Psychology 380  
Child Abuse and Neglect: Clinical and Research Issues  
Fall 2009  
Tuesday 3:30 –6:15pm  
Steward Observatory N210

Instructor: Judith V. Becker, Ph.D.  
Office Hours: Wednesday 1:30-3:30 or by appointment  
Psychology 523  
E-Mail: jvbecker@u.arizona.edu (Note: I do not check e-mail every day. If you do not receive a response in 24 hours, please call my office. Do not email me on D2L)  
Phone: 621-7455

TA: Andrew Perkins  
Office Hours: Wednesday 10:00-12:00 or by appointment  
Psychology 527  
E-Mail: abperkin@email.arizona.edu (Do not email me on D2L)

TA: Melissa Sisco, MA  
Office Hours: Tuesday 12:45 to 2:45 or by appointment  
Psychology 527  
E-Mail: sisco@u.arizona.edu (Do not email me on D2L)

Course Description:

This course will cover the history of child maltreatment, risk factors, legal issues, and types of child abuse including physical, sexual, child neglect, psychological, fetal abuse, and Munchausen by proxy. And prevention of child abuse and neglect will also be covered.

Readings


Additional readings listed in the syllabus will be available through D2L.

Evaluation

There will be three non-cumulative short essay exams and one class presentation. Your final grade will be determined by summing the results of these four requirements. The assignment of grades will follow the scale below:
Projects
Students will be assigned to groups of five based on shared interest in community agencies that work with at-risk children and families. Each group will be expected to research the agency and interview one staff member (5 points). One extra credit point will be allotted to students who visit the agency in-person. Based on the critical analysis of the information at hand, each group will provide 3 policy recommendations regarding the agency’s structure (5 points). These three recommendations must be supported by 3 research articles (5 points). Finally, each group will submit a formal policy recommendation final paper combining these steps (10 points). Instructions and due dates for each step will be presented in-class.

Exams
The exams are comprised of 15 multiple choice questions and 1 essay response. The exams will cover the assigned readings, lectures, guest speakers, and videos shown in class. You are responsible for reading the chapters and pages listed on the syllabus.

The exams are the property of the instructor. Do not take exams from the classroom.

In order to do well on the tests, you should keep current on the readings and attend class. It is all too easy to fall behind on the assigned readings. Please make every effort to complete the readings before the class period for which they are assigned. This will enable you to ask and respond to questions during class discussions.

Grading
Your letter grade will be determined in the following way: The highest total score attained by any student in the class will become the reference score for grading. The student(s) with the highest total score will receive a grade of 100%. All other students will receive a percentage grade based upon the highest score. For example, if the highest score is a 97, 90% of 97 is 87, therefore all students with an 87 or above would receive an A. Standard scoring applies as follows:

A = 90% and above
B = 80% to 89%
C = 70% to 79%
D = 60% to 69%
E = Below 60%

There will be no extra credit points.
Absences and Make-up Exams:
All holidays and special events observed by organized religions will be honored for those students who show affiliation with that particular religion. Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean’s designee) will be honored. In the unfortunate event you should miss a class, you will have to borrow notes from another class member. You will also be held responsible for any changes or additions to the syllabus announced in class. Make-up exams will only be permitted when absolutely necessary. In order to take a make-up exam, the student must have a valid, documented reason for having missed the exam. Make-up exams will not be permitted unless the student has contacted, by telephone or email, the instructor or teaching assistant prior to noon on the day of the scheduled exam. If a student misses an exam without both contacting the instructor or teaching assistant and having a valid, documented reasons, the student will not be able to retake the exam.

Accommodations:
Students who are registered with the Disability Resource Center are asked to submit appropriate documentation to the instructor as soon as possible if you are requesting reasonable accommodations.

Academic Integrity:
Any violation of the University’s Code of Academic Integrity, found at http://web.arizona.edu/~studpubs/policies/cacaint.htm, including cheating and plagiarism, will lead to a faculty-student conference and possible sanctions.

Classroom Behavior:
The university seeks to promote a teaching and learning environment free from material and substantial classroom disruptions. Consequently, it is expected that all pagers and cell phones will be turned off during class, that there will be no extraneous talking during lecture, and that students will arrive at class on time. Additionally, the University prohibits any threatening behavior, defined as “any statement, communication, conduct, or gesture, including those in written form, directed toward any member of the University community that causes a reasonable apprehension of physical harm to a person or property.” The University’s policy regarding threatening behavior can be found at http://web.arizona.edu/~policy/threaten.shtml.

I encourage each of you to see me about anything in the course that concerns you.

Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.
**Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic and Assigned Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 25</td>
<td>Chapter 1: Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1</td>
<td>Chapter 2: Risk Factors for Child Maltreatment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 8</td>
<td>Chapter 3: Mandated Reporting</td>
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<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>Chapter 4: Physical Abuse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 22</td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 29</td>
<td>Chapter 5: Child Neglect</td>
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</tbody>
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Oct. 6  Chapter 6: Psychological Maltreatment


Oct. 13  Chapter 7: Sexual Abuse


Oct. 20  Chapter 8: Fetal Abuse


Oct. 27  Exam 2

Nov. 3  Chapter 9: Munchausen by Proxy Syndrome


Nov. 10  Chapter 10: Forensic Interviewing


Nov. 17  Chapter 11: The Legal System and Child Maltreatment


No Reading

Dec. 1  Chapter 13: Preventing Child Maltreatment


Dec. 8  Student Discussion and Special Event

FINAL EXAM (Exam 3): Tuesday December 15, 2:00-4:00pm.