

## Adams State College Extended Studies

### SOC 379: VICTIM ADVOCACY

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**COURSE CREDIT:** 3 Credit Hours

**PREREQUISITES:** SOC 201 Minimum Grade: C

#### **REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:**

The required text for this course is *Manual for Victim Advocacy*, by Scott and Lisa Hatch, published by The Center for Legal Studies, ISBN# 0-9637248-8-6.

Recommended:

Garner, B, ed. (2006) *Black's Law Dictionary*, (3<sup>rd</sup> pocket ed.). Thomson West. ISBN 0314158626

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Participants will be prepared to work in victim advocacy arenas, domestic violence shelters, crisis centers, crisis hotlines, and with state and county governments to assist crime victims in progressing through the criminal justice system and toward successful recovery. Course topics include legal terminology, legal process, legislation regarding victims' rights, jurisdiction and venue, ethics, effects of victimization on the victim, victim advocacy skills, and guardianships. It also covers crisis intervention counseling skills for victims of assault, battery, robbery, domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, murder, and homicide.

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

This intensive program is designed to train students to provide assistance to crime victims, both inside and outside of the courtroom. Students will learn how to assess crisis situations according to specific intervention frameworks and will begin to understand the nature of crisis experienced by victims of crime. By employing effective, non-judgmental listening skills, students will become familiar with the process of securing a situation, developing rapport and empathy, working with clients to set up a plan of action, and connecting clients to appropriate resources. Participants will be prepared to work with state and county governments as advocates for crime victims, assisting them in progressing through the criminal justice system and towards successful recovery. Students will also learn to distinguish between myths and facts regarding domestic violence, crimes against children, sexual assault, and related crimes.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** Students will complete 2 proctored exams and 6 written assignments.

**Participation:** Each student is expected to read assigned material and complete and submit all written assignments.

**Projects:** 300 points total. There will be six 50-point written assignments. The topics covered for each of the assignments will be on the following material:

1. Victim Advocacy and Relevant Legislation
2. The Legal Process and Effects of Victimization on the Victim
3. Victim Advocate Skills and Confronting “Isms”
4. Assault, Battery, Robbery & Hate Crimes and Homicide & Suicide
5. Domestic Violence
6. Sexual Assault/Rape and Child Abuse

**Examinations:**

There will be two proctored exams, each worth 50 points, composed of multiple choice and short answer questions dealing with the topics studied in this course.

**Exam #1 will cover the following topics from Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 in the Manual for Victim Advocacy:**

- Lesson 1. Victim Advocacy and Relevant Legislation
- Lesson 2. The Legal Process and Effects of Victimization on the Victim and Others
- Lesson 3. Victim Advocate Skills and Confronting “Isms”

**Exam #2 will cover the following topics from Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 in the Manual for Victim Advocacy:**

- Lesson 4. Assault, Battery, Robbery, Hate Crimes, Homicide, and Suicide
- Lesson 5. Domestic Violence
- Lesson 6. Sexual Assault/Rape and Child Abuse

**GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:**

Students must complete all tests and coursework with a 70% or higher to pass this class.

360-400 pts	90-100%	A
320-359 pts	80-89%	B
280-319 pts	70-79%	C
240-279 pts	60-69%	D
0-239 pts	59% and below is failing	F

<b>Grade Distribution:</b>	2 Exams	50 points each (100 points)
	6 Written Assignments	50 points each (300 points)
	<b>Total Points</b>	<b>400</b>