

METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE OF DENVER  
Office of Academic Affairs

**REGULAR COURSE SYLLABUS**

School of : Letters, Arts and Sciences

Department: Social Work

CIP Code: 44.0701

Semester(s) Offered: Fall

Prefix & Course Number: SWK3150

Crosslisted With\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Course Title: Social Work and Child Maltreatment

Check All That Apply: Required for Major: \_\_\_ Required for Minor: \_\_\_ Specified Elective: \_\_\_ Required

for Concentration: X Elective: X Service Course: \_\_\_

Credit Hours: 3 (3+0)

Contact Hours: Lecture 45 Lab 0 Internship 0 Practicum 0

Schedule Type(s): L and J Grading Mode(s): L

Repeat\* (Variable topics): \_\_\_\_\_

\*(Pertinent only if the course can be repeated; enter maximum number of hours that can be earned by taking this course.)

Restrictions (Variable Topics Course): None

Prerequisite(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Corequisite(s): \_\_\_

Prerequisite(s) or Corequisite(s): SWK1010 or permission of instructor

**Banner Enforced:**

Prerequisite(s): \_\_\_

Corequisite(s): \_\_\_

Prerequisite(s) or Corequisite(s): \_\_\_

**Catalog Course Description:**

The course will provide students with the basic knowledge of intervention and treatment in situations of child maltreatment. This course will be taught from a family centered, culturally appropriate framework. Students will learn intervention models as currently practiced in county departments of social/human services.

APPROVED:

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Department Chair/Institute Director

Date

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Dean

Date

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Associate VP, Academic Affairs

Date

\*If crosslisted, attach completed Course Crosslisting Agreement Form

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**Required Reading and Other Materials will be equivalent to (Title, Author, Publisher, Copyright Date):**  
Understanding Child Abuse and Neglect, Cynthia C. Tower, Allyn & Bacon, (1996 or current edition)

A Child's Journey through Placement, Vera I. Fahlberg, M.D., Perspectives Press (1994 or current edition).

Helping in Child Protective Services, A Casework Handbook, American Association for Protecting Children, American Humane Association, Current Edition.

**Specific (Measurable) Student Behavioral Learning Objectives:**

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

1. Discuss the history of intervention in child maltreatment.
2. Relate child maltreatment to individual, family and environment factors which contribute to or underline observed behavior.
3. Identify his/her own emotional responses to child maltreatment and have a strategy for working with them outside of the worker/client relationship.
4. Identify physical, emotional and behavioral indicators of child maltreatment in children and families.
5. Explain the basic structure of services delivery in the social/human services agency.
6. Demonstrate how to gather necessary information from informants, case records, and collateral sources to support or refute an allegation of child maltreatment; includes interviewing hostile clients.
7. Examine the intake process, be able to do a risk assessment and decide when to involve law enforcement and/or the courts.
8. Recognize the dual responsibility of protecting children and providing services and support to enable families to care for their children themselves.
9. Recognize the authority inherent in child welfare services, his/her own issues with use of authority, and have cultural sensitivity to this issue.
10. Examine intervention options including home based and other family preservation services, expedited permanency planning and concurrent planning, family unity meetings, Colorado out-of-home placement criteria and placement options including kinship care, foster homes and residential care and begin to develop a culturally-sensitive understanding of how to determine which services are appropriate.
11. Analyze attachment and separation, and separation trauma and be able to use this understanding in decision-making regarding out-of-home placement, visitation, permanency planning and kinship care.
12. Develop a comprehensive, culturally-sensitive case plan and prepare a court report which includes a social history.

**Detailed Outline of Course Content (Major Topics and Subtopics) or Outline of Field Experience/Internship (experience, responsibilities and supervision):**

- I. The Background of Child Maltreatment
  - A. Brief Definition
  - B. History
  - C. Incidence
  - D. Consequences to Society

## II. The Social/Human Services System

- A. Overview of Services
- B. Financial Assistance Programs
- C. Child Protection
- D. Adoption
- E. Youth Services

## III. Types of Maltreatment Defined

- A. Community Standards
- B. Neglect
  - 1. Physical
  - 2. Emotional
  - 3. Educational
  - 4. Medical
- C. Abuse
  - 1. Physical
  - 2. Emotional
  - 3. Sexual
  - 4. Institutional

## IV. Characteristics in Maltreating Families

- A. Traditional and Non-traditional Families
- B. Family/Ecology
- C. Parents
  - 1. Mental Health
  - 2. Substance Abuse
  - 3. Cycles of Violence
- D. Children
  - 1. Overview
  - 2. Consequences of Abuse

## V. Structure of Child Protection Services

- A. Intake/Ongoing
- B. Family Preservation, Mandatory Services
  - 1. Homebuilders
  - 2. Intensive Family Treatment
  - 3. Sexual Abuse Treatment/Victim Offenders Program
  - 4. Day Treatment
  - 5. Life Skills
- C. Additional Services
  - 1. Universal Home Visitation
  - 2. Parenting Classes
  - 3. Protective Day Care
  - 4. Family Unity Meetings
  - 5. Volunteers
- D. Out-of-Home and Family Reunification Services
  - 1. Child Protection Team

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2. Interagency Collaboration
3. Out-of- Home Placements
4. Adoption Services

VI. Separation and Attachment

- A. The Normal Attachment Process
- B. Consequences of Disruption

VII. Intake

- A. Crisis of Intervention
- B. Referral Information/Taking a Referral
- C. Structuring the Intervention
  1. Who Intervenes/ Joint Investigation
  2. Where Does the Intervention Take Place
  3. What do You Need to Find Out? Intake Assessment
  4. Interviewing Angry Clients
  5. A Protocol for Interviewing and Examining Children

VIII. Ongoing Services

- A. Continuing Family Assessment
- B. Basic Case Work Services/Problem Solving
  1. The Comprehensive Case Plan/Child Discrete Case Plan/Court Plan
  2. Concurrent Planning/Fostadopt

IX. The Placement Process

- A. Preparing the Child/ Family for Placement
- B. Working with Foster Parents/Kin
- C. Group Homes/RCCF/RTC
- D. Visitation
- E. Change of Placement
- F. Reunification

**Evaluation of Student Performance:** Intake Assessment, Intervention Presentation/Report, Social History Report, Final Examination-Court Report, Participation in Discussions and Activities.