Course Syllabus
Southeast Missouri State University

College of Health and Human Services
Course: Child Advocacy II: Professional and System Responses to Child Maltreatment
New: Fall 2013

I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours
Systems approach to professional responsiveness to allegations of child maltreatment. Emphasis on child crime identification, investigation, and prosecution. 3 Credit Hours

II. Prerequisites: HS301 or by consent of instructor.

III. Objectives
A. Understand and interpret the criteria for alleged maltreatment.
B. Explain the difference in system responses between civil and criminal proceedings
C. Identify relevant legal statutes, the case work process, and potential complications.
D. Explain the key components of the investigative process and the roles of each member of the multidisciplinary team.
E. Demonstrate beginning interviewing skills essential to child maltreatment investment and prosecution.
F. Identify the challenges associated with child witnesses (i.e., recantation, suggestibility, memory, and the impact of multiple interviews).
G. Explore perpetrator issues and characteristics
H. Discuss how demographic factors (i.e., race, class, sexual orientation, religion, and gender) might influence the investigative process

IV. Student Learning Outcomes
A. Describe key components of the investigative process
B. Analyze the criteria for alleged maltreatment
C. Identify perpetrator issues and characteristics

V. Expectations of Students:
A. Attend class and actively participate in discussions and classroom activities.
B. Consistently be familiar with, and conversant on all reading as assigned;
C. Complete all assignments by the due dates. Assignments may include observing relevant court proceedings.

D. Submit written assignments when due;

Additional expectations may be specified by individual instructors.

VI. Course Content

I. Course Overview
   a. Intro to child maltreatment systems
   b. Ethical, legal, moral and professional obligations

II. Initial System Response to Child Abuse
   a. Criminal and civil response to child abuse
   b. State and federal legislation
   c. Review of the role and laws related to mandated reporters

III. Systemic and Coordinated Responses to Child Maltreatment
   a. Overview of different systems involved in addressing child maltreatment
   b. Health care and mental health systems
   c. Role of children’s advocacy centers

IV. Forensic & Clinical Response to Child Maltreatment
   a. Confidentiality and privilege in child abuse cases

V. Understanding and Practicing Cultural Diversity in Child Maltreatment Investigations
   a. Race
   b. Religion and ethnicity
   c. Gender and sexual orientation
   d. Class and socioeconomic status

VI. Working with Non-Offending Parents of Child Victims of Abuse

VII. Forensic Interview Protocols: A Comparison
   a. Overview of forensic interviewing protocols
   b. Preparing for the interview
   c. Interview guide

VIII. Observe forensic interview and practice interview stages
   a. Review forensic interviewing protocols
   b. Establishing rapport/nonverbal communication
   c. Environmental considerations
   d. Relationship between child and interviewer

IX. Roles & Responsibilities of the Medical Professional
   a. Medical providers – who can be involved?
   b. Medical evidence of child maltreatment
   c. Reporting and treatment issues

X. Controversial Issues in Investigations, Interviews and Prosecution of Child Abuse
   a. Documentation of interviews
   b. Use of anatomical diagrams
   c. Use of anatomical dolls
   d. Interview instructions and truth-lie discussions
   e. Child witnesses in court and courtroom modifications
   f. Child witness testimony via closed-circuit television
XI. The Dynamics of Child Sexual Abuse
   a. Challenges to disclosure
   b. Child Sexual Abuse Accommodation Syndrome
   c. Allegations made during divorce/custody situations

XII. Communicating with Children
   a. Question types in the interview
   b. Linguistics and questioning children
   c. Establishing a narrative
   d. Clarification questions
   e. Memory and suggestibility in the interview
   f. Open-ended questioning
   g. Alternative hypotheses/explanations
   h. Introducing topics
   i. Impact of multiple interviews

XIII. Adult and Juvenile Sex Offenders - Treatment and Consequences
   a. Defenses used
   b. Characteristics of perpetrators
   c. Treatment vs. punishment of sex offenders
   d. Differences between adult and juvenile offenders

XIV. Courtroom Procedures and Roles of Criminal Justice Professionals
   a. Charging decisions
   b. Plea negotiations
   c. Pre trial motions
   d. Defense and prosecution approaches

VII. Textbooks
Primary

Supplemental:


VIII. Basis for Student Evaluation

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<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<td>90 – 100 %</td>
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<td>80- 89%</td>
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<td>below 60%</td>
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IX. Academic Policy Statement

Students will be expected to abide by the University Policy for Academic Honesty regarding plagiarism and academic honesty. Refer to http://www6.semo.edu/judaffairs/code.html.

X. Students With Disabilities Statement

If a student has a special need addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires materials in an alternative format, please notify the instructor at the beginning of the course. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate special needs. Refer to http://www.semo.edu/ds.

XI. Academic Integrity Statement

Questions, comments or requests regarding this course or program should be taken to the instructor. Unanswered questions or unresolved issues involving this class may be taken to: