

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for AJ 59

CHILD ABUSE IN THE COMMUNITY

Effective: Fall 2004

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

AJ 59 — CHILD ABUSE IN THE COMMUNITY — 2.00 units

Dynamics of battered child syndrome. Focus on the abusive caretaker, patterns of abuse and means necessary for effective intervention and treatment, including effective legal and social action to control child abuse in the community

2.00 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

Discipline:

	<u>MIN</u>
Lecture Hours:	36.00
Total Hours:	36.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. discuss the nature and extent of child abuse in the community;
2. explain the battered child syndrome;
3. summarize the intended impact of recently enacted laws to protect children from abuse;
4. list the existing services available in the community to control child abuse;
5. discuss methods for effective employment of existing laws and services in cases of suspected child abuse.

V. CONTENT:

- A. Overview of child abuse in the community
 1. Incidence
 2. Extent
 3. Perpetrators and their characteristics
 4. Effect of modern stresses on case incidence
 5. A look at some "typical" cases
- B. Characteristics of the Battered Child Syndrome
 1. High performance demand transferred to children
 2. Reliance on severe punishments when demands are not met
 3. High vulnerability to criticism
 4. Inability to maintain important interpersonal contacts
 5. Development of crisis then turned on the child
 6. Extreme reluctance to admit to any need for help
- C. Review of the legal status of children, including recent legislation
 1. Abuse caused by the extensive history of viewing children as chattel
 2. Early struggles to gain child protection laws
 3. Present outlook of children's rights according to the law
 4. Pending legislation and the overall outlook in the area of children's rights and protection
- D. Effective intervention
 1. Reporting laws and their effect
 2. Initial interviews and investigation
 3. Agency responsibility and coordination
 - a. Major agencies involved in child abuse
 - b. Interrelationship among agencies
- E. Prevention of child abuse
 1. The importance of an informed and alert community
 2. Recognizing early trouble signs
 3. Developing community resources and making them available

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Discussion** -
- B. **Audio-visual Activity** -
- C. **Lecture** -

- D. Class visitation to a care facility
- E. Interview technique practice and role play
- F. **Guest Lecturers** -

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Written answers to questions at the end of the textbook chapters B. Prepare a role-play exercise between a case worker and a suspected child abuser C. Visit a local care facility and create a short oral and written report for the class D. Write a research paper on a specific issue of child abuse prevention

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

- 1. Exams/Tests
- 2. Quizzes
- 3. Class Participation

B. **Frequency**

- 1. Attendance and participation will be evaluated daily
- 2. Quizzes and brief oral and written presentations will be submitted throughout the semester
- 3. Written research report and accompanying oral presentation will be the final class activity for the semester
- 4. The midterm and final examination will occur at the appropriate times

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Mayhall and Norgard *Child Abuse and Neglect.*, McMillian Publishing Company, 0.
- 2. Sagatun and Edwards *Child Abuse and the Legal System.*, Thomson/Wadsworth Publishing., 0.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: