

Human Relations 406/506 SEXUAL ASSAULT ADVOCACY

Spring 2008

3 Credits

Thursdays 5:00 to 7:55 p.m.

Education Building, A229

Instructor: Dani Lindner

Office: _____

Office Phone: _____

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Office Hours: By appointment only

E-mail: dlindner@stcloudstate.edu

Email is the preferred method of communication.

Texts:

- **Sexual Violence in Minnesota: A Resource Manual for Advocates**
Student reader available at Copy Central
- There will be several online readings and e-reserve readings. These are noted on the syllabus.

Course Description: This course is designed to provide specific skills and techniques of support and advocacy services to sexual assault survivors. Students will gain an understanding of the impact of sexual assault on victims, the social and cultural context in which sexual assault occurs and what role each professional plays in relation to the crime of sexual assault such as law enforcement, the judicial system, social services and medical services.

Course Requirements: Because this class includes very specific professional training, students need to begin to approach the readings and assignments as if you may be presenting to a group the next day; talking with an attorney and needing to develop credibility; or providing support to a sexual assault survivor. This course will provide a great opportunity to practice developing skills.

Each student will be required to get and use their huskynet e-mail address.

Each student will be required to complete a questionnaire to determine their appropriateness and readiness for this class and for advocacy work. Be aware that some students may be required to withdraw from the class based on the outcome of the questionnaire. This class is not recommended for a survivor of sexual assault who has not had any follow-up counseling or support services.

Some of the issues we will discuss can be overwhelming, difficult and sometimes very personal. I encourage dialogue and challenging reflections that are presented in a respectful manner.

Assertiveness is a needed skill for advocates. Hostile and disrespectful behavior, however, will not be tolerated and may result in a lowered grade, withdrawal or failure of the class.

The content of this course has many sensitive components. You may have been personally affected by some of the topics we will discuss. If at any time, the content becomes too difficult for you, please speak to the instructor. Any conversation will be kept in confidence. You all must make sure you are taking good care of yourselves throughout the course.

Because some of you may have personal stories relating to some of the topics, it can be tempting to discuss this with the class. As a ground rule for the class, the instructor asks that students do not share personal stories. The reason for this is to avoid creating an environment where students (including you) may feel uncomfortable. If you feel like there is something from your personal life that you want to share with the class, you would be expected to speak with the instructor ahead of time to prepare for this. Self-disclosure can be very healing and empowering, but it can also create additional pain and discomfort. The instructor does not want this course to be uncomfortable for any student, including you!

Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory. The class is based on guidelines that require forty hours of training to work as a sexual assault advocate. You must complete all of the hours to pass the class. If you have an emergency that arises, please discuss alternative arrangements with the instructor. Alternative assignments will only be arranged for emergency situations. Excessive absences will affect your final grade and this will be determined on an individual basis by the instructor.

Assignments:

Late assignments will affect your final grade. Each late assignment will be reduced by 10% of the total points possible each day they are late. Do not email assignments to the instructor unless you have received permission to do so.

Mid-term and Final Exam (40 points each; total 80 points): There will be a mid-term exam and a final exam. Both will consist of T/F, multiple choice, and short answer questions.

Attendance (10 points) and Participation (10 points): See attendance policy above. Participation is required in class. Students should come to class prepared to actively participate in class discussions. Students will also be expected to come to class prepared to critically analyze and discuss assigned readings, projects, videos, speakers, and previous class content. Open engagement with the course content is what makes this course a success. There will also be role plays throughout the semester. Assertiveness, communication skills, and techniques used in role plays will be assessed as part of class participation. I strongly encourage students to write questions down that arise as you do the readings to bring to class. Develop questions by asking yourself how you will need to apply that material in a real advocacy situation. We will spend time at the beginning of each class period discussing the readings for that class period. A lack of participation may affect your final grade.

Activist Project (50 points): We have several opportunities to partner with other organizations/groups to create awareness of sexual violence throughout the semester. This assignment will require you to work in small groups to do something active around the crime of sexual violence. More information will be given in class on this assignment.

Diverse Culture Presentation (20 points): In small groups, students will present on different cultures and the uniqueness when working with them. Groups will need to present the information to the rest of the class providing a handout with the information to each student in class. More information will be given in class on this assignment.

Outside Event (20 points): Students need to attend at least one outside event during Crime Victims' Rights Week. A written summary of the event as well as a personal reaction to the event is required. A schedule of the events will be announced in class. (1-2 pages – typed, double-spaced)

Community Resource Assignment (10 points): Students will need to locate certain resources in this community (a worksheet will be provided). Students will then share their resources with the class. This assignment will give students an opportunity to practice locating resources in the community.

200 points total

Grading:

90-100=A

80-89=B

70-79=C

60-69=D

59 & below=F

The following class schedule is subject to change upon the instructor's discretion. Any changes will be announced in class.

DATE	TOPICS	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS & ACTIVITIES
Week 1 Jan 24	Welcome and Introductions Overview of the course Review Syllabus Intro to Sexual Violence		Icebreaker Ground rules development Video: <i>Rape Is...</i> Questionnaire
Week 2 Jan 31	Introduction to Sexual Violence, con't History of Sexual Violence History of Crime Victim's Rights	Manual: Introduction E-reserve: History of Crime Victims' Rights Movement E-reserve: Making Sense of Rape in America	
Week 3 Feb 7	Understanding Victim's Plight Role of the Advocate Ethics Self-care for advocates	Manual: Advocacy E-reserve: Role of the Victim Service Provider	Self-care activity in class

DATE	TOPICS	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS & ACTIVITIES
Week 4 Feb 14	Role of the Advocate, con't Mandated Reporting	The Costs of Sexual Violence in Minnesota: see link below to MDH Mandated Reporting readings: see link below	
Week 5 Feb 21	Types of Sexual Violence	Manual: The Spectrum of Sexual Violence	Activist projects plans due
Week 6 Feb 28	Types of Sexual Violence, con't Domestic Violence Stalking	Domestic Violence readings: see links below	Community Resource Assignment due – sharing in class
Week 7 Mar 6	Spring Break		
Week 8 Mar 13	Reactions and Responses to Sexual Violence	Manual: Reactions and Responses to Sexual Violence	Mid-term exam
Week 9 Mar 20	Victimization within Distinct Communities	Manual: Sexual Violence and Underserved Populations E-reserve: Working with Male Survivors	Culture presentations
Week 10 Mar 27	Societal Influence to Sexual Violence Campus Crime	E-reserve: Why Date Rape and Acquaintance Rape are so Widespread	Role Plays

DATE	TOPICS	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS & ACTIVITIES
		E-reserve: Campus Crime and Victimization	
Week 11 Apr 3	Medical Issues	Manual: Health and Medical Issues	Role Plays
Week 12 Apr 10	Legal Issues	Manual: Legal Issues	Role Plays
Week 13 Apr 17	Sex Offenders	Manual : Sex Offenders E-reserve : I Raped a Woman	National Crime Victims' Rights Week
Week 14 Apr 24	Post Conviction Issues Financial Compensation	E-reserve: MN Post Conviction Victim Advocacy	Sharing of Activist Projects Outside event paper due
Week 15 May 1	Prevention Central MN Sexual Assault Center Volunteer Opportunities	Manual: Prevention	Sharing of Activist Projects Activist project papers due
May 5-9	FINAL	EXAM	WEEK

Domestic Violence Readings:

<http://www.ncdsv.org/images/20ReasonsWhySheStays.pdf>

http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/docs/polling_summary.pdf

The Costs of Sexual Violence in Minnesota – MDH report

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/svp/> - click on the pdf link for the full report (20 pages)

*There are several other great links on this website

Mandated Reporting

<http://edocs2.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Legacy/DHS-2917-ENG>

Student Information

Students with a disability have the right to accommodation to enable them to satisfy course requirements in this class. You may express your needs privately to the faculty person and/or to the campus office of Student Disability Services in Atwood Center, Room B111.

As a student in any course you must abide by the University's Code of Conduct. This is available in the University Student Handbook and on line at <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/studenthandbook/code/conduct.asp>.

As a student in any course you must not intentionally or knowingly participate in academic dishonesty in the form of cheating, plagiarism or fabrication of work. This is described more fully as the first example of *Prohibited Conduct* in the University Student Handbook. If you do engage in academic dishonesty, the consequences could include a lowered grade or failure of the course.

If you are dissatisfied with your final grade in this class, consult the University Student Handbook for the Grade Appeals Process.

If you have other concerns about this class, please communicate them to the instructor in person. You may also consult the University Student handbook for the Student Complaint Process.

Students are expected to be pro-active in informing the instructor beforehand if some unusual circumstance will cause you to be absent, miss an exam, or delay turning in an assignment. Any changes must be negotiated with the professor. Failure to do so may prevent you from being able to make up the work. Late work will not be accepted unless this is arranged with the instructor ahead of time. Assignments will not be accepted via email, unless arrangements are made with the instructor.