

1-2014

PSYX 348.90: Psychology of Family Violence

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Grove, Lindsey C., "PSYX 348.90: Psychology of Family Violence" (2014). *Syllabi*. 2418.
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Syllabus - **Psychology 348** – Winter Session 2014 Psychology of Family Violence

Meeting Location and Times:	Education, Room 312 MTWRF 1:00PM-4:00PM
Final Exam:	Thursday, January 23 rd , 1-4PM
Instructor:	Lindsey Grove
Email: Lindsey.grove@umontana.edu	Office: Skaggs Building 359
Office Hours:	12-1pm MWF, & by appointment (made via email, please)

Prerequisites: PSYC 100: Introduction to Psychology

Recommended: PSYC 220: Psychological Statistics & PSYC 330: Abnormal Psychology

Teaching Philosophy:

There are as many ways of teaching this course as there are instructors; accordingly, I teach with a certain set of biases and assumptions that it is important to make clear. First, I am biased toward *scientific* explanations of human behavior, those that are grounded in both theory and data, and I will focus primarily on these explanations throughout the course. Second, I have a bias in favor of processing the more controversial material through healthy class discussions. Therefore, throughout the course I will present material that may trigger certain personal opinions in each of you. I expect these discussions to be respectful, healthy, and open to everyone.

I will facilitate your learning of the material in class, in my office hours, and via email. Finally, I believe that students learn best through active engagement with the material. This is reflected in the fact that I supplement material from your text with case studies, anecdotes, and additional readings, I offer extra credit for going above and beyond reading the text for the course, and I request in-class discussion.

Accommodation of Students with Disabilities: In accordance with the University of Montana's mission to provide equal educational opportunities for all students, I provide necessary accommodations for students with disabilities. If you require any accommodations, please let me know, and I will work with you and the office of Disability Student Services in adapting this course to accommodate your needs

Academic Misconduct: You are expected to adhere to the University's student conduct code with regard to academic integrity. *All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321>.*

Course Description: This course will explore the theoretical explanations for the presence of violence in American families, as well as cover research and interventions in the areas of child physical and sexual abuse, child neglect and maltreatment, battering of women, courtship violence, and elder abuse.

Objectives: This course is designed to increase students' understanding of psychology of family violence as it occurs in our society. The course will be taught in a combination of lecture format and small group discussion. The objective is to explore the psychology of family violence. In doing so we will explore theory and research that seeks to explain its occurrence. We will also briefly explore the interventions for each problem area.

Throughout the course we will be discussing and viewing *very sensitive material* that pertains to family violence. This may be difficult to hear or to watch. It is imperative to evaluate whether or not you are prepared to participate in this class. If not, please see me after class, and we can discuss your options. *Although you might feel prepared to take this course, the sensitive nature of the material might be overwhelming at times.* Please see me after class if this is the case, and we can discuss your needs. This course is NOT designed to replace therapeutic work. Consequently, overly personal information should not be relayed in class discussions.

Finally, many topics about which individuals tend to feel very passionate will be discussed and debated throughout the course of the semester. I ask that you remain respectful of others' opinions, even if they do not match your own or are controversial.

Grading/Evaluation: Your final grade for this course will consist of a total of 3 tests, in-class discussions (participation/attendance), a reflection journal, and a final project. Your grade will be based off of your grade on the tests (60%) and the supplemental assignments (40%).

<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Point Value for Exams & Assignments</u>	
90-100	A	Exam 1	20 pts
80-89	B	Exam 2	20 pts
70-79	C	Exam 3	20 pts
60-69	D	In-Class participation	20 pts
0-59	F	Reflection Journal	10 pts
		Final Project	10 pts
		TOTAL : 100 Pts	

Incompletes: Departmental and university policies regarding incompletes do not allow changing "incomplete" grades after one year has passed since the "I" was granted.

Pass/No Pass: For students taking this course P/NP, a P is a grade of A, B, or C. A NP is a grade of D or F.

**Grading/
Evaluation
(continued):**

EXAMS: The exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. The material covered on the exams will be from the readings, class lectures, discussion groups and activities for the classes prior to the test date. **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE ALLOWED WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION (EMAIL OR PHONE).** The final exam will be cumulative, covering all the material from the three weeks of classes.

However, the final is **OPTIONAL**. This means that if you are pleased with your current status in this class by the last day of lecture (01/22/2011) then you do not **HAVE** to take the final and you will not be penalized. However, if you take the final exam, and get a higher grade than the grade that you received on one of your previous exams, I will replace your lower exam grade with your final exam grade. If you do not score better on the final than on any of your previous exam grades, you will not be penalized (your final exam grade will be, in effect, thrown out).

IN CLASS PARTICIPATION: Attendance and participation in the class will constitute 20% of your course grade. Class and group discussions and activities will focus on the integration and application of course topics. In order to gain a full perspective on the material we will be discussing, it is very important that you attend class. It is noted on the course schedule what chapters and topics will be discussed each day. You are expected to have read each chapter before it will be discussed. Learning just from the textbook, however, will hinder your ability to gain all that this course offers, and may leave you insufficiently prepared for the exams. The small group discussions will be held randomly, and attendance during these discussions constitutes 20% of your final grade. Participation in these discussions will be on a credit-no-credit basis. In addition, numerous film clips will be shown that pertain to the topics we are discussing. *Some of these films can be upsetting and all students should be aware of their limits and leave if necessary.* Missed classes may result in missing a small group discussion, which will mean you will not earn the check for that activity. Miss classes at your own risk - there is no way to make up missed group discussions and activities.

REFLECTION JOURNAL: Because of the dismal nature of much of the material presented in this class there will be a 15minute block set aside every day in which you will be asked to reflect on a quote, poem, or story that pertains to family violence. This exercise is to help you better understand and express your thoughts and feelings about this material. *It is NOT designed to replace therapeutic work.* These are your private thoughts about the material. I will not read any of it, unless given permission. On the last day of lecture (01/19/2012) I will collect the reflection journals and simply check that you did a reflection every day. This constitutes 10% of your final grade.

FINAL PROJECT: On the last day of lecture (01/19/2012) you and your group will turn in a final project. This project is a creative and insightful reflection of a specific topic presented in this class. The project needs to have 2 components incorporated:

1. Paper: 5 pages, double-spaced describing the history of the material, how it is studied, how it presents itself (i.e. in society, in media, in families, in different populations (cultures, genders), prevalence, etc.), and your group's opinion on what you learned. **DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE YOUR NAMES!**
2. Creative Work: After discussing and researching the material your group will create an expression of the material on a transitional medium. This can be ANYTHING...legal...be creative, enjoy!

**Extra
Credit:**

Each option is worth 2 e.c. points and can only be done once, EXCEPT #2. You may volunteer up to 3 times (2x3=6 e.c. points). Due 01/21/2012.

-LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED-

1. Literature Review: Conduct a PsychINFO literature search on a topic of your choice, but related to family violence and write a one-page reflection on your findings (e.g., how do you feel about the conclusions the researchers made, what are your ideas for future studies, how does this apply to class, etc.). See pg. 6 for PsychINFO supplemental info.
2. Grad. Student Research Volunteer: Sign up for and participate in a research project being conducted in the psychology department during the semester. These typically take 30-60min. Contact me if you are interested and I will contact the researcher for you. Return your participation slip to me (signed by the researcher) for full credit.
3. Mini-project: This is your chance to be creative. It is similar to the final project but is less intensive, less time consuming, and you do it by yourself. Create a creative artistic project (drawing, sculpture, mini-book, poem, etc.) which demonstrates your understanding of a certain concept or event from the family violence material. Attach a description of what you did and how it applies (min. one paragraph, max. 2 pages).
4. Media: you may read a book or watch a movie where family violence is a central topic. To receive the 2 points, you will need to submit a 1-2 page review describing the role of family violence in the story, any notable myths or theories that are presented (debunked or perpetuated by the presentation), and how your understanding of family violence impacted your perspective while reading/watching. Would you recommend this book/movie to others? Why or why not?

*THIS MEANS YOU CAN EARN A TOTAL OF 12 POINTS OF EXTRA
CREDIT FOR THE COURSE!*

A few more things...

1. I reserve the right to make any necessary changes or accommodations to this syllabus throughout the course. You will be notified during class of any changes. However, if you miss class it is your responsibility to gain any information regarding changes.

2. If any relevant and/or important information arises between classes I will attempt to contact the entire class through the University of Montana email, so please be aware.
3. Please feel free to email or call me about any questions, comments, or concerns you are having about the course.

SCHEDULE:

Date	Chapter/Topic
01/02/2014	Introductions, Syllabus Ch. 1: History and Definitions of 'Family Violence'
01/03/2014	Ch. 2: Research Methodology, Assessment, and Theories of Family Violence
01/06/2014	Ch. 7: Dating Violence
01/07/2014	EXAM #1
01/08/2014	Ch. 3 Child Neglect and Psychological Maltreatment
01/09/2014	Ch. 4 Child Physical Abuse
01/10/2014	Ch. 5 Child Sexual Abuse
01/13/2014	Flex Day and Guest Speaker
01/14/2014	EXAM #2
01/15/2014	Movie and discussion Group Project
01/16/2014	Ch. 8 & 9: Abused and Abusive
01/17/2014	Ch. 11: Practice, Policy, Prevention
01/20/2014	Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No Class
01/21/2014	Ch. 12: Elderly and Disabled Abuse Extra Credit, Reflection Journals, & Final Projects DUE
01/22/2014	EXAM #3
01/23/2014	Optional Final Exam (to replace a previous exam grade)

This schedule is a dream...when reality sets in we will make adjustments as needed. All changes will be announced in class, so attendance is in your best interest!

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What is the airspeed velocity of an unladen swallow?
The answer to this question is beyond the scope of this course. Sometimes questions arise which I can't or do not feel comfortable answering (e.g., I'm not going to guess and call it fact). Recognize that studying family violence is a relatively new idea and there are many questions that are difficult and/or impossible to answer at this point.
2. What the heck is PsycINFO?
PsycINFO is an online tool for searching articles, book chapters, etc. in the field of psychology.
3. How do I access PsycINFO?
You must be online on campus, or have your browser configured to work with a proxy server so that you can access campus resources off-campus. Go to <http://www.lib.umd.edu/>, select "Library A to Z," "D" for "Databases A to Z," then you can find "PsycINFO" under "P".
4. What if my search turns up too many articles?
Part of this assignment is figuring out how to do a "good" search in PsycINFO. You may narrow your search by adding other constraints, such as the publication type or year, or by adding another keyword to your search. For example, "substance use" would yield thousands of articles, but adding the keyword "bipolar disorder" and/or "adolescent" would narrow this down considerably.
5. What if I can't access the article I want to read online?
Although many articles are available online, some require going to a print copy of the article (e.g., actually FINDING a journal in the library, then OPENING it, and then perhaps PHOTOCOPYING the article so that you can read it. You can do it!). We don't have every journal in our library, so if there's one you want but can't get here, then select another article.

Extra Credit – PsycINFO – summary:

For one extra credit opportunity (2 points), you may conduct a search on a topic of your choice (but related to the psychology of family violence, of course) in PsycINFO. After conducting this search, turn in answers to the following questions **via email in a Word document**:

1. What are the **search terms** that you used, and how many articles were retrieved for your search?
2. Select one article (preferably a peer-reviewed journal article, which is indicated by the "publication type" field and is typically labeled "peer-reviewed journals") and access the full text of the article. Copy and paste the first page of the article onto the bottom of your write-up to indicate that you were able to access the article and review the article.
3. Read this article and **write a brief (1 page) summary** of the article you chose in lay language. DO NOT copy any part of the abstract; this, of course, would constitute plagiarism. Because I am only asking for one page, please do not include direct quotes either.
4. **List three different search terms** (or combinations of search terms) that you might use if you were to research this topic further.