

**WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY**

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

SW 5755 INTRODUCTION TO CHILD WELFARE

Master Syllabus (2 Credits)

I. COURSE DOMAIN AND BOUNDARIES

This course will address multiple issues related to the identification and reporting of children who are suspected to have been abused or neglected. The course will study the history of Child Welfare services, and also critically examine the current system in metropolitan Detroit. The Michigan Child Protection Law will be studied in detail. The course will also explore attachment and separation issues in Child Welfare. Effective methods of intervention for abuse and neglect will be reviewed.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVE

1. To enable the student to gain specific knowledge relating to the identification of childhood injuries or conditions that are possible indicators of abuse and/or neglect.
2. To enable the student to understand and evaluate the role societal factors, such as poverty, ecological perspective will be emphasized.
3. To enable the student to understand and evaluate a variety of service programming, gaps in current services, and the underlying values bases and history for these services.
4. To provide students with a multi-disciplinary framework, including guest lectures from a variety of disciplines.
5. To understand attachment theory and pertinent separation issues related to abuse/neglect.
6. To understand effective intervention methods for specific types of abuse/neglect.

III. PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Student achievement of the knowledge and skill objectives is assessed via two classroom examinations (one mid-term on cumulative final), and a research paper. Both examinations will contain short answer and case example questions. Exam questions are drawn from classroom lectures and discussions, student knowledge and skill objectives, class hand-outs,

assigned readings, films or videotapes, speaker presentations, etc. An outline for the research paper is attached to this syllabus. Graduate students will have **THREE** additional questions on each exam, and will be required to write a research paper which is **THREE** pages longer than undergraduates.

IV. GRADES

The final course grades are a reflection of student performance on the two examinations and the research paper. The weight of each is as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| Mid-term exam..... | 30% |
| Research paper..... | 40% |
| Final exam..... | 30% |
| TOTAL..... | 100% |

The **MID-TERM** exam and the **FINAL** exam will each have eighteen questions-students will be responsible for fifteen questions. Each correct answer will be worth two points. Students may obtain extra credit by answering any/all of the three extra credit questions at the en of the exam. Extra credit questions are worth one point each.

The **RESEARCH PAPER** is worth forty points. The breakdown is as follows:

| |
|---|
| 4 points for grammar, punctuation, and spelling. |
| 16 points for section A. |
| 12 points for section B. |
| 8 points for section C. |

THE RESEARCH PAPER IS DUE

The points will be deducted from your grad for each week-day the paper is handed in late. Late papers must be placed in my mailbox at the Thompson Home, Third Floor, indicating the date and time they were placed there.

Request for a grade of Incomplete must be submitted in writing prior to:

V. GRADING SCALE

| | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| A = 100-93 | A- = 92-90 | |
| B+ = 89-87 | B = 86-82 | B- = 81-79 |
| C+ = 79-76 | C = 75-72 | C- = 71-69 |
| D+ = 68-66 | D = 65-63 | D- = 65-63 |
| F = 59- | | |

For Graduate Students, any grade lower than a “C” equals a grade of “F”.

TEXTS/REQUIRED MATERIALS

Besharov, Douglas J., *Recognizing Child Abuse*. 1990. New York: Free Press.

Helfer, Mary Edna, Kempe, Ruth S., Krugman, Richard D., *The Battered Child* (5th edition). 1997 Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Numerous hand-outs will be given throughout the semester.

VI. ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE

The course is broadly divided into three categories. The course will begin with definitions and analysis of child abuse/neglect, the child protection system, and family systems theory specific to family violence.

The second sections will focus on specific manifestations of child abuse and neglect.

The third section will focus on intervention issues.

XI. COURSE OUTLINE

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|--|---|
| Introduction | Review of syllabus, student introductions, discussion of “Mary Ellen” and the history of Child Welfare. |
| Session 1 | Family systems theory, violence, cultural factors. Helfer/Kempe Chapters 1-5. Hand-out, “Child abuse by mother’s boyfriend...” |
| Session 2 | Definitions, trends, organizational and legal framework, role of the reporter. Helfer/Kempe, Chapter 7. Besharov, Chapters 3-5, 16 Guest speaker scheduled. |
| Session 3 | Child Neglect. Failure to thrive. Helfer/Kempe. Chapter 16. Bresharov, Chapter 9. |
| Session 4 | Child neglect: Supervision, educational, medical, emotional. Besharov, Chapters 10-12 Helfer/Kempe Chapter 15 Hand-out, “Fatal Child Neglect.” |
| <u>COURSE OUTLINE (continued)</u> | |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Session 5 | Child abuse. Fractures. Helfer/Kempe, Chapter 10 Besharov, Chapter 7 |
| Session 6 | Child abuse. Burns, bites, skin lesions. Helfer/Kempe, Chapter 9 |
| Session 7 | Child abuse. Burns, bites, skin lesions. Helfer/Kempe, Chapter 9 Hand-out, "Seven Deadly Sins. . ." Guest speaker scheduled. |
| Session 8 | MID-TERM EXAMINATION |
| Session 9 | Sexual abuse and exploitation. Helfer/Kempe, Chapter 12-14 Besharov, Chapter 8 |
| Session 10 | Interviewing for suspected child abuse/neglect. Besharov, Chapters 6, 13 Guest speaker scheduled. |
| Session 11 | Attachment and Separation Issues Dr. Katz video. |
| Session 12 | Institutional abuse. Legal system. Helfer/Kempe, Chapters 20 Guest speaker scheduled. RESEARCH PAPER IS DUE |
| Session 13 | Service programs-micro level. Helfer/Kempe Chapters 24, 25 Hand-out, "Family Reunification. . ." |
| Session 14 | Service programs-macro level. Helfer/Kempe, Chapters 27, 30. |
| Session 15 | FINAL EXAMINATION |

OUTLINE FOR RESEARCH PAPER

This paper will be a combination of research on a specific manifestation of child abuse or neglect, combined with an illustrative case example, closing with an effective method of intervention based on the family's strengths and needs. **The paper should be typed, double-space, with one inch margins, and be between seven and nine pages in length.** There should be at least four references made to scholarly books or professional journal articles not included in the assigned readings. **PROOFREAD FOR GRAMMAR, PUNCTUATION, AND SPELLING.** Points will be deducted for poor proofreading/sloppiness.

The paper should include all of the following:

- A. A description of the specific type of abuse/neglect you are addressing, including prevalence, description, etiology or injury mechanism, common perpetrator characteristics, and sequelae to the child. *(This section of your paper is the one for which the greatest number of points are awarded-be sure this is the most comprehensive section of your paper).*
- B. Provide a detailed case example that clearly demonstrates the type of abuse/neglect addressed in section A. Include family composition, income source and general amount, strengths and weaknesses of the child's caretakers, child characteristics, general details of the abuse/neglect, and a description of how the abuse/neglect came to the attention of CPS. *(This example could be a combination of clients you have known, case examples from books or articles, or your imagination within the realm of professional boundaries).*
- C. Specifically based on the family strengths and weaknesses, devise a possible range of services that would raise the family's care of the child to at least a minimally acceptable level, providing for follow-up after the acute crisis is resolved. *(It is strongly suggested that the reading assignments for the last two classes (Helfer/Kempe Chaps. 22-24) are read for assistance with this section of your paper).*

If at any time you are in need of assistance in relation to any class material, exam, or paper, please call me at my office or home.

A. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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B. **INTERNET**

1. **Policy, Poverty, Social Justice, Welfare Reform**

The Administrative for Children and Families (ACF), within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is responsible for federal programs which promote the economic and social well-being of families, children, and communities. The web site has press releases, organizational information, fact sheet on ACF programs, and links to other, related sites of the federal government. Programs described at this web site include: welfare, foster care adoption, family preservation, child protection, Head Start, child care, child support enforcement, services to youth, programs to strengthen communities, and special programs to such populations as the developmentally disabled, refugees, and Native Americans. www.acf.dhhs.gov

Bureau of the Census has a web site on sources of data on children and on children's programs such as child care and child support enforcement. It lists current reports on children produced by the Census Bureau and give links to census demographic data at the federal and local levels. Is also gives links to other federal sources of data on children, such as the National Center for Health Statistics. www.census.gov/populations/www/socdemo/children

Child Trends, Inc. Child Trends, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to research focused on children, youth, and families. The web site offers comprehensive data on how welfare reform affects children. www.childtrends.org

Child Welfare League of America is the nations's oldest and largest membership-based child welfare organization. It is and association of almost 1,000 public and private nonprofit child welfare agencies. The web site lists and services offered to members and also provides advocacy information concerning current policy proposals of the federal government. www.cwla.org

Children's Defense Fund is an advocacy organization for children in America who cannot vote, lobby, or speak for themselves. It pays particular attention to the needs of poor minority children and those with disabilities. The web site offers current information on federal policy initiatives, and encourages citizen involvement in the policy process. www.childrendefense.org

Handsnet is a web site offering information, training and technical assistance to nonprofit agencies, using the resources of the world wide web. It provides bulletins and summaries of recent federal policy initiatives of interest to the human service community. www.handsnet.org

Institute for Women Policy Research The institute was established to research policies that impact women. A portion of the web site is committed to welfare reform and contains information on domestic violence, reproduction, education, and issues that impact women in relation to welfare reform. The site also has a welfare monitoring list serve which provides an online forum for interested individuals to discuss welfare reform. www.iwpr.org

KIDS COUNT, project of an Annie E. Casey Foundation, is a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children in the United States. By providing policymakers and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being, KIDS COUNT seek to secure better futures for all children. The annual KIDS COUNT Data Book uses the best available data to measure the educational, social, economic, and physical well-being of children. The web site provides the information from the KIDS COUNT reports. www.aecf.org/aecfkids.htm

The National Center for Children in Poverty, The NCCP promotes policies and programs that work to reduce child poverty. The web site provides statistics about children along with information on how welfare reform affects children. www.cpmcnet.columbia.edu/dept/nccp/

The Urban Institute: Assessing the New Federalism. The Urban Institute provides extensive information on social and economic issues. Assessing the Federalism is the Urban Institute's project examining welfare reform. In addition to information about all aspects of welfare reform, the site offer thorough and extensive research related specifically to families and children. The web site also has a database with information about the efforts of each state in addressing welfare reform. www.federalism.urban.org

Welfare Information Network is a foundation funded project to help states and communities obtain the information, policy analysis, and technical assistance they need to develop and implement welfare reforms. It has a clearinghouse of welfare reform related information, including special web sites on teenage parenting, child support, and all aspects of child welfare. The site includes summaries of federal legislation concerning families and children and a calendar of welfare related events. It provides links to related organizations, policy analysis research centers, state agencies, and technical assistance resources, including "best practices" projects www.welfareinfo.org. The site devoted specifically to child welfare issues is: www.welfareinfor.org/childwelf

2. **Family Support and Prevention Sites**

Family Education Network. An educationally focused web site for parents, with resources, an on-lien community, and links to other sites. Education partners include the PTA and the National Association of School Administrators. www.familyeducation.com

Family Resource Coalition. The Family Resource Coalition is an information and support organization for a wide range of family support programs. The web site

describes the organization and provides links to state initiatives in family support.
www.pavin.com/clients/frc/frcn

Family Resource Information, Education, and Network Development Service. This organization offers a range of services designed to assist states, tribal organizations, and local programs in the development of community-based family resource programs and networks. www.frca.org/ntap2

Father & Family Link. Produced by the National Center of Fathers and Families at the University of Pennsylvania, this comprehensive web site provides current, reliable information on research, practice, policy and programs related to father in families. www.ncoff.gse.upenn.edu/fatherlink/index

National Parent Information Network. This web site offers resources from ERIC Clearinghouse and Elementary and Early Childhood Education and the ERIC Clearinghouse on Urban Education, provides information to parents and those who work with parents, and fosters the exchange of parenting materials. Includes information for urban/minority families. www.npin.org

National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. This national advocacy organization works to prevent teen pregnancy by supporting values and stimulating actions that are consistent with a pregnancy-free adolescence. The web site includes information for parents, teenagers, advocates, and scholars. www.teenpregnancy.org

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. This organization spearheads national efforts to locate and recover missing children and raises public awareness about ways to prevent child abduction, molestation, and sexual exploitation. Established in 1984, NCMEC operates under a Congressional mandate and works in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The web site contains educational materials to prevent abduction. www.missingkids.org

National Indian Child Welfare Association. This organization serves tribes in the United States and helps them enhance their capacity to deliver quality child welfare services. The site contains information on community development, public policy, and information exchange. www.nicwa.org

NativeWeb. This is the web site of a collective project to provide a cyber-community for Earth's indigenous peoples, with an extensive search capacity and links to other sites. www.nativeweb.org

Parents' Place. A web site run by and for parents, it contains parenting information on a wide range of subjects, shopping information, and extensive search facility, and numerous chat rooms. www.parentsplace.com

Welfare Information Network: Teen Parents. The Welfare Information Network offers up-to-date policy information on issues relating to public welfare. A special section of

their web site in devoted to policies concerning teen pregnancy.
www.welfareinfo.org/teen

National Resource for Family Centered Practice. This federally funded resources center which provides technical assistance and training to states and programs, has a comprehensive web site which includes lists of material available, bibliographies, and *The Prevention Report*. www.uiowa.edu/~nrcfcp

National Family Preservation Network. The central coordinating point for a network of family preservation staff and programs. www.nfpn.org

3. **Day Care and Child Development**

Families and Work Institute. The Families and Work Institute is a non-profit organization that addresses the changing nature of work and family life. It is committed to finding research-based strategies that foster mutually supportive connections among workplaces, families, and communities. The web site describes the institute's research on a broad range of issues on the connection between work and family life, with extensive links to other sites. www.familiesandwork.org

National Child Care Information Center. The Center is part of the Children's Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It disseminates child care information in response to requests from States, Territories and Tribes, policymakers, parents, programs, organizations, providers and the public. The Center also publishes the Child Care Bulletin six times a year. www.nccic.org

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. The NICHD administers a multidisciplinary program of research, research training, and public information, nationally and within its own facilities, on prenatal development as well as maternal, child and family health. The web site offers access to NICHD publications. www.nih.gov/nichd

National Network for Child Care. This non-profit, education organization affiliated with the Cooperative Extension programs of state universities attempts to increase and strengthen the quality of nonparental care environments using the expertise of Cooperative Extension's nationwide dissemination system. It offers an e-mail listserv for communication on day care, support and assistance to day care providers and users, and a newsletter. The web site is an internet source of over 1000 publications and resources relate to child care. www.exnet.iastate.edu/Pages/families/ncc/homepage

Working Mother Lifenet. This web site provides information on day care for working parents, with results of state surveys on licensing laws and other consumer information. www.womweb.com

4. **Child Neglect and Abuse**

American Humane Association. This national advocacy organization for abused and neglected children has numerous resources on policy and practice in child preventive services. www.americanhumane.org

National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information. This is a national resource for professionals seeking information of prevention, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect, related child welfare issues. The National Center for Child Abuse and Neglect is accessed at this web site. It contains numerous resources and links to other sites. www.calib.com/nccanch

National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse. The web site of a national advocacy organization whose purpose is to prevent and reduce child maltreatment. The site has numerous resources for advocates, including information packets, publications of statistics and trends, and lists of local chapters. www.childabuse.org

Children's Bureau. Administration for Children, Youth, and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Contains information on federal initiatives in foster care and adoption and statistics, child abuse and neglect, and other programs. www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb

5. **Foster Care and Adoption**

Children's Bureau. Administration for Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services. AFCARS (the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System). This government site provides data on foster care. www.acf.dhha.gov/programs/cb/stats/afcars

Child Welfare League of America. This organization has a general child welfare site, with specific pages related to developments in foster care, and lists of topically related publications provided by CWLA. www.cwla.org

National Foster Parent Association. Information on becoming a foster parent is available at this site. This site explains the purpose of the National Foster Parent Association and provides membership information. It offers a comprehensive site called KidSource which addresses information on children, newborn through adolescence, as it relates to fostering. www.kidsource.com/nfpa/index

National Resource Center for Permanency Planning. Provides information services, training and technical assistance to ensure that children have safe families to grow up in. This site focuses on the following issues: Permanency planning, kinship foster care, concurrent planning, family group decision making and HIV/AIDS. www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork

The Evan P. Donaldson Adoption Institute. Provides up-to-date information on research, policy and practice in adoption. www.adoptioninstitute.org [June, 1998]

National Adoption Information Clearinghouse. Established by the U.S. Congress to provide information on all aspects of adoptions, including infant and intercountry adoption and adopting children with special needs. www.calib.com/naic [June, 1998]

6. Juvenile Court and Legal Issues

The following sites provide copies of statutes, case decisions, analyses and commentary on legal issues affecting children in the juvenile and family court system. All sites begin with <http://www>. unless indicated other wise.

Center for Children & the Law - abanet.org/child/home

Center for Law & Social Policy - epn.org/clasp

Code of Federal Regulations - access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/cfr-table-search

Cornell Legal Information Institute - (no www) supct.law.cornell.edu/law.cornell.edu

National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges - ncjfcj.unr.edu

The Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse - fsu.edu/~crimdo/jjclearinghouse/jjclearinghouse

Thomas - US Congress - (no www) thomas.loc.gov

The United States Supreme Court - uscourts.gov

Department of Health and Human Services - os.dhhs.gov

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention