SASS 440: Human Development in Context I: Child and Adolescent- Study Guide

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This foundation course examines theories and research on the biological, social, cultural, and spiritual development from infancy through adolescence. Particular consideration is given to biological, emotional, cognitive, behavioral, and environmental influences and their contributions to child and adolescent development. Social and economic influences like poverty, discrimination and parenting styles are also considered. Equal consideration is given to factors supporting individual development, such as the strength of socio-cultural belief systems, health, and capacity for resilience. The course stresses interactions between the individual and his/her environment (including family, peers, school and community), and the reciprocal relationship between the child/adolescent and their environments. This course examines concepts of life course tasks, conflicts, attachment and loss, and self regulation. The roles of culture, class, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, and family structure as they relate to development will be presented during this course.

The etiology of symptom formation in major developmental deficits during childhood and adolescence will be addressed, however the primary focus of this course is on the developmental achievements that are based on the completion of tasks through the child/adolescents strengths and ability to adapt to physical, biological, and emotional events and change as well as one’s ability to deal with conflict.

Abilities that students will have opportunities to work on in this course include: Values and Ethics (VE); Communication (C); Critical Thinking (CT); Diversity (D); Social Work Practice (SWP)

COURSE OBJECTIVES/ABILITIES

1. To develop a knowledge base of social and environmental factors that contributes to both developmental and social-emotional growth from birth through adolescence. (Think Critically, Apply Social Work Methods, EPAS Foundation Program Objective 3.0.7 and EPAS Content Area 4.3)

2. To understand the impact of social and economic influences—poverty, discrimination, and oppression-cultural and biological factors upon growth and development from birth through adolescence. (Valuing a Diverse World, EPAS Foundation Program Objective 3.0.3 and EPAS Content Area 4.3)

3. To Communicate an understanding of child and adolescence development and the myriad ways one is vulnerable to biological, cognitive, affective, and behavioral interactions. (Communication, Think Critically, EPAS Foundation Program Objective 3.0.10 and EPAS Content Area 4.3)
4. To identify and critically evaluate how the family, groups, and communities impact child and adolescent development. (Think Critically, EPAS Foundation Program Objective 3.0.7 and EPAS Content Area 4.3)

5. To develop and achieve a developmental learning objective that will integrate field education objectives with classroom objectives. (Apply Social Work Methods, and Critical Thinking, EPAS Foundation Program Objective 3.0.1 and EPAS Content Area 4.7)

The readings and assignments for this course have been designed to reflect the course objectives. These readings and assignments include content on: 1) children and adolescents whose minority status is predicated on ethnicity, race, poverty and gender; 2) on empowerment; 3) on parenting contributions to development; 4) on social work values and ethics; 5) populations at risk; and 6) on social/economic justice.

**REQUIRED READINGS**


Garbarino, James. Lost Boys, Chapters 2 and 3.


