Days and Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 11 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.
Instructor: Ericka Robinson-Freeman, LMSW
Classroom: Social Work Complex, Bldg A, Room 308
Instructor Profile: [https://www.uta.edu/profiles/ericka-freeman](https://www.uta.edu/profiles/ericka-freeman)
E-mail: erickarobinson@uta.edu
Office: Social Work Complex, Building A, 101F
Office Hours: Tuesdays: 8-9:30 a.m. and 5-7 p.m.
Thursdays: 8-9:30 a.m. and 12:30-3 p.m.
Other hours available by appointment only.

Course Description and Prerequisites
SOCW 3302 HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT II (3-0): The second of two required human behavior courses that explore, within the context of a strengths and empowerment based perspective, knowledge of the bio-psycho-social development of persons from adulthood to death. There is no prerequisite for this class.

Educational Objectives Addressed
1. Apply critical thinking skills within the context of professional social work practice.
2. Understand the value base of the profession and its ethical standards and principles, and practice accordingly.
3. Practice without discrimination and with respect, knowledge, and skill related to client’s age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation.
4. Use theoretical frameworks supported by empirical evidence to understand individual development and behavior across the life span and the interactions among individuals and between individuals and families, groups, organizations, and communities.

This course relates to and advances the program objectives by asking students to think through how to apply the course material, addressing the code of ethics as related to various groups of clients, advancing social and economic justice for oppressed groups, attaining evidence-based knowledge on stages of the life span, culture, small groups, organizations, and communities, and expressing in a written statement plans for life-long learning.

Student Learning Outcomes
1. Students will demonstrate comprehension of the major organizational scheme of social work: reciprocal relationships between human behavior and the social environment.
2. Students will examine theories, concepts, and empirically-based knowledge related to individuals as they live in various systems in their environment: families, groups, organizations, and communities.
3. Students will examine theoretical frameworks for understanding the interactions between and among the various systems such as individuals, groups, societies, and economic systems.
4. Students will examine, apply, and illustrate theories, concepts, and empirically-based knowledge related to individuals as they live in various systems in their environment: families, groups, organizations, and communities.
5. Students will examine, apply, and illustrate the development of persons through the life span based on theories and empirical knowledge of biological sociological, cultural, psychological, and spiritual aspects of development.
6. Students will examine, apply, and illustrate ways in which social systems promote or block the achievement and maintenance of health and well being.
7. Students will distinguish among individuals in terms of race, ethnicity, national origin, social class, religion, physical and mental ability, sexual orientation, and how a particular person is related or not to each area.
8. Students will describe in their own words what their views are of persons of different races, ethnicity, national origin, social class, religion, physical or mental ability, and sexual orientation.

9. Students will distinguish among the codes and values in the NASW Code of Ethics which ones relate directly to human diversity and regard for worth and dignity of all persons. They will assess and discuss what they think about these requirements for all social workers and how they plan to apply them in social work practice to persons who are different from them.

10. Students will describe their plan for further knowledge development about human behavior and the social environment and the life span.

ATTENDANCE POLICY, CLASS PARTICIPATION and COMMUNICATION

Attendance Policy
Due to the format and content of this course, regular and punctual attendance is imperative and expected. As a matter of fairness and equity, **anyone missing more than three (3) scheduled class sessions will lose 5 points off his/her participation grade per day absent (unless emergency/extenuating circumstances as approved by instructor).** Additionally, it is expected for students to be on time and not leave early. Repetitive lateness (e.g., 15 minutes late), as well as leaving class early, may affect your final attendance-participation grade. Roll will be taken at the beginning of each class. If it is necessary for you to be late or leave class early, please let me know in advance.

Class Participation
It is important for students to come to class prepared to take part in informed discussion each week, based upon the class readings. This part of the grade will be determined by class attendance and participation in discussions.

Communication and Feedback
I will be available by email to answer questions about assignments. Students should submit questions or requests for clarification at least 24 hours before an assignment is due. If an assignment is due in less than 24 hours, I cannot guarantee a timely response.

Feedback is two-way! During this course students will be asked to provide feedback on their learning in informal as well as formal ways, including the use of anonymous surveys. It is very important for me to know your reactions to what is taking place in class, so that adjustments can be made if necessary to best meet your needs. If you are concerned about your class performance, I am more than willing to work with you to help you improve your understanding of course content. I am happy to meet with you. Please contact me via email or in person to schedule a time to meet.

Class Environment
It is essential that we create an environment conducive to learning. Please avoid distracting or disrupting the class. There is also the possibility that you may disagree with another student or the instructor. This is to be expected with the issues social workers confront and our tendency to be passionate about our values and opinions. However, it is important that we be respectful of each other and their opinion.

Use of technological devices (cell phones, iPods, mp3s, etc) is not permitted during class. A minimum of one (1) point will be deducted from the student's attendance-participation grade each time an incident occurs. However, the use of a laptop for note-taking is permitted. If you are the caregiver for a child or other family member, you may leave your cell phone on vibrate/silent mode for emergency phone calls (calls should be taken outside the classroom).
Required Textbook

Recommended Text

Readings: Readings will be assigned from the textbooks and may be augmented with class handouts. Additional readings may be assigned that are both relevant to course material and will enhance student learning. A combination of lecture, discussion and in-class and out-of-class exercises (individual and small group) will highlight the major concepts covered in the course.

Blackboard: Blackboard is a Learning Management System licensed by UTA for faculty members to communicate electronically with students. It will be used as a mechanism to deliver class materials. There are many Blackboard features that will be used during the course of this class, including posting of course material, class assignments, examinations, and grades.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 9 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations is designated by the University as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMINATIONS, AND GRADING
EXAMS (2) – 25% Each
Two examinations will be given during the semester. The Final Exam (included in the 2 exams given) will NOT be comprehensive. Exam material will come from lectures, assigned readings, and any handouts given in class. Make-up exams will be provided at my discretion and subject to a 10 point penalty. If you must miss an exam for an unavoidable reason, you must contact me by email or phone before the time of the scheduled exam.

Online Assignment – Life Course Discussions - 20%
Each student will upload to Blackboard answers to a designated case study. Students will review the case and utilize material from lecture and textbooks to respond. Additional information on the content, style, and grading of this assignment will be provided in class and posted on Blackboard.
**Presentation: (Group) – 20%**
Working in small groups, students will prepare and present knowledge of a specific age group’s development within the social environment with special attention to risk and protective factors. Additional information on the content, style, and grading of this assignment will be provided in class and posted on Blackboard.

**Participation – 10%**
Each student is allowed up to three (3) absences without grade reduction penalty. Each absence after the third (3rd) absence will result in a 5 point reduction in participation grade per absence. (e.g. absence #4 = 95, absence #5=90, etc.) In addition, it is important for students to come to class prepared to take part in class discussions. Participation grades will reflect accordingly.

**GRADING**
90 and Above = A
80 - 89.9 = B
70 – 79.9 = C
60 - 69.9 = D
Below 60 = F

Written work must be clear, concise, and grammatically correct. Deficiencies in areas such as spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, and incoherent organization will result in lower grades. All papers must follow APA guidelines. Plagiarism (using someone else’s words, thoughts, or ideas and claiming them as your own – i.e., using direct sentences written by others) will result in a failing grade for the course.

All assignments will be due on the date listed on the Course Schedule. **Ten points will be deducted for late assignments; however, no assignment will be accepted five days after its due date.**

**Course Syllabus Modifications**
Modifications to assignments and the class schedule may be necessary. Modifications to these items and the course syllabus, if needed, will be made at my discretion based on new materials, class discussions, or other needs of the class. Modifications will be distributed to students in a timely fashion either via email, Blackboard, or classroom distribution.

**OTHER INFORMATION AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES**
1. **Dropping the Class:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student’s responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (http://www.utexas.edu/aao/fao/).

2. **Student Support Services/Student Retention:** The University supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. They include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.
3. **Academic Integrity:** It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. “Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts” (Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2). All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

> I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence. I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

For this class, be attentive to the manner in which you use and cite reference material. When in doubt, it is best to insert a citation. Avoid the excessive use of quotations – cited or not – and if you use any kind of a writing tutor, be careful about the degree of assistance they provide to you. Assignments are intended to represent YOUR work – for better or worse - so over-reliance on outside help is discouraged.

4. **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):** If you are a student who requires accommodations in compliance with the ADA, please see me at the beginning of the semester. Faculty members are required by law to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364, located in the lower level of the University Center.

5. **Bomb threats:** If anyone is tempted to call in a bomb threat, be aware that UTA will attempt to trace the phone call and prosecute all responsible parties. Every effort will be made to avoid cancellation of presentations/tests caused by bomb threats. Unannounced alternate sites will be available for these classes. Your instructor will make you aware of alternate class sites in the event that your classroom is not available.

6. **Librarian to Contact:** The Social Sciences / Social Work Resource Librarian is John Dillard. His office is now in the central (main) library. He may also be contacted via E-mail: dillard@uta.edu. His web page is linked to the School of Social Work Main Page and through the Central Library web page.

7. **E-Culture Policy:** The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. All communication for this class will be conducted through the UTA email system. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. In particular, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email. All students are assigned an email account and information about activating and using it is available at www.uta.edu/email. New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT-Arlington. *Students are responsible for checking their UTA issued email regularly.*

8. **Incompletes:** Incompletes are given only in exceptional and very rare situations that involve Acts of Nature and/or other things beyond the ability of the student to anticipate or overcome. A student MUST contact Professor Robinson-Freeman directly prior to the end of the semester to determine if an incomplete is warranted or available.

9. **Grade Grievance Policy:** It is the obligation of the student, in attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor with whom the grievance originated. Individual instructors retain primary responsibility for assigning grades. The instructor’s judgment is final unless compelling evidence shows preferential treatment or procedural irregularities. If students wish to appeal, their requests must be submitted in writing on an Academic Grievance Form available in departmental or program offices to the department chair or program director. Before considering a
grievance, the department chair or program director will refer the issue to a departmental or program committee of graduate faculty. If the committee cannot reach a decision acceptable to the parties involved, the department chair or program director will issue a decision on the grievance. If students are dissatisfied with the chair or director's decision, they may appeal the case to the academic dean. If they are dissatisfied with the academic dean's decision, they may appeal it to the dean of Graduate Studies. Students have one year from the day grades are posted to initiate a grievance concerning a grade.

10. **Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit [http://www.uta.edu/sfs](http://www.uta.edu/sfs).

11. **Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

12. **Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law “Title IX” such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).
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