



SASS 484 THEORIES OF OPPRESSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides students with theoretical understandings of how oppression operates to restrict the life chances of members of minority and disenfranchised groups (*EPAS 3.4*). Increasing knowledge is one component of valuing a diverse world; internalizing knowledge about the nature and dynamics of oppression is a fundamental dimension of the ability to value a diverse world and requires self-assessment and reflection on discrimination, oppression, and privilege as components of individual insight. Such insight will help students become better practitioners so they can work with clients without discrimination and with respect, knowledge and skills related to age, class, color, culture, ability, ethnicity, family origins, gender, relationship status, national origin, race, sex, religion or sexual orientation (*EPAS 3.3*). In this course, the emphasis is on how oppression manifests at the individual, institutional, and societal/cultural levels. It highlights the pervasive nature of inequality and bias woven throughout social, cultural, political, and economic institutional and interpersonal systems. Multiple theories will be presented to explicate how structures of dominance, privilege, and subordination are manifested, paralleled, and interconnected. Major consideration will be given to the structures of oppression and privilege related to racism, sexism, heterosexism/homophobia, religious bigotry/xenophobia, classism, ableism, and ageism.

Required Texts

Adams, M., Blumenfeld, W. J., Castañeda, R., Hackman, H. W., Peters, M. L., Zuñiga, X. (Eds.) (2000). *Readings for diversity and social justice: An anthology on racism, sexism, anti-semitism, heterosexism, classism, and ableism*. New York and London: Routledge.

ON RESERVE E184.A1 R386

Farley, J. E. (2004). *Majority-minority relations* (5th Ed.). New York: Prentice-Hall.

ON RESERVE E184.A1 F34

Wise, T. (2005). *White like me: Reflections on race from a privileged son*. Brooklyn, NY: Soft Skull Press.