COURSE PHILOSOPHY: This course is designed to assist students to gain therapeutic, less stereotyped attitudes towards abusers; a feeling for the importance of working with other professionals and with community groups; and self-confidence in their ability to respond appropriately in abuse cases.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1.) To provide students with basic "background knowledge" on the subject of child abuse - eg. definitional problems, current estimates of the incidence of child abuse and a multiple-factor model for understanding the causes of child abuse.

2.) To prepare students who will be working with children and their families for their critical role in the family identification and referral of families in which abuse is suspected or deemed to be a high risk.

3.) To prepare students to work in a multi-disciplinary effort around issues of assessment and treatment.

TEXTS:


SYLLABUS:

WEEK 1

A. Introduction to the Course
   - Course Content
   - Assignments

B. Introduction to Child Abuse
   - Historical Background
   - Attitudes - Self Awareness
   - Attitude Checklist
WEEK 1  C. Film: 12½ cents, 49 min.
   - Discussion

WEEK 2  A. Defining Child Abuse
       B. Etiology of Abuse
          - Attitudes towards abuse
          - Intro to dynamics of abuse and neglect
          - More indicators
       C. Film: War of the Eggs, 28 min.
          - Discussion

WEEK 3  A. Causal Factors in Child Abuse
       - More on the dynamics of abuse and neglect
       - Physical indicators
       - Cycle of abuse
       B. - Case Study analysis
       C. Assignment: Case Study, Due Week 5

WEEK 4  A. Test #1
       B. The Identification Sequence
          - High Risk Indicators
          - Case Studies
       C. Documentation of Abuse and Neglect
          - Sample Record
       D. A/V Presentation of Physical Abuse

WEEK 5  A. Intervention
        - The Law
        - Legal Issues
        B. Reporting
           - Incidence
           - Registry
        C. Case Study Due

WEEK 6  A. Role of Professionals
        - The role of professionals in detection, prevention and treatment
        B. - Structure of C.A.S.
WEEK 6  C. Film: The Preschool Abused Child, 12 min.

WEEK 7  A. Interviewing the Parents and Child
- Social Worker Interview
- Role Play

B. Film: Police Investigation, 12 min.

WEEK 8  A. Test #2

B. Treatment: Role of C.A.S. in the community
- The Abusive Parent
- Therapeutic, goals, methods, who is treatable?
- What is treatable?
- Self-help groups

WEEK 9  A. Treatment
- The Abused Child
- Effects of abuse
  1) physical
  2) emotional
  3) development

B. Treatment goals and approaches

C. Film: Social Worker as a Court Room Witness, 35 min.

WEEK 10 A. Prevention
- Prediction, programs

B. Case Studies

C. Film: Don't give up on Me, 28 min.

D. Assignment: Case Study, Due Week 13

WEEK 11 A. Sexual Abuse
- Types of Sexual Abuse
- Definition
- Incidence
- Indicators

B. Film: The Victim Nobody Knows, 20 min.

WEEK 12 A. Test #3

B. Dynamics of the Triangle

C. Slides: Identifying Neglect Before Too Late
WEEK 13
A. Physical Neglect
   - Definition
   - Indicators
B. Film: Cipher in the Snow, 24 min.
C. Case Study Due

WEEK 14
A. Emotional Abuse
   - Definition
   - Indicators
B. Film: Cradle of Violence, 22 min.
C. Term Paper Due

WEEK 15
FINAL EXAM

ASSIGNMENTS: Students are responsible for text material, notes and case studies. Articles of special significance will be distributed from time to time.

TERM PAPER: DUE APRIL 15

The student will choose a topic in the area of child abuse and complete the following assignment: compose a comprehensive paper using at least three current sources of research or information (books, articles, journals). The paper must be at least 10 typewritten pages. The topic must be approved by the instructor by Week 3. The student will provide a one-page summary to be photocopied for the class.

EVALUATION: Three Tests - 25 marks each.................75 marks
Term Paper Summary.................................10 marks
Term Paper.............................................45 marks
Two Case Studies - 15 marks each..............30 marks
Final Exam............................................40 marks

TOTAL 200 marks

Marks obtained in the course will be averaged and the student will be assigned a grade of A, B, C, X, or R in accordance with Sault College marking policy.