

Contemporary Issues in Human Services

Advanced, Liberal, 4 credits

Contemporary Issues in Human Services is considered to be an advanced level knowledge that is liberal. It represents higher level theory and concepts that human service workers have acquired through applied practice. Advanced level knowledge indicates that you are able to use terminology, concepts, and theory in an applied way. Contemporary Issues in Human Services is more often about why we do things (i.e., liberal) and not necessarily how we do things (i.e., non-liberal). At Empire State College, the Contemporary Issues in Human Services course is offered at the advanced level.

Please use the questions below to structure your PLA submission on the topic of Contemporary Issues in Human Services. Copy each question and respond directly below it. If you utilize an outside source, such as a website or a book, make sure to reference this in your response. The responses to the questions should be submitted in a Word document and uploaded in PLA Planner. In PLA Planner, you would list the topic as Contemporary Issues in Human Services, asking for 4 credits, and designate this as Advanced Level and Liberal.

Please note – responding to these questions is not a guarantee of credit. You will still be expected to speak with an evaluator and answer any supplemental questions that they may have. The evaluator would then make a credit determination.

Questions for Students to respond to

We suggest you save this document with your name and the title of the PLA (e.g., Smith Contemporary Issues in Human Services PLA) and answer beneath each question below.

Name:

ID:

PLA Title: Contemporary Issues in Human Services

Number of Credits Requested: 4

Type: Advanced, Liberal

1. Briefly describe your experiences working in the human service field.

2. Please list any workshops or trainings that you have taken.

3. How do you stay informed about the current trends and issues that exist in the human services field? Please describe your detail how you stay informed.

4. Identify **three** contemporary trends or issues/controversies that you believe have or will have a significant impact on human services. The trend, issue, or controversy could be due to or a result of any type of social, economic, technological, or governmental change. It could be a group of individuals, a service, intervention, policy, or program.

- Describe in detail the trend, issue, or controversy that you have identified.
- For each trend/issue/controversy, explain what evidence exists that shows this is an important trend, issue or controversy. Please make sure to include references to support your thoughts.
- Explain how your experiences working in the human services field have informed your speculations that this is a trend/issue/controversy.
- Discuss how the human services field has changed or adapted to this trend, issue, or controversy.