

University of North Texas at Dallas
Fall 2025
SYLLABUS for HSML 3600.001
Human Behavior I: Micro

Department Human Services		School of Behavioral Health and Human Services	
Instructor Name:	Dr. Alex D. Colvin, Ph.D., LMSW		
Office Location:	DAL1, Rm Room #105Y.10		
Office Phone:	972-338-1354		
Email Address:	alex.colvin@untDallas.edu		
Office Hours:	Wednesday: 12 noon – 1:00 pm; 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm		
Classroom Location:	DAL1, Rm 336		
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Wednesday, 1:00 pm – 3:50 pm		
Course Catalog Description:	The intent of this course is to provide knowledge on multi-dimensional development of individuals and the range of social systems in which individuals live. In this class, students will explore the study of human behavior by looking across the life course and incorporating theories of human interaction as a framework for practice decisions. Material presented focuses most specifically on the human life course as it is impacted by multi-dimensional factors. Investigation of developmental theories gives students diverse viewpoints which can help identify leverage points for change. As the semester progresses, students become more adept at recognizing "theory in life and life in theory" in order to make well-reasoned practice decisions.		
Prerequisite	HSML 3000		

Required Text:	<p>Ashford, J. B., LeCroy, C. W., & Williams, L. R., (2018) <i>Human Behavior in the Social Environment: A Multidimensional Perspective [6th Edition]</i>. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole. ISBN-10: 1305860306; ISBN-13: 9781305860308. This book may be rented or purchased at https://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/ProductDisplay?langId=-1&storeId=10151&catalogId=10057&productId=116243. E-Books are also available.</p> <p>Movie: Antwoine Fisher (2002).</p>
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Access to Learning Resources:	<p>UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-1616 web: http://www.untdallas.edu/library email: library@untdallas.edu UNT</p> <p>Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652 web: http://www.untdallas.edu/bookstore e-mail: untdallas@bkstr.com</p>
<p>Supported Browsers: Chrome 67 & 68 Firefox 60 & 61 Safari 10, 11</p> <p>Supported Devices: iPhone Android Chromebook <i>(Tablet users can use the Canvas app)</i></p> <p>Screen Readers: VoiceOver (Safari) JAWS (Internet Explorer) NVDA (Firefox) <i>Note: There is no screen reader support for Canvas in Chrome</i></p>	<p>Access Canvas via untdallas.instructure.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Username: your EUID # • Password: your password <p>Getting Help with Canvas: Canvas 24/7 Phone Support for Students: 1-833-668-8634 Canvas Help Resources: Web: Canvas Student Guide</p> <p>For additional assistance, contact Distance Learning: DAL 1, Rm 157 phone: (972)338-5580 email: distancelearning@untdallas.edu</p> <p><i>If you are working with Canvas 24/7 Support to resolve a technical issue, make sure to keep me updated on the troubleshooting progress.</i></p> <p><i>If you have a course-related issue (course content, assignment troubles, quiz difficulties) please contact me during office hours or by email.</i></p>
Course Goals or Overview: The goals of this course are as follows:	

	<p>In keeping with the Core Values and Educational Themes of UNT Dallas, students will demonstrate the following Core Competencies during the course of the semester. These competencies meet the following learning goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical thinking and problem-solving skills • Open-mindedness (ability and willingness to embrace a global and diverse mindset) • Computer literacy • Ability to frame issues from multiple perspectives • Sound written and verbal communication skills • Ethical behavior
Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of this course, students will be able to:	
1	describe key areas of bio-psycho-social-spiritual development through written and oral presentations and discuss ways that these areas interact with each other in diverse populations and throughout the life span
2	discuss typical dilemmas that people face throughout the stages of the lifespan - and identify ways that families, communities and society can help or hinder them as they face these challenges and opportunities
3	explore the impact of social, cultural and economic forces on diverse and/or vulnerable populations, so that you can understand the way oppression works and find ways to mitigate it
4	apply various theories and models to explore human and societal behavior and identify multiple perspectives and implications for decision-making
5	apply social work ethics and values to critique these viewpoints and courses of action
6	identify underlying ethical issues related to the power of particular viewpoints and associated power of understanding human behavior

Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated via class email or Canvas announcement. Additional readings and activities may be added, these will be noted in the Readings and Activities/Assignments sections.

Schedule	Topic	Activities	Due Date
Week 1	Course Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Introductions • Review Syllabus • Select your top two preferences of a developmental stage for which you will conduct an interview and provide a comprehensive report. 	Ice-Breaker in-class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus Acknowledgement Form (10 pts) • Code of Academic Integrity Acknowledgement Form (10 pts) 	8/31/25

Week 2	Chapter 1. Introduction to Human Behavior in the Social Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assign #1. Self – Reflective Life Review (20 pts) 	9/7/25
Week 3	Chapter 2. Integrative Multidimensional Framework for Assessing Social Functioning: Biophysical & Psychological Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case Study #1 – Biophysical & Psychological Analysis of Raul Salazar (50 pts) Discussion #1 (50 pts) 	9/14/25 9/12/25
Week 4	Chapter 2 (con't). Multidimensional Framework for Assessing Social Functioning: Social & Spiritual Considerations; Diversity		

	Family Systems Theory PowerPoint presentation		
Week 5	Chapter 3. Pregnancy, Birth, & the Newborn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case Study #2 - Maria & Raul Salazar (50 pts) Assign #2. Risk Factors During Pregnancy (20 pts) 	9/28/25 9/28/25
Week 6	Chapter 4. Infancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infancy – Life Stage Overview and Interview Presentation, as assigned Discussion #2 (50 pts) 	10/1/25 10/3/25
Week 7	Chapter 5. Early Childhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Childhood Life Stage Overview and Interview Presentation, as assigned 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assign #3. Parenting Styles (20 pts) 	10/12/25
Week 8	Applying Child Welfare Content – Child Abuse, Neglect, & Exploitation Ashford: 225 – 229 Film: <i>Antwone Fisher</i> (2002).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Film Review: Theory in Practice – Child Welfare Content (100 pts) 	10/19/25

Week 9	Chapter 6. Middle Childhood Bullying Documentary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Middle Childhood Life Stage Overview and Interview Presentation, as assigned Discussion # 3 (50 pts) 	10/24/25
Week 10	Chapter 7. Adolescence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adolescence Life Stage Overview and Interview Presentation, as assigned Assignment #4 - One Girls Account of Cutting (20 pts) Discussion #4 (50 pts) 	11/2/25 10/31/25
Week 11	Chapter 8. Emerging & Young Adulthood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emerging & Young Adulthood Life Stage Overview and Interview Presentation, as assigned Discussion #5 (50 pts) 	11/7/25
Week 12	Chapter 9. Middle Adulthood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Middle Adulthood Life Stage Overview and Interview Presentation, as assigned 	

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course:

Assignments – *written assignments and oral presentations designed to supplement and reinforce course material*

Discussions - The exchange of ideas among colleagues engaged in scholarly inquiry is a key aspect of learning and is a requisite activity in this course.

Requirements: You are expected to participate at least two separate days a week in the Discussion area. In addition, you are expected to respond to your fellow student's postings. To count as participation, responses need to be thoughtful; that is, they must refer to the week's readings, relevant issues in the news, information obtained from other sources, and/or ideas expressed in other class members' postings. Where appropriate, you should use references to support your position. The Discussion questions require a response to one other student's posting; it should be no more than two paragraphs long.

Comprehensive Reflection Paper – *written paper designed to apply and synthesize material learned through critical thinking, evaluation, research, and self-reflection; and designed to demonstrate that the course's learning objectives have been met*

Attendance and Class Participation – *punctual attendance and active participation in class/group discussions designed to help students achieve maximum benefits from taking the course*

Grading Matrix

Activities/Assignments	Value (points)	Total
Class Attendance/Participation/Conduct	10 points	10
Syllabus Acknowledgement Form	5 points	5
Code of Academic Integrity Acknowledgement Form	5 points	5
Assignment 1 - Self-Reflection Life Review – (Week 2, Ch. 1)	20 points	20
Assignment 2 - Risk Factors During Pregnancy (Week 5, Ch. 3)	20 points	20
Assignment 3 – Parenting Styles (Week 7, Ch. 5)	20 points	20
Assignment 4 – One Girls Account of Cutting (Week 10, Ch. 7)	20 points	20
Discussions – Week 3 (Ch 2), Week 6 (Ch. 4), Week 9 Ch. 6), Week 10 (Ch. 7), Week 11 (Ch. 8), Week 12, (Ch. 9)	6 @ 50 points each	300

Case Studies – (Week 3 (Ch.2), Week 5 (Ch.3), Week 12(Ch. 9), Week 13, (Ch.10)	4 @ 50 points each	200
Life Stage Overview & Interview Presentation	100	100
Film Review: Theory in Practice – Child Welfare Content (Week 8, Ch. 6)	100	100
Final Comprehensive Paper	200	200
Total		1000

Grade Determination A

= 90% or better

B = 80-89%

C = 70 – 79 %

D = 60 – 69 %

F = less than 60%

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

Chapter 7(7.004) Disability Accommodations for Students:

The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to the faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodation at any time; however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see [Disability Services Office](#). You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777 or by email at UNTDisability@untDallas.edu or at Building PL, room 1104.

Disruptive Behavior in an Instructional Setting:

Students are expected to engage with the instructor and other students in this class in a respectful and civil manner at all times to promote a classroom environment that is conducive to teaching and learning. Students who engage in disruptive behavior will be directed to leave the classroom. A student who is directed to leave class due to disruptive behavior is not permitted to return to class until the student meets with a representative from the Dean of Students Office. It is the student's responsibility to meet with the Dean of Students before class meets again and to provide the instructor confirmation of the meeting. A student who is directed to leave class will be assigned an unexcused absence for that class period and any other classes the student misses as a result of not meeting with the Dean of Students. The student is responsible for

material missed during all absences and the instructor is not responsible for providing missing material. In addition, the student will be assigned a failing grade for assignments, quizzes or examinations missed and will not be allowed to make up the work.

The Code of Student's Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct (Policy 7.001) describes disruption as the obstructing or interfering with university functions or activity, including any behavior that interferes with students, faculty, or staff access to an appropriate educational environment. Examples of disruptive behavior that may result in a student being directed to leave the classroom include but are not limited to: failure to comply with a reasonable directive of University officials, action or combination of actions that unreasonably interfere with, hinder, obstruct, or prevents the right of others to freely participate, threatening, assaulting, or causing harm to oneself or to another, uttering any words or performing any acts that cause physical injury, or threaten any individual, or interfere with any individual's rightful actions, and harassment. You are encouraged to read the Code of Student's Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct for more information related to behaviors that could be considered disruptive.

Canvas Instructure Accessibility Statement:

University of North Texas at Dallas is committed to ensuring its online and hybrid courses are usable by all students and faculty including those with disabilities. If you encounter any difficulties with technologies, please contact our ITSS Department. To better assist them, you would want to have the operating system, web browser and information on any assistive technology being used. [Canvas Instructure Accessibility Statement is also provided.](#)

NOTE: Additional instructional technology tools, such as Turnitin, Respondus, Panopto, and publisher cartridge content (i.e. MyLab, Pearson, etc.) may NOT be fully ADA compliant. Please contact our Disability Office should you require additional assistance utilizing any of these tools.

Course Evaluation Policy:

Student's evaluations of teaching effectiveness are a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider students' evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy: All assignments must be submitted through the designated link in Canvas. **Assignments will not be accepted via instructors' email or hand delivery. If you're having problems submitting assignments, contact the Canvas Support for Students immediately as your technical difficulties are your responsibility.**

Assignments

Assignments are due on **Day 7** by 11:59 pm CST of the week assigned unless otherwise noted. Life Stage presentations are due the Wednesday that you are scheduled to present. In addition to your presentation, you must submit your PowerPoint through Canvas. **There will be a ten (10) percent penalty per day for all late assignments. No assignments will be accepted after the 3rd day unless written acceptable documentation is provided.**

Discussion Postings

Initial discussion posts should be made by **Day 3 (Wednesday)** and feedback discussion to your peers should be posted by **Day 5 (Friday)** of each week. No credit will be given for Discussion postings made after the week in which they are due unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor. Exceptions will be made only for those rare situations that legitimately prevent a student from posting on time. Points will be deducted from late postings.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to [UNT Dallas' Student Code of Academic Integrity](#) for complete provisions of this code.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.

Web-based Plagiarism Detection: Please be aware in some online or hybrid courses, students may be required to submit written assignments to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism detection service, or another method. If submitting to Turnitin, please remove your title page and other personal information.

Classroom Policies

Inclement Weather and Online Classes: Online classes may or may not be affected by campus closures due to inclement weather. Unless otherwise notified by your instructor via email, online messaging, or online announcement, students should assume that assignments are due as scheduled.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions in the online environment. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate.

Technology Assistance:

In order to successfully access the materials in an online or hybrid course, UNT Dallas advises

If you experience difficulty accessing or using components of the course, try using Google Chrome browser. If you still experience technical difficulties, first, notify your instructor.

If the problem is still not resolved, call Student Assistance (Distance Learning) at the phone number listed on the first page of the syllabus. Also, no matter what browser you use, always enable pop-ups. For more information see:

- [UNT Dallas Canvas Technical Requirements](#)
- [Canvas Instructure Supported & Unsupported Operating Systems](#)