

Abbreviated Course Syllabus

OT 320 – The Nature of Human Occupation: Form, Function, and Meaning Fall 2023 (Section 47724)

Class Day: Tuesdays & Thursdays

Class Time: 9:30-10:50 am

Location: ZHS 252

Instructor: Kate Crowley, OTD, OTR/L & Gabe Cravens, OTD, OTR/L

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will embark on a compelling journey to unravel the intricate layers of occupations (or meaningful activities that *occupy* our time) in our present-day culture. This course delves into the fundamental aspects of who, what, when, where, and why we engage in specific occupations, exploring their social, moral, and philosophical impacts at their very core.

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS!

- Lots of inspirational guest speakers from the surrounding USC community!
- Movie screenings and group facilitations!
- Local field trips to gardens and schools!

REQUIRED READING

1. Tough, P. (2016). *Helping children succeed: What works and why*. NY: Random House.
2. Kotlowitz, A. (1991) *There are no children here*. NY: Anchor Books.
3. Miller, R. (2021). *Halfway home*. NY: Little, Brown & Company.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADE BREAKDOWN

Assignment	% of grade
In-class Participation	15%
Socratic Seminar Create an agenda and facilitate class discussions.	20%
Reflection Paper 1 Personal reflections and literature review (5-7 pages) on assigned books	15%
Reflection Paper 2 Personal reflections and literature review (5-7 pages) on assigned books	15%
Cohort Presentations 10-min group presentation on material from books with engaging activities	20%
Culminating Project Final project and final presentation on topic of choice	15%
TOTAL	100%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Day	Topic
1	Tues, 8/22	Course introduction and Overview
	Thurs, 8/24	Major features of occupations
2	Tues, 8/29	Foundations of occupational science: Occupational (In)Justice
	Thurs, 8/31	Wealth disparities across the U.S.
3	Tues, 9/5	Educational disparities across the U.S.
	Thurs, 9/7	Exploring cultural differences
4	Tues, 9/12	Collectivism vs individualism
	Thurs, 9/14	Non-cognitive traits overview
5	Tues, 9/19	Factors that influence non-cognitive skill development
	Thurs, 9/21	Trauma, stress and the impact of social factors on our health & wellness
6	Tues, 9/26	GRIT & Resilience
	Thurs, 9/28	Fairness & Inclusion
7	Tues, 10/3	Adverse Child Experiences (ACE scores) and impact of life trajectory
	Thurs, 10/5	Early intervention and attachment styles
8	Tues, 10/10	Standardized testing and the conflicts with current educational models
	Thurs, 10/12	Fall Recess – No Class
9	Tues, 10/17	Loss, grief, violence and survival in the U.S.
	Thurs, 10/19	Cont. conversation of Loss, grief, violence and survival in the U.S.
10	Tues, 10/24	Cont. conversation of Loss, grief, violence and survival in the U.S.
	Thurs, 10/26	Film: The Interrupters
11	Tues, 10/31	Film: The Interrupters
	Thurs, 11/2	Guest Speaker: Homeboy Industries
12	Tues, 11/7	Mass incarceration and occupational deprivation
	Thurs, 11/9	Occupational Deprivation
13	Tues, 11/14	Occupational Justice
	Thurs, 11/16	Cultural considerations of Occupation
14	Tues, 11/21	Cont. conversation on relationship between occupation and mass incarceration
	Thurs, 11/23	Holiday – No Class
15	Tues, 11/28	Wrap-up
	Thurs, 11/30	Socratic Seminar #2
Finals week	Thurs, 12/7	Culminating Project

Note: In order to optimize the learning experiences, the course instructor reserves the right to amend the syllabus as needed throughout the semester.

Please reach out with any questions! Can't wait to have you in class.

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Check out our other Occupational Science courses here!

<https://classes.usc.edu/term-20233/classes/ot/>