINE **Dealing with Diversity**

Course Description

BS 222. Dealing with Diversity. 3 hours credit. This course will enable the student to analyze the relationships between different cultural groups. The student will learn how a group's experience can affect each member's interaction pattern. The student will learn strategies to manage inter-group tensions in a multicultural/global society.

Course Relevance

We live in a diverse world. Therefore, the concepts learned in this course will enhance the student's ability to function effectively in a global society.

Required Materials

Rosenblum, K. (2009). *The meaning of difference*. (5th ed.). Boston, MA.: McGraw Hill.

Learning Outcomes

The intention is for the student to be able to

1. Identify cultural differences that exist between people and develop an awareness of those differences.
2. Develop analytical skills needed to understand how difference is constructed and experienced, and types of social action that might bridge differences.
3. Develop the social skills needed to function in a culturally diverse setting.

Learning PACT Skills that will be DEVELOPED and/or documented in this course

Through involvement in this course, the student will develop ability in the following PACT skill area(s):

Personal Development Skills

- 1 Interpersonal interaction
 - Through written essays, reading, and class discussion, the student will analyze the cultural differences between groups and examine the value of diversity.

Major Summative Assessment Task(s)

These learning outcome(s) and the Learning PACT skill(s) will be demonstrated by

1. Completing a reflective self-assessment inventory regarding diversity issues specifically addressing cultural differences and social skills needed to function in a culturally diverse setting.

Course Content

- I. Skills/Competencies – Actions that are essential to achieve the course outcomes:
 - A. Describe diversity and its effect on the world.
 - B. Discuss constructive ways of dealing with difference.
 - C. Examine group dynamics characteristic of minority and dominant groups.

D. Identify communication patterns of diverse cultures.

Learning Units

- I. A changing nation in a changing world
 - A. Define diversity
 - B. Discuss how difference is constructed in the United States
 - C. Identify national demographic changes including migration trends
 - D. Explain the changing role of women in various institutions
 - E. Discuss the impact of global changes on the U.S.
 - F. Discuss the value of diversity

- II. American identity and culture
 - A. Describe the concept of culture and its functions in society
 - B. Discuss how culture can impede or facilitate inter-group relations
 - C. Discuss the categories of difference: race, ethnicity, class, gender, age, religion, sexuality and physical ability.

- III. Prejudice and discrimination
 - A. Define prejudice and its causes
 - B. Identify various ways to reduce prejudice
 - C. Define discrimination and identify its types
 - D. Discuss how prejudice and discrimination are related

- IV. Patterns of inter-group relations
 - A. Discuss response patterns that minority and dominant groups follow
 - B. Identify minority-group responses such as avoidance, defiance, etc.
 - C. Discuss the role of protest and social movements
 - D. Identify dominant-group responses
 - E. Discuss consequences of minority-group and majority group statuses

- V. Cross-cultural communication
 - A. List basic principles of cross-cultural communication
 - B. Discuss the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis and its relevance to diversity
 - C. Explain inter-cultural differences in communication
 - D. Discuss prejudice in cross-cultural communication

- VI. Social change
 - A. Discuss how prejudice and discrimination are changing
 - B. Discuss the impact of technology on inter-group relations
 - C. Discuss how to bridge differences in American Social Institutions.

Learning Activities

Lecture, instructor-led class discussions, group study, field trips, library research, various audio/visual aids, case studies, guest speakers, and student presentations. The student will be required to examine professional journals in this course.

Grade determination

The student will be graded on assessment tasks, research papers, tests, daily work, class participation, out-of-class assignments and other methods of evaluation at the discretion of the instructor.