

Abbreviated Course Syllabus

OT 320 – The Nature of Human Occupation: Form, Function, and Meaning Fall 2023 (Section 47725)

Class Day: Wednesdays

Class Time: 6-8:50 pm

Location: SOS B4

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

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Office: THH B4

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 | Wed, 8/23 | Course introduction and Overview |
| | | Major features of occupations |
| 2 | Wed, 8/30 | Foundations of occupational science: Occupational (In)Justice |
| | | Wealth disparities across the U.S. |
| 3 | Wed, 9/6 | Educational disparities across the U.S. |
| | | Exploring cultural differences |
| 4 | Wed, 9/13 | Collectivism vs individualism |
| | | Non-cognitive traits overview |
| 5 | Wed, 9/20 | Factors that influence non-cognitive skill development |
| | | Trauma, stress and the impact of social factors on our health & wellness |
| 6 | Wed, 9/27 | GRIT & Resilience |
| | | Fairness & Inclusion |
| 7 | Wed, 10/4 | Adverse Child Experiences (ACE scores) and impact of life trajectory |
| | | Early intervention and attachment styles |
| 8 | Wed, 10/11 | Standardized testing and the conflicts with current educational models |
| 9 | Wed, 10/18 | Loss, grief, violence and survival in the U.S. |
| 10 | Wed, 10/25 | Cont. conversation of Loss, grief, violence and survival in the U.S. |
| | | Film: The Interrupters |
| 11 | Wed, 11/01 | Film: The Interrupters |
| | | Guest Speaker: Homeboy Industries |
| 12 | Wed, 11/8 | Mass incarceration and occupational deprivation |
| | | Occupational Deprivation |
| 13 | Wed, 11/15 | Occupational Justice |
| | | Cultural considerations of Occupation |
| 14 | Wed, 11/22 | Holiday – No Class |
| 15 | Wed, 11/29 | Wrap-up |
| | | Socratic Seminar #2 |
| Finals week | Wed, 12/6 | 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/>