

SOC 479
FAMILY VIOLENCE
SYLLABUS

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COURSE CREDIT: Three Semester Hours

PREREQUISITES: Completion of Sociology 201 with a *minimum grade of C*.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

Wallace, H. (2005). *Family violence: Legal, medical, and social perspectives*. New York: Pearson Allyn & Bacon Publishers. ISBN: 0-205-41822-8

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines violence in the family from sociological and criminological perspectives. It includes the types and causes of violence in families and domestic units, especially those directed against women and children (woman battering, courtship and dating conflict, and child abuse). Throughout the various types of family violence, intervention and prevention measures are examined as well as the social and legal implications of these measures.

It is important that you understand that family violence and the criminal justice system exist within larger historical, political, economic, and socio-cultural frameworks. This often means that you will have to move beyond personal values, beliefs, and experiences in order to gain insight into the social science perspective of violence and abuse.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The goals of this course are to explore and clarify the following:

- the types of family violence that occur in contemporary America and the historical background of abuse in the context of family.
- the relationship between family violence and the operation of other major social institutions (e.g., religion, media, socialization from family and peers).

- legal and medical issues surrounding family violence as well as social science approaches to the study of family violence.
- populations which have typically not been studied in the context of family violence, such as sibling abuse, rural victims of abuse, and people with disabilities.
- determination of the characteristics of the abused and the abusers in addition to an overview of the contributing factors/causes of abuse.
- how society and professionals respond to family violence.
- specifically, the role of the criminal justice system in responding to the different types of abuse.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Requirement # 1: Proctored Exams

There are three proctored exams you are required to take for this course. Each exam is multiple choice and short answer and is worth 100 points, for a total of 300 points. Thus the exams are 60 percent of your final grade. The Guidelines for Proctored Exams and the Examination Request forms are included in the study guide. Please send your exam request form two to three weeks before you plan to take the exam.

Requirement #2: Writing Assignments

In addition, you will be required to write five (5) essays on the information from the chapters in the text. These writing assignments are a way for me to evaluate your progress through the course. They can also be a way of helping you prepare for the exams since they cover material from the text. Each writing assignment is worth 20 points, thus they add up to 100 points, or the equivalent of an exam. They are 20 percent of your final grade.

Requirement #3:

Finally, you are required to write a research paper on a topic related to family violence. This is a seven to eight (7-8) page paper and is worth 20% of your final grade. This is a chance for you to use the sociological and criminological concepts and theories you have acquired in this course. Essentially, you will be writing a literature review on a particular topic of interest to you in the area of family violence. Format requirements for the research paper are below. As a literature review, your paper should include the following information on your topic:

- a. What have others said about the topic?
- b. What theories address the topic and what do they say?
- c. What previous research exists?
- d. Are there consistent findings, or do studies disagree on the findings?

Most importantly, you should contact me when you are ready to begin your research paper. You must get your topic approved by me before you begin working on the paper. **Research papers will not be accepted if I have not approved them prior to your beginning working on the paper.**

As with the writing assignments, pay attention to the DUE DATE of the research paper. It must be handed in for grading before you take the third, and final, exam.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Exam #1 over Chapters 1-5 of the text:	100 points
Exam #2 over Chapters 6-10 of the text:	100 points
Exam #3 over Chapters 11-15 of the text:	100 points
Writing Assignments 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5:	100 points
Research Paper	100 points
TOTAL:	500 points