

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

SCWK 30333 Human Behavior in the Social Environment I

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite(s): SCWK 21063 Introduction to Social Work

Prerequisite(s) or corequisite(s): BIOL 10043/10031 Biological Science/Laboratory, PSYC 11003 General Psychology, and SOCI 10103 Introduction To Sociology

Effective Catalog: 2026-2027

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description: The first course in a two-part sequence, this class introduces the social work perspective on human behavior and the social environment, with an emphasis on individuals. An ecological framework is applied to examine human development, incorporating lifespan issues, and exploring the concept of person-in-environment. This approach provides a foundation for understanding how individuals interact with their surroundings across different stages of life.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain and apply basic principles of learning theories and the systems/ecological and psychosocial frameworks and analyze individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities, and societal dynamics from each of these perspectives.
2. Describe biological, psychological, social, and cultural aspects of childhood, adolescent, adulthood, and older adult developmental states within the context of the broader environment.
3. Describe the dynamics of social groups, organizations, communities, and societies and the ways that they can impact on individual development and behavior.

4. Explain ways that ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, class, disability, and other factors contribute to human development and their implications for social work practice.
5. Apply information and theories related to human behavior and the social environment to life situations in a manner consistent with social work values and the promotion of social and economic justice.
6. Apply standards of professional social work practice.

B. University Learning Outcomes (ULO)

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will appreciate and reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own.

II. Major Course Topics

- A. Biological, psychological and sociological theories of human development for individuals
- B. Lifespan
- C. Systems theory
- D. Ecological perspective