

School of Applied Psychology and Counselor Education
APCE 654 Child Abuse & Neglect

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Prerequisites: None

Credit Hours: 3 semester hours

Course Description: Introduction to major issues in the child abuse field, including definitions, causes, effects, assessment, prevention, treatment, and legal issues. Secondary traumatic stress and self-care will be emphasized.

Course Content: This course includes lecture and discussion on the following topics: definitions of child abuse & neglect, pertinent statistics, the cultural context, causes, & effects of abuse, assessment, prevention & treatment of abuse, legal matters such as professional and legal responsibilities within Colorado for reporting child abuse & the role of the mental health professional in the prosecution of child abuse cases. This class also emphasizes the importance of amelioration of secondary traumatic stress & self-care among professionals.

Course Objectives:

- 1) To begin to build a broad knowledge base on many facets of child abuse & neglect.
- 2) To heighten awareness & increase sensitivity about the problems of child abuse & neglect.
- 3) To become aware of resources at the local & national level to assist the child & the professional in dealing with child abuse & neglect (CACREP standard II – K – 1 b, f, g).
- 4) To read current research on a specific topic of interest to the student.
- 5) To develop self-care strategies & learn to ameliorate the impact of doing trauma work.
- 6) To understand the legal and ethical obligations relevant to child abuse and neglect (CACREP standard II – K – 1 h; 2 f; 3 e; 5 g)
- 7) To become aware of the specific ways counselors can serve as helpers, including such issues as essential interviewing techniques, assessment of abuse, counseling theory, systemic approaches, consultation (CACREP standard II – K – 5 a – f; 7 f-h)

Method of Instruction: Lecture format, class discussions, videotape and guest presenters who are expert in selected topics.

Required Texts:

- Helfer, M.E., Kempe, R.S., & Krugman, R.D.(Eds.). (1997). The Battered Child (5th Rev.Ed.) Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Herman, J. Trauma and Recovery. (1997). NY: Basic Books.

Texts available through The Book Stop 970-356-1687 or the University Book Store.

Academic Conduct: Cheating on examinations, submitting work of other students or authors as your own, or plagiarism in any form will result in penalties ranging from an F on an assignment to expulsion from the university.

Professional Conduct: Students are expected to adhere to the appropriate Code of Ethics for their particular program. Any behavior, which is deemed unethical, will be grounds for dismissal from the

program.

Disability Statement: Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Disability Access Center at 970-351-2289 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Requirements for PPSY 654: Child Abuse & Neglect

- 1) Read **The Battered Child** and **Trauma & Recovery**. Reading these books will add significantly to your understanding of the lecture information. The texts will be invaluable to you when you write your take-home exam. Both books are to be read in their entirety, preferably before the first weekend of class.
- 2) **Exam**. This take home exam will help you synthesize information & will focus on information from your textbooks, class lectures, & speakers. Please type the exam. Exam due last day of class.
- 3) **Novel or Autobiography**: Read a novel or an autobiography portraying abuse from the perspective of the child. In two pages or less discuss your responses. This is not a book report. Due last day of class.
- 4) **Class participation and presence**. Attend class and participate in discussions.
- 5) **Research Paper** Choose a CA&N topic of particular interest to you and write a paper. Use a minimum of 5 references including books and research publications. You will also be asked to briefly review your findings with the class. Due last weekend of class. (Optional – however, to receive an A in this class, you must complete this paper).

Evaluation:

A = 90 – 100% (including Research Paper)
B = 80 – 89%
C = 70 – 79%
D = 60 – 69%

Important Note:

This course is not purely academic or theoretical. Research indicates that one in 3 females has been sexually abused before the age of 18 and 1 in 4-5 males. Thus it is possible that you or a classmate have dealt with verbal, physical, or sexual abuse or neglect at some point in your life. Some of the lectures, videotapes, and speakers may have a strong emotional impact on you. This course will increase your awareness and convey information to help you in developing knowledge about child abuse and neglect and the impact of psychological trauma. This course is not intended to facilitate the exploration and healing of trauma, although experiences you may have had may be recalled and felt more deeply. Please consult with me as soon as possible regarding any concerns you have about the course or material. Please develop and use self-care strategies during and after this course.