University of South Florida
Sarasota-Manatee

Course Title: Family Violence, SYP 3562
On-line Course Delivery through Canvas
Fall Semester, 2014

Required Textbook: Family Violence Across the Lifespan
Authors: Barnett, Miller-Perrin and Perrin
Publisher: Sage Publications, 2011
ISBN: 9781412981781 (paperback)

Supplemental Reading: You will be provided links to sources outside of the
textbook that are important parts of the course.

Instructor: Dr. Gary Voelkl

Dr. Voelkl holds a Ph.D. and a Master’s degree in sociology from Purdue University. He
earned his bachelor’s degree from the State University of New York. He has held faculty
and teaching positions at Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, the State
University of New York, the University of South Florida, The State College of Florida
and Keiser University. In addition to his academic pursuits, Dr. Voelkl was associated
with Kodak for 15 years, most recently as Manager of Diversity Initiatives. He also
served as Manager of Kodak’s Work/Life Programs and as an Employee Assistance
Counselor, where he worked with employees challenged with a variety of family and
relationship issues.

Contact:

This course is delivered 100% online, through Canvas. The Canvas environment
provides the tools that will facilitate communication with me as needs arise. I will do my
best to respond to your questions within 24 hours. My e-mail address is:
gvoelkl@sar.usf.edu

Course Description:

SYP3562, Family Violence, is focused on explaining the complexity and consequences
of physical, sexual and emotional violence among family members and between intimate
partners. The course is intended to develop your capacity to think critically, actively, and
deply about one of the most damaging (if not the most damaging) family problems
prevalent in our society today — family violence and abuse. Our interest is in studying
and understanding the ways family violence is perceived, explained, and researched by
different parts of the academic and professional community and within some of the more
influential and important belief systems in our society. Particular attention will be given
to groups that have been disproportionately affected by family violence, namely women
and children. Additionally, students will also be exposed to the emerging knowledge base related to violence in gay and lesbian families, minority families, immigrant and refugee populations, and in the military. We will study how family studies, sociology, psychology, feminism, and related disciplines generally view family violence and how it could be prevented, reduced, or eliminated. We consider how different professionals — such as researchers, therapists, educators, policy makers, law enforcers, medical doctors, nurses — contribute different perspectives and considerations to our understanding of family violence and what can be done about it. This class will be especially useful to individuals who plan careers in areas such as the helping professions, including social work, education, law, counseling, ministry, criminal justice, and medicine.

**Overall Course Goal:**

It is hoped that the successful completion of this course will provide the knowledge for understanding the complex social and personal problem known as family violence for you as a possible future researcher or practitioner, and as an individual.

**Learning Objectives:**

By successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

- Define domestic violence.
- Recognize the signs of family and relationship violence.
- Understand the impact of family violence on victims, families and society
- Gain knowledge and refute myths about family violence
- Examine the influence of social and cultural factors on violence
- Describe the reasons why victims stay with abusers.
- Describe ways victims of domestic abuse can be helped.
- Summarize the legal issues involved with domestic violence.
- Describe methods for keeping safe from domestic abuse.
- Describe methods for stopping the cycle of abuse.

**Comments and Cautions:**

This course deals with painful subjects. Class members are urged to be particularly thoughtful and sensitive to other students. Everyone is expected to respect the very personal nature of the disclosures that may be made in this class. While this is an academic course, the discussion of personal experience is welcomed. Please reveal only what is comfortable for you to have 30 people know. Classmates should be able to relate their own experiences and expect their confidences to be respected. It takes a great deal of courage for victims to finally get to the point of being able to tell their personal history of family abuse. We must respect that and honor their courage with our confidentiality.
Class Structure:

The format for class will be on-line via the USF Canvas. The class material is organized into 16 weeks. These appear as your course modules. Under the “Modules” tab you will find the required reading and all assignments for that week. Each week, you will be engaged in a discussion of that week’s material. The discussions will be composed of two parts: (1) Your response to assigned discussion questions and (2) Your reaction to the responses of your classmates. Each week, the discussion questions are found in your “Discussions” tab. Be sure to carefully read the “Grading Discussions” section of this syllabus for a detailed explanation of how your discussion participation will be graded. You will also be completing and submitting an online multiple choice quiz on the assigned readings each week. The quizzes are found in the “Modules” tab within the week we are covering. A comprehensive final exam will wrap up the course.

Each week, other than Week One which is an introductory week, is associated with a chapter in the textbook. Your assignments for the course are in four areas:

- Readings for the week.
- An online quiz each week on that week’s readings.
- A weekly Discussion Forum where you will address assigned questions and interact with your classmates.
- A midterm exam during week nine.
- The final exam at the end of the course.

PLEASE NOTE: This is an online class and it is your responsibility to have access to a working computer. Computers are available on campus should yours be down. That being said, “computer issues” is not an excuse for late work. If you turn in a blank quiz or do not submit your quiz correctly and on time, you will incur a ten point late penalty.

The On-line Format:

I expect that, for many of you, the on-line course format may be a new venture. It is imperative that you understand Canvas and are able to navigate through the course. The course itself is not the place to learn Canvas! Student Canvas training and support is available through Academic Computing toll free at (866) 974-1222. Live online help is available at: http://usfsupport.custhelp.com/app/chat/chat_launch

The Tampa Help Desk is also available to assist with Canvas support 24 hours/7 days a week. Their number is 813-974-1222 or help@usf.edu. Online and classroom tutorials are also available. These can be found at: http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/DE/current_students.php

I do not have the expertise to address technology issues, so please refer these questions to one of the above resources.

For those of you who are new to the on-line modality, I can relate to what might be some newcomer jitters. My experience has proved that if you take advantage of the available
resources, keep at it and have faith in your ability, all will be fine and you'll soon be comfortable and confident in the Web environment.

For you, the student, one of the biggest differences between this format and the traditional classroom is the need to be very disciplined and motivated - a "self-starter". **This is absolutely true. You must keep up with the pace of the course.** And that means attending to it several times every week. There are strict deadlines and no room for procrastination. This course will not be for everyone. If you are the type that waits until a week before the end of the semester to get started on the term paper that you should have begun during the first month, this is not be the learning venue for you. If you frequently put off reading and studying until the night before the test, this may not be right for you. Don't make the mistake of thinking that the on-line environment is a way to get out of going to class! **Most students find that they devote more hours to course work here than they have in the traditional classroom.** My students confirm this every semester.

On the other hand, if you are serious about learning and enjoy working independently, you may thrive in this environment. The structure of on-line learning provides a great opportunity for expressing your thoughts, asking questions and for creative thinking. You can be "at class" from any location where you are able to connect to the internet.

**IMPORTANT!!** Be sure you understand what is expected of you with regards to assignments, their due dates and how you will be graded. Take the necessary time to carefully read - and make sure you completely understand - the remainder of this syllabus. *It is your responsibility to be aware of and adhere to all course requirements.*

My goal, as your instructor, is provide you the opportunity to learn. As a student (and I spent many years of my life in that role), your overriding objective may be a grade that positively contributes to your GPA. To earn an "A" or a "B" will require time and effort. Regardless of your final grade, if this semester's experience provides you with knowledge that will be useful to you throughout life, the course will have been a success.

**Grading and Evaluation:**

Your final grade in the course will be determined by performance in three areas:

1. **Online Quizzes:** 40% (40% of your total course grade)
2. **Online Discussions:** 30% (30% of your total course grade)
3. **Midterm Exam:** 10% (10% of your total course grade)
4. **Final Exam:** 20% (20% of your total course grade)

*NOTE: There is no "Extra Credit" available in this course. You will be evaluated on your performance on the above assignments only.*

Final letter grades will be assigned as follows:
5

100-97= A+  89-87=B+  79-77=C+  69-67=D+  Under 60=F  
96-93 =  A  86-83=B  76-73=C  66-63=D  
92-90 =  A-  82-80=B-  72-70=C-  62-60=D-  

As an example, if your final quiz average was 80, your final class discussion average was 90, your midterm exam grade was 75 and your final exam grade was 90 your final course grade would be: (80*40%)+(90*30%)+(75*10%)+(90*20%) = 84.5. Your grade for the class is B.

**Grading Discussions**

*Class Discussions open at 6:00 A.M. on Monday of each discussion week and close at 11:55 P.M. on the Sunday indicated for that discussion.*

There are three basic requirements for the Class Discussions:

1. Respond to each of the Discussion Questions. **You must respond to at least one question by the end of the day on Friday of the first discussion week to avoid a five point penalty.**

2. Respond to the posts of your classmates (the number required will be stated in the instructions for that discussion).

3. The total number of posts required for the discussion will be stated. **You must post at least that number of times or incur a five point penalty for each post you are short.**

   Important: Do not answer more than one discussion question in a post. Post separately for each discussion question. You must meet the requirement for the number of posts required each week.

In these discussions you will be interacting with other students in a way that you contribute to their knowledge and they to yours. Each of you will be playing the roles of both student and teacher. I have found that this is an excellent way for students to learn course material. It can also be gratifying and fun to do. You are expected to participate in a meaningful way in ALL of these discussions. What does "meaningful" mean? It means that you should:

- Log on to the class several times each week.
- After doing the assigned reading and viewing the videos, respond to the each of the discussion questions during the week. **Your first response should be posted by the end of the day on Friday of the first week of that discussion so that your classmates will have sufficient opportunity to read it and respond. Failure to do so will incur a five point penalty for that discussion.**
- Respond in a responsible manner to two other students' posts.
- Be sure to use correct spelling and proper grammar.
• Try to avoid long involved questions. It is my experience that your classmates will not read lengthy posts. Try your best to limit each posting to no more than a couple of paragraphs or less.

Grading on this portion of the course will be based upon:

1. Timeliness: You must post your response to at least one of the Class Discussion questions first question by Friday of the first week of that discussion. Failure to do so will incur a five point penalty for that discussion. All discussions end on a Sunday.

2. Quality: Each post will be assigned a point value from 1 to 4. A four point post is outstanding (reflects knowledge of course material, is valuable for the class to read and is well written). A three point post is above average. A two point post is average or satisfactory. A one point post is less than satisfactory. Consider the following when posting: Have you responded to your classmates in a way that was helpful and demonstrated knowledge of the course material? When relevant, did you support your post with a citation from a credible reference? Did you use proper grammar and spelling?

3. Quantity: Did you meet the requirement for the minimum number of posts, answering all questions assigned and responding to at least two of your classmates’ posts? You must meet the requirement for the minimum number of posts for the discussion. Five points will be deducted from your grade for each post you fall short of that minimum number.

Here is how your discussion grades will be determined: (SCROLL DOWN)
First, each of your posts will be assigned a point value according to the following criteria. This applies to both your answers to the discussion questions and to your responses to your classmates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Interpretation</th>
<th>Grading criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 4      | Outstanding          | The post is:                                                                                              • Accurate  
• Relevant  
• Well written (including spelling). *Posts with misspellings are not eligible for 4 points.*  
• Supported by evidence (data, citing a reference)  
• Is a “teaching post” – that is, your post adds valuable information to the class beyond existing course material. |
| 3      | Above Average        | The post lacks at least one of the above qualities, but is above average in quality. A three point post is more than an opinion. It is an academic post that should reflect your learning in the course. A citation to a reputable source supporting your thoughts lends credibility to your post and makes it “academic”. *Posts with misspellings are not eligible for 3 points.* |
| 2      | Average              | The post lacks two or more of the required qualities. Comments which are based upon personal opinion or personal experience often fall here. Most posts where you post a question to the class will fall here. |
| 1      | Minimal              | The post presents little new information. However, one point comments may provide important social presence and contribute to a collegial atmosphere. |

At the end of each discussion, your grade for that discussion is determined by the quality of your posts. *Any penalty for not responding to all questions, or for not responding to at least one question by Friday, or for not meeting the required number of posts will impact your grade.* Refer to the grading chart below.

For example, if the average quality of your posts for that discussion was 2.8 and you posted the required number of times, your grade would be 85. If you incurred 10 points in penalties, your grade would be reduced to 75. If your average quality was 1.75 your grade would be 75. If you incurred five penalty points, your grade would be 70.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average quality</th>
<th>Discussion Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.8 – 4.0</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score Range</td>
<td>Point Value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5 – 3.79</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0 – 3.49</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5 – 2.99</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0 – 2.49</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 – 1.99</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0 – 1.49</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 1.0</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What happen if you post beyond the number of posts required that week? If you exceed the required number of posts, your best (highest point value) posts would be the ones used to calculate your average. For example, if there were 5 required posts and you actually posted 7 times, your 5 highest point value posts would be used to calculate your average.

**Preparation and Participation:**

Students are expected to do all of the reading and to complete all assignments on or before the date they are due. All assignments are due as indicated on the syllabus. Late quizzes will incur a penalty of 10 points. Missed “Class Discussions” cannot be made up, since your classmates are no longer reading in that week’s area once the next week begins. *If you fail to contribute to a discussion, you will receive a grade of zero for that discussion.*

**Additional Information:**

**USF Sarasota-Manatee Policies and Procedures**

**Religious Observances**
The University recognizes the right of students and faculty to observe major religious holidays. Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class for a major religious observance must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor, in writing, by the second week of classes.

**Disabilities Accommodation**
Students are responsible for registering with the Office of Students with Disabilities Services (SDS) in order to receive academic accommodations. Reasonable notice must be given to the SDS office (typically 5 working days) for accommodations to be arranged. It is the responsibility of the student to provide each instructor with a copy of the official Memo of Accommodation. Contact Information: Disability Coordinator: 359-4714; disabilityservices@sar.usf.edu; http://www.usfsm.edu/students/disability/
**Academic Disruption**
The University does not tolerate behavior that disrupts the learning process. The policy for addressing academic disruption is included with Academic Dishonesty in the USFSM Undergraduate Catalog or USFSM Graduate Catalog and the USF Student Code of Conduct.
Undergraduate: http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/
Graduate: http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/
USF Student Code of Conduct: http://www.sa.usf.edu/srr/page.asp?id=88

**Contingency Plans**
In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USFSM to suspend normal operations. During this time, USFSM may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: Blackboard/Canvas, Elluminate, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It’s the responsibility of the student to monitor Blackboard/Canvas site for each class for course specific communication, and the main USFSM and College websites, emails, and MoBull messages for important general information. The USF hotline at 1 (800) 992-4231 is updated with pre-recorded information during an emergency.

**Emergency Preparedness**
It is strongly recommended that you become familiar with the USF Sarasota-Manatee Emergency Action Plan on the Safety Preparedness site http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/facilities/SafetyPreparedness.php

**Fire Alarm Instructions**
At the beginning of each semester please note the emergency exit maps posted in each classroom. These signs are marked with the primary evacuation route (red) and secondary evacuation route (orange) in case the building needs to be evacuated.

**Web Portal Information**
Every newly enrolled USF student receives an official USF e-mail account. Students receive official USF correspondence and Blackboard/Canvas course information via that address. Therefore it is the student’s responsibility to check their USF email regularly.

**Instructor Copyright**
Students may not sell notes or other course materials.

**Academic Honesty:**
Plagiarism is a form of dishonesty that occurs when a person passes off someone else’s work as his or her own. This can range from failing to cite an author for ideas incorporated into a student’s paper to cutting and pasting paragraphs from different websites to handing in a paper downloaded from the internet. Avoid plagiarism by citing sources properly.
Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. For specific information on the university’s policy, refer to USFSM Undergraduate Catalog or USFSM Graduate Catalog and the USF Student Code of Conduct.

The University of South Florida has an account with an automated plagiarism detection service which allows student assignments be checked for plagiarism. I reserve the right to ask students to submit their assignments to Turnitin through Canvas. Assignments are compared automatically with a database of journal articles, web articles, and previously submitted papers. The instructor receives a report showing exactly how a student’s paper was plagiarized.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), students are requested to maintain confidentiality as a way to keep their personal contact information (i.e. name, address, telephone) from being disclosed to vendors or other outside agencies. By your submission, you are also agreeing to release your original work for review for academic purposes to Turnitin.

Course Outline:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Discussion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/25 – 8/31</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9/1 – 9/7</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
<td>One</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/8 – 9/14</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Quiz 2</td>
<td>Two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9/15 – 9/21</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Quiz 3</td>
<td>Three</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9/22 – 9/28</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td>Quiz 4</td>
<td>Four</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>9/29 – 10/5</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>Quiz 5</td>
<td>Five</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10/6–10/12</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>Quiz 6</td>
<td>Six</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10/13-10/19</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td>Quiz 7</td>
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<td>Quiz 8</td>
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<td>Quiz 9</td>
<td>Nine</td>
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<td>Quiz 10</td>
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<td>11/17-11/23</td>
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<td>12/8 – 12/10</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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