Compassion, Empathy, Forgiveness & Social Justice

Syllabus

Spring 2017

Instructor: Diane Wright, LISW-S
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Phone: 513-354-7104

Office Hours: By appointment. Since this is an on-line class, I don’t have scheduled office hours. I typically reply to E-mails within 24 hours M – F (usually a lot quicker).

Course Description:
This is an upper-level undergraduate or graduate on-line course focusing on the meanings of compassion, empathy and forgiveness and the relationship of these concepts to social justice issues. Students must be proficient in Blackboard and basic word processing/e-mail programs. The instructor is happy to answer questions, particularly if blackboard has been recently updated; however, this is not a course for basic computer skills training. If you do not have the computer skills necessary to complete an on-line class, please look in the class schedule for an in-person class.

Course Objectives:

1. Define and Understand Compassion, Empathy and Forgiveness.
3. Develop Projects to Teach/Use Compassion, Empathy, and Forgiveness to the Population of your choice based on Current Literature.

The course itself should provide a model of the four core processes in Social Work:

Engagement
Assessment
Intervention
Evaluation

Engagement: We will begin by engaging with each other, learning about one another, and sharing our hopes and goals for the course.

Assessment: Next, we will assess our current level of expertise and comfort with the topics being covered in the course, using a non-graded "pre-survey."

Intervention: The intervention is the "meat" of this course, and consists of the course materials and assignments.

Evaluation: Through your assignments, and especially through your final project, you will demonstrate your level of knowledge, and your ability to integrate the learnings from the course into action steps. We will also complete a non-graded "post-survey," and examine how our level of expertise and comfort with the topics has changed as a result of the course.
Written Assignments by Due Date

Please complete assignments on or before the due date. I deduct points for late assignments. However, each assignment builds on the previous one, so you will not do well if you try to complete all your assignments at once, or very early. See the assignment detail section for more information about these assignments.

by January 11      Initial post due to introduce yourself
by January 20      Act of Compassion #1
by January 27      Stakeholder Analysis
by February 3      Act of Compassion #2
by February 10     Non-Violent Communication - Letter
by February 17     Act of Compassion #3
by February 24     Compassion Reflection
by March 3         brief description of Annotated Bibliography - (subject description) due
by March 17        Empathy Reflection
by March 24        Forgiveness Reflection #1
by March 31        Annotated Bibliography due
by April 7         Forgiveness Reflection #2
By April 21        Final Reflection and action plan
By April 30        Final exam due (will be posted by 4/23)
Grades and Course Expectations

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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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Graduate students are expected to demonstrate skills (writing and conceptual) on a slightly more advanced level than undergraduate students. Some course assignments have additional sections for graduate student participants.

Course Documents: This tab has all the information that would typically be found in a course lecture. You are expected to read/view/listen to all of the items found in this section. Most will be on the exam, others will be useful to complete the assignments. I tried to use many different methods (e.g., you tube clips as well as articles) to help you to learn the material. Please let me know what works and what doesn’t. Ask questions about the material as needed. I’ll post answers to the entire class when appropriate.

I will still be posting some articles etc. in announcements sent via email if I think those pieces will help you understand the concepts. Keep an eye out for emails!

Student Honor Code
Please refer to and abide by the student honor code located on the NKU website at http://www.nku.edu/~deanstudents/HonorCode.htm.
“The work you will do in this course is subject to the Student Honor Code and the discretion of the professor. The Honor Code is a commitment to the highest degree of ethical integrity in academic conduct, a commitment that, individually and collectively, the students of Northern Kentucky University will not lie, cheat, or plagiarize to gain an academic advantage over fellow students or avoid academic requirements.”

Students with disabilities
Students with disabilities who require accommodations (Academic adjustments, auxiliary aids or services) for this course must register with the Disability Services Office. Please contact the Disability Service Office immediately in the University Center, or call 859/572/6373 for more information. Verification of your disability is required in the Disability Services Office for you to receive reasonable academic accommodations.

Final Course Evaluation
I will publish the URL for the final evaluation as soon as it becomes available. Please complete that evaluation.