

# SOC 380 – FAMILY VIOLENCE

## SYLLABUS

**Instructor:** Eva Brown  
**E-mail:** evabrown@adams.edu  
**Phone:** (719)587-8129  
**Fax:** (719)587-7176  
**Address:** Adams State College  
Department of Sociology  
208 Edgemont Blvd.  
Alamosa, CO 81102

### COURSE DELIVERY:

Print-Based Correspondence

### CREDIT HOURS:

Three Semester Hours

### PREREQUISITES:

Completion of Sociology 201 with a *minimum grade of C*.

### COURSE MATERIALS:

To order textbooks or obtain information about book titles you may go to [www.exstudies.adams.edu](http://www.exstudies.adams.edu) and click on the “ASC Bookstore” icon.

Use **Section Number: 782** to order books from Bookstore site.

### Required Textbook:

Wallace, H. (2005). *Family violence: Legal, medical, and social perspectives*. New York: Pearson Allyn & Bacon Publishers. ISBN: 0-205-41822-8

### CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This course examines violence in the family from sociological and criminological perspectives. It includes the types and causes of violence in families and domestic units, especially those directed against women and children (woman battering, courtship and dating conflict, and child abuse). Throughout the various types of family violence, intervention and prevention measures are examined as well as the social and legal implications of these measures.

It is important that you understand that family violence and the criminal justice system exist within larger historical, political, economic, and socio-cultural frameworks. This

## **SOC 380 – FAMILY VIOLENCE**

often means that you will have to move beyond personal values, beliefs, and experiences in order to gain insight into the social science perspective of violence and abuse.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The goals of this course are to explore and clarify the following:

- the types of family violence that occur in contemporary America and the historical background of abuse in the context of family.
- the relationship between family violence and the operation of other major social institutions (e.g., religion, media, socialization from family and peers).
- legal and medical issues surrounding family violence as well as social science approaches to the study of family violence.
- populations which have typically not been studied in the context of family violence, such as sibling abuse, rural victims of abuse, and people with disabilities.
- determination of the characteristics of the abused and the abusers in addition to an overview of the contributing factors/causes of abuse.
- how society and professionals respond to family violence.
- specifically, the role of the criminal justice system in responding to the different types of abuse.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

#### **Requirement # 1: Proctored Exams**

There are three proctored exams you are required to take for this course. Each exam is multiple choice and short answer and is worth 100 points, for a total of 300 points. Thus the exams are 60 percent of your final grade. The Guidelines for Proctored Exams and the Examination Request forms are included in the study guide. Please send your exam request form two to three weeks before you plan to take the exam.

#### **Requirement #2: Writing Assignments**

In addition, you will be required to write five (5) essays on the information from the chapters in the text. These writing assignments are a way for me to evaluate your progress through the course. They can also be a way of helping you prepare for the exams since they cover material from the text. Each writing assignment is worth 20 points, thus they add up to 100 points, or the equivalent of an exam. They are 20 percent of your final grade.

## SOC 380 – FAMILY VIOLENCE

Since each writing assignment focuses on specific chapters of the text, you should read the appropriate chapters before attempting the writing assignments. And as noted above, when you prepare the writing assignments, you are taking a step toward preparing for the exams. In the next section of this study guide, you will find the Course Work Schedule. **Note that you must mail or email your writing assignments that cover the chapters of the text before you take the exam for those chapters of the text.**

You may want guidance on the first writing assignment in order to get comfortable with writing sociologically. After that you are responsible for editing and proofreading your own assignments before turning them in. It is important that you understand plagiarism. In these essays, paraphrase the author's words. After you have read the appropriate sections of the text needed to address the writing assignment, put the information in your own words. Plagiarism will result in significant point reduction in your grade on a particular assignment. Format requirements for the writing assignments are below.

### **Format requirements and other suggestions for the writing assignments:**

1. Be concise. Avoid wordiness and too much generalization. (When you do make a generalization, back it up with a concrete, specific example. This lets me know you understand the topic at hand.)
2. Stay on topic. Address the issues required of the writing assignment and get to the point in the first sentence or two of the introductory paragraph. Flowery or wordy introductions detract from the essay.
3. Use a **formal** writing style (This means no contractions, avoid slang, and use the third person voice – use the pronouns they and their instead of the pronouns I, me, mine, we, our, he, or she). But you do not need to adhere to a particular academic writing style such as APA or AMA.
4. Use only the textbook.
5. Since you are using only the text for the course, a bibliography page is not needed.
6. But when you are quoting from the text, give a page number in parentheses at the end of the quote.
7. Use quotes sparingly. A quote should be used only when it provides a telling insight into the topic at hand.
8. Avoid opinion. The whole point of these writing assignments is to ensure that you are making progress toward the exams and mastering the information from the course.
9. It is better to go over the required length of the paper than under the required length of the paper.
10. The following are specific format requirements to remember.
  - a. Writing assignments must be typed
  - b. Papers must be double-spaced
  - c. 1 inch margins

## SOC 380 – FAMILY VIOLENCE

- d. Use 12 point font
- e. Use Times New Roman font
- f. Black ink only

The following are the specific writing assignments:

**Writing Assignment #1:** From Chapters 2 and 3, find the sections on “*The Abusers and the Abused.*” Discuss the information provided on the abusers. (In Chapter 2, this information will deal with why they abuse; but in Chapter 3, this material will deal with who the abusers are.) From both of these chapters, describe the abusers and the abused. Focus on the most salient features of both the abusers and the abused. **(3 pages in length)**

**Writing Assignment #2:** From Chapter 5, discuss the characteristics of sibling abuse that are unique to this type of family violence. For this writing assignment in particular, read the entire chapter first. As you are reading, jot down notes that fulfill the requirements of this writing assignment. Then organize these loose notes into a coherent essay. For example, the very first sentence in the chapter fulfills these requirements. It states, “Sibling abuse is probably the most common form of family violence....” Another point to put in this essay is found in the next paragraph of the chapter, which says, “Many people consider sibling aggression to be a normal part of growing up.” See how these statements start forming a description of this particular type of family violence. Now, just add to these statements and then create a coherent essay. **(2 pages in length)**

**Note: You must turn in writing assignments #1 and #2 before you take Exam #1.**

**Writing Assignment #3:** From Chapter 7, in the section on “*Interviewing,*” give an overview of the interviewing process for child abuse victims. Begin this writing assignment with a brief description of how the interviewing process has changed since the 1970s and 1980s, and then move on to an overall description of the highlights from this section. You have several questions from Exam #2 in this section of the chapter, so this essay can definitely help you in studying for that exam. **(3 pages in length)**

**Writing Assignment #4:** From Chapter 10, describe the theories of elder abuse found here. The last two theories, *Family Stress Theory* and *Neutralization Theory*, are particularly important. So spend some time on those theories, but remember to be concise. **(3 pages in length)**

**Note: You must turn in writing assignments #3 and #4 before you take Exam #2.**

**Writing Assignment #5:** In Chapter 13, from the section on “*Theories of Sexual Violence,*” discuss the causes of rape, types of rape, and consequences of rape. **(3 pages in length)**

## SOC 380 – FAMILY VIOLENCE

**Note: You must turn in writing assignment #5 before you take Exam #3.**

**Remember, it is vital that you turn in these writing assignments before taking the exams, since they serve as a method for me to evaluate your progress going into the exam. Writing assignments received after the scheduled exam will not be accepted.**

### **Requirement #3:**

Finally, you are required to write a research paper on a topic related to family violence. This is a seven to eight (7-8) page paper and is worth 20% of your final grade. This is a chance for you to use the sociological and criminological concepts and theories you have acquired in this course. Essentially, you will be writing a literature review on a particular topic of interest to you in the area of family violence. Format requirements for the research paper are below. As a literature review, your paper should include the following information on your topic:

- a. What have others said about the topic?
- b. What theories address the topic and what do they say?
- c. What previous research exists?
- d. Are there consistent findings, or do studies disagree on the findings?

Most importantly, you should contact me when you are ready to begin your research paper. You must get your topic approved by me before you begin working on the paper. **Research papers will not be accepted if I have not approved them prior to your beginning working on the paper.**

**As with the writing assignments, pay attention to the DUE DATE of the research paper. It must be handed in for grading before you take the third, and final, exam.**

### **Format requirements and other suggestions for the research paper:**

1. Be concise. Avoid wordiness and too much generalization. (When you do make a generalization, back it up with a concrete, specific example. The lets me know that you understand the topic.)
2. Stay on topic. Address the four major questions of the literature review that I listed above.
3. Use a **formal** writing style. (This means no contractions, avoid slang, and sue the third person voice – use the pronouns they and their instead of the pronouns I, me, mine, we, our, he, or she.) You should use APA writing style.
4. You must have references to you sources within your paper. You should have several sources per page. This source documentation is your way of showing where you found your information. It is also essential in avoiding plagiarism.
5. You must include a reference page, or bibliography page.
6. You may use end notes or foot notes, whichever you find most convenient.
7. Use quotes sparingly. A quote should be used only when it provides a telling insight into the topic at hand.

## SOC 380 – FAMILY VIOLENCE

8. Avoid opinion. This is a social science research paper, not a classroom exercise or discussion.
9. It is better to go over the required length of the paper than under the required length of the paper.
10. In terms of sources, you should:
  - a. Never use an encyclopedia.
  - b. Use standard sociological texts and reference books.
  - c. Include several (three to six) sociological journals.
  - d. Have a minimum of ten (10) references.
11. The following are specific format requirements to remember:
  - a. Research papers must be typed
  - b. Papers must be double-spaced
  - c. 1 inch margins
  - d. Use 12-point font
  - e. And use Times New Roman font
  - f. Black ink only
  - g. Seven to eight (7-8) pages in length

### GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:

In alignment with ASC academic policies, no D may apply to a major or minor field.

#### Grade Distribution:

Exam #1 over Chapters 1-5 of the text:	100 points
Exam #2 over Chapters 6-10 of the text:	100 points
Exam #3 over Chapters 11-15 of the text:	100 points
Writing Assignments 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5:	100 points
Research Paper	<u>100 points</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	500 points

#### Scale:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% and below	F

450 – 500 = A
400 – 449 = B
350 – 399 = C
300 – 349 = D
0 – 299 = F

## **SOC 380 – FAMILY VIOLENCE**

### **ADA STATEMENT:**

Students who need special accommodation to complete this class should contact the instructor and the Office of Student Affairs, 719.587.7221 as soon as possible.