COURSE OUTLINE

Syllabus Statement
This course explores best practice as it relates to family violence.

Course Description
The course will explore the role of social work in clinically addressing the complex issues of family violence. This will be done in the context of structural practice that looks holistically at the individuals and families involved. This will include examining the meaning of your individual philosophy, ideologies, skills and theory preference. The emphasis will be on looking at what constitutes best practice in the context of intervention strategies, social justice and the use of self.

Learning Objectives
This course will encourage students to:

1. Explore belief paradigms, personal, public, professional and their place in the work with family violence.
2. Address the complexity of causation of violence and the skills necessary to deal with them.
3. Critically examine social work interventions to assist those individuals and families impacted by family violence.
4. Examine strengths based practice with populations with challenging behaviours.
5. Critique and refine existing practice model as it applies to working with family violence.

Relationship to Other Courses
This course is offered as a selected issues course in the MSW Clinical Specialization program. It adds to the foundation of previous courses looking at direct practice with individuals and families.

Required text
There is no required text or printed reading package for this course. All readings required for this course will be identified. Please note the references included may be a beginning place.
Course schedule

June 11: AM
- Introduction to course
- Theories of violence
- Foundation for practice
PM
- Watch movie/tentative
- Apply theory
- Prepare for role play
- Where do you typically get stuck

June 12: AM
- Role Plays
PM
- Domestic Violence
- Victims/Survivors/Offenders
- Role and purpose of intervention

June 13: AM
- Children impacted by family violence
PM
- Focus on work with children
- Focus on work with families

June 14: AM
- Sexual abuse
- Children survivors
PM
- Adult survivors

June 15: AM
- Offenders
- Engagement
- Apology
PM
- Role play

June 16: AM
- Elder abuse
PM
- Foundation of practice
- Commitment to practice

Assignments and grading
Evaluation will be based on an article critique, class participation including group activities, and an individual assignment. The weighting, due dates, and expectations for assignments and activities are described below.
1. **Participation: 20%**
   Participation will be evaluated in terms of active participation in classroom, and role-plays and small-group activities. One-half of the participation mark will be based on self-evaluation and the other half based on the instructor’s evaluation.

2. **Article Critique: 30%**
   **Post due:** June 12/12  
   **Response due:** June 14/12  
   Choose an article that is clinically focused on an area of family violence. Post your critique on line. Included in the critique: a brief summary of the article; your analysis of the material adding your own thoughts, support or challenge from theory; its application to your practice-how does it fit/not fit; and its place in macro considerations. Then respond to two other posts with your own critique of the article or the ideas presented, including it place in practice.

3. **Individual paper: 50%**
   **Paper due:** June 21/12  
   Paper may be submitted via email to instructor at altons@macewan.ca. Students must save an electronic or paper copy of the paper they submit by email. The instructor will confirm that the email submission has been received. Late assignments will not be accepted unless emergency circumstances arise and an extension has been granted.  
   Format: APA format (6th ed.)  
   Length: maximum 10 pages, including references

**Course Evaluation**
Student feedback will be sought at the end of the term through the standard university and Faculty of Social Work course evaluation forms and midway through the class.

"If a student is interested in undertaking an assignment that will involve collecting information from members of the public, he or she should speak with the course instructor and consult the CFREB ethics website ([http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/cfreb](http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/cfreb)) before beginning the assignment."

**WRITING EXPECTATIONS**
It is expected that all work submitted in assignments should be the student’s own work, written expressly by the student for this particular course. Students are referred to the section on plagiarism in the University Calendar ([http://www.ucalgary.ca/honesty/plagiarism](http://www.ucalgary.ca/honesty/plagiarism)) and are reminded that plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence.
### MSW Grading System

**U of C Calendar 2011-2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Point</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Outstanding Excellent: superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Very good performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>Good performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Satisfactory performance. <strong>Note:</strong> the grade point value (3.0) associated with this grade is the minimum acceptable average that a graduate student must maintain throughout the program as computed at the end of each registration anniversary year of the program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>A student who receives a &quot;C+&quot; or lower in any one course will be required to withdraw regardless of their grade point average (GPA) unless the program recommends otherwise. If the program permits the student to retake a failed course, the second grade will replace the initial grade in the calculation of the GPA, and both grades will appear on the transcript. Information regarding Academic Standing can be viewed at <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-e-2.html">http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-e-2.html</a>. Information contained in the online version of the Faculty of Graduate Studies calendar supersedes information presented here.</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
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**U of C Calendar, 2011-12**

Effective with the 2008/2009 University Calendar, the online Graduate Calendar is the official University Calendar. You can view the Graduate Calendar at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/index.htm](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/index.htm). The Faculty of Social Work uses the University of Calgary grading system, as shown above. The official grading system must be used to report final grades to the Registrar but need not be used for individual assignments, quizzes, etc. An instructor electing not to use the official system for a particular component(s) of a course must provide the class, in the same format as was used for the course outline, with an interpretation of the system being used. It is at the instructor’s discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades.

**Withdrawal**

No refunds for withdrawal from six-week spring session half-courses after May 14, 2012. The last day for registration and changes of registration for six-week spring session half-courses is May 14, 2012. The last day to withdraw with permission from six-week spring session half-courses is June 25, 2012. The deadline to withdraw with permission from spring session block courses is 4:00 p.m. on the last business day prior to the end of the block course. The Graduate Academic Schedule for 2011/2012 can be viewed at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/academic-schedule.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/academic-schedule.html). The online version of the academic schedule supersedes the information on this course outline.

**Examinations**

Exams are the property of the instructor and the University of Calgary and may not be reproduced in any fashion without express written consent.
Academic Accommodation

It is a student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. If you are seeking academic accommodation in a Block Week course please notify your instructor as soon as possible, and no later than the first day of class. See [http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/)

References


Carland, I, Ternestedt, B-M. Sahlgren-Blom, Hellstrom,I & Sandberg, J. Being me and being us in a family living close to death at home (2011) *Qualitative Health Research, 21*:683 Online DOI: 10.1177/1049732210396102


