Syllabus

HR 5113 Seminar in Local Issues in Human Relations
Professor Rodger Randle
Fall 2014

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RELATIONS

Social Change in Tulsa
"Understanding Who We Are as a Community and the Social Forces that Shape Us"

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to deepen the understanding of students about the community of Tulsa. It will invite students to face uncomfortable questions about who we are as a community and the social problems we face, as well as to celebrate achievements and accomplishments. We will look both at Tulsa's past and at its present, but we will also seek to project where current social trends are likely to take us in the future.

The course will provide an opportunity to study the application of broad Human Relations principles about society, social problems, and social change to a specific community.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this course we will look at the processes of cultural formation and the dynamics of how change has occurred over history in Tulsa and how these forces have worked to produce the Tulsa we see today.

We will study issues concerning the social integration of diverse populations, and we will look at how Tulsa has fared in different eras.

We will attempt to project future trends, and we will discuss strategies for influencing future outcomes.

Specific topics we will survey and discuss include:
♦ social problems in Tulsa (poverty, crime, drug addiction, etc.);
♦ marginalized and excluded groups within the community;
♦ micro-regional cultures within the city;
♦ regional economic inequality with the city;
♦ the changing nature of power, both economic and political;
♦ the differences between "Tulsa culture" and the cultures of Oklahoma and the communities around us; and,
♦ workforce changes and restructuring and their effects on individuals and families.

Our survey of these topics will chart how Tulsa cultural and urban characteristics have changed over time. We will analyze the factors that have produced social changes over Tulsa's history.

INSTRUCTOR

The instructor for this class is Prof. Rodger A. Randle, a member of the faculty of the Department of Human Relations.

Rodger A. Randle  Professor, Department of Human Relations  Director, Center for Studies in Democracy and Culture
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Relations. His office is located in room 1J04 in the OU Tulsa Schusterman Campus. His telephone number is 918-660-3495, and the email address is randle@ou.edu. Prof. Randle keeps regular office hours, but please call ahead to confirm current office hours since they change seasonally.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

This course will use readings that have been placed on reserve at the University of Oklahoma Library and articles that have been posted online for the course at the class website at learn.ou.edu. There is no assigned textbook; the assigned readings should be considered as the course textbook.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS / ASSIGNMENTS**

Students in this course will work in teams of three to develop an original research about an aspect of the Tulsa community that will be shared with other members of the class on Saturday of the third weekend. The student teams may select a topic of the team's own choosing, subject to approval of the professor. Appropriate topics for research may include any of the many specific issues that will be discussed in class (crime, homelessness, social exclusion, workforce changes, etc.), or it may be a special topic of interest to team members. This original research shall be compiled into written reports of at least fifteen typed pages in length (no greater than font size 11 Times New Roman), and may be double-spaced. At least eight sources should be cited. For any web source that is not an established periodical or academic journal or which is not maintained by a governmental agency or academic institution, the student should provide an annotation with an evaluation of the likely bias, reliability, and transparency of the website source. Students should carefully follow the "Guide to Reference Citations" that will be distributed to the class and posted on the course website at learn.ou.edu. Web sources should be selected with care. Papers that use the Wikipedia as an academic source will not be accepted.

**INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES**

In addition to lectures, class discussions, and assigned readings, we will also invite visitors to discuss specific issues about Tulsa. **On Saturday of the second weekend of class, we will take a class field trip to look firsthand at aspects of topics that we are discussing in class. Students will be responsible for providing their own transportation.**

**STUDENT EVALUATIONS / ASSESSMENT**

Grading will be based on the written report to be submitted by midnight of the Sunday following the last class meeting. The paper must be submitted to the dropbox on the class website at learn.ou.edu; papers not submitted through the dropbox will not be considered to have been officially submitted.

**POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Prior approval of the professor must be sought for late submission of papers.

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Important Additional Policies
MUTUAL RESPECT IN THE CLASSROOM
Students are expected to participate in class discussions in a way that is respectful and tolerant of the views of other students. Disrespectful behavior towards other students will not be tolerated.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
Students with disabilities are protected under the American Disabilities Act, and accommodations are made to assist them. Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent her or him from fully demonstrating her or him abilities should contact the professor and OU Office so that arrangements can be made to provide accommodations.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS
It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays.

LAPTOP / SMARTPHONE ETIQUETTE
Laptops should be closed during class. Arrangements should be made in advance with the professor if a laptop needs to be used during class for note taking or any other purpose. Texting is not permitted during class; if it is necessary to read or send a text message, please step out of the room.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities, and you have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic dishonesty includes:

- Cheating (using unauthorized materials, information or study aids in an academic exercise, plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidations, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student's academic performance of achievement;
- Assisting others with any such act; and,
- Attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the Academic Misconduct Code at the University of Oklahoma.

Please familiarize yourself with the University of Oklahoma's policies on plagiarism. Important information can be found at www.ou.edu/provost/integrity.

The website for the Department of Human Relations can be found at http://ou.edu/cas/hr