



Course Syllabus: Parenting: Family and Community
College of Health Sciences and Human Services
Social Work Department
SOWK 3233- X10
Fall 2026

Contact Information:

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Office Hours: Tuesdays: 1.30-3.00 p.m.

Wednesdays: 10.00 a.m. – Noon

Thursdays: 1.30-3.00 p.m.

Course Description

This course will cover three major parenting theories on how to nurture children and promote normal development within a family environment. The course will also cover maltreatment of children by neglect and abuse. The effects on normal development of such maltreatment of children will be covered. This course is intended for students from a variety of disciplines and is offered only in a distance education format. Participation is a requirement of this course through internet discussions.

Course Objectives

At completion of this course students will be:

1. Describe how the study of trauma influences the current view of child maltreatment and child protection.
2. Describe the role of protective services today.
3. Describe how the family can be seen as a system.
4. Identify and explain the risk factors for neglect and describe how neglect impacts children.
5. Describe the physical symptoms of abuse and explain reasons why parents might become abusive to their children.
6. Define child sexual abuse and outline how sexual abuse might progress.
7. Describe different types of incest and discuss sexual abuse of children.

8. Describe how psychological abuse impacts children.
9. Define cultural sensitivity and explain what it might involve in working with diverse clients during child abuse investigations.
10. Discuss the importance of interdisciplinary approach in handling child maltreatment.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Crosson-Tower (2021). Understanding Child Abuse and Neglect (10th ed.). Pearson Education, Inc: NJ.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the [Office of Student Conduct](#).

AI-Generated Submissions:

Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all writing assignments should be prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in this area will prepare you for a competitive workplace. Therefore, AI-generated submissions (for example, ChatGPT) are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism

Grading:

<i>Assignments</i>	<i>Points</i>
Exam 1	100
Midterm Exam	100
Final Exam	100
Weekly Discussions (14x100)	1400
Total Points	1700

GRADING SCALE

The total grade for the course is an accumulation of the points earned on each assignment. **The following letter grades are used:**

- A=90% of available points
- B=80-89% of available points

- C=70-79 % of available points
- D=60-69% of available points
- F=0-59% of available points

Homework

For each week, the instructor will post question(s) on D2L for the class to respond. Unless specified otherwise, everyone should post an initial response to the question(s) and should also respond to at least one peer's post. The discussion board is a mandatory component. Students are expected to participate in the weekly discussion actively throughout the semester. Students are expected to write formally (no shorthand or text messaging abbreviations) and use APA format and referencing where appropriate. Thoughtful responses, constructive critique of fellow students, and meaningful participation are expected. Please keep in mind the discussion board is a formal assignment and part of your grade. ***If anyone fails to do the initial posts and fails to respond to peers' posts for any two weeks during the course will be dropped from the course.**

Exams

There will be three exams (first exam, mid-term exam, and final exam). Although the points for each exam vary, each exam is assessed for 100 percent. The due dates will appear on the Course Schedule in more detail.

Late Work

If there is a legitimate reason, then late work may be accepted. But, unless there is an emergency, the instructor should be informed ahead of time.

Important Dates

Deadline for December graduates to file for graduation: September 21, 2026

Deadline for May graduates to file for graduation: October 5, 2026

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" November 23, 2026

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ***Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ***Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Instructor Class Policies

In weekly discussions, please be respectful of one another's views. When you provide feedback to classmates' posts, please be constructive in your feedback. Please read carefully the instructions provided in the discussion threads for more details.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstueexas.edu.

Pregnant and Parenting Students

To support the academic success of pregnant and parenting students and students with pregnancy related conditions, the University offers reasonable modifications based on the student's particular needs. Any student who is pregnant or parenting a child up to age 18 or has conditions related to pregnancy, may contact MSU's designated [Pregnancy and Parenting](#) Liaison to discuss support available through the University.

College Policies

Obligation to Report Sex Discrimination under State and Federal Law

Midwestern State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law require University employees to report sex discrimination and sexual misconduct to the University's Office of Title IX. As a faculty member, I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any allegations, personally observed behavior, or other direct or indirect knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, which

includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking, involving a student or employee. After a report is made, the office of Title IX will reach out to the affected student or employee in an effort to connect such person(s) with resources and options in addressing the allegations made in the report. You are also encouraged to report any incidents to the office of Title IX. You may do so by contacting:

Laura Hetrick

Title IX Coordinator
Sunwatcher Village Clubhouse
940-397-4213

laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu

You may also file an online report 24/7 at

https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?MSUTexas&layout_id=6

Should you wish to visit with someone about your experience in confidence, you may contact the MSU Counseling Center at 940-397-4618. For more information on the University's policy on Title IX or sexual misconduct, please visit <https://msutexas.edu/titleix/>

Campus Carry:

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter:

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [Safety / Emergency Procedures](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled "*Run. Hide. Fight.*" which may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy:

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy:

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule

<i>Week or Module</i>	<i>Activities/Assignments/Exams</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Week 1- Week 4 August 24, Monday- September 20, Sunday, 2026	Abusive/Neglectful Parenting -- Read Ch. 1,2,3,4 in Understanding Child Abuse and Neglect by Cynthia Crosson Tower	Exam 1- September 21, Monday (12.01 a.m.)- September 22, Tuesday (11.59 p.m.) Questions will be over chapters 1-4
Week 5- Week 10 September 21, Monday- November 1, Sunday, 2026	Abusive/Neglectful Parenting --Ch. 5-8	Mid-Term Exam- October 26, Monday (12.01 a.m.) - October 27, Tuesday (11.59 p.m.) Questions are over chapters 5-8

<i>Week or Module</i>	<i>Activities/Assignments/Exams</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Week 11- Week 15, November 2, Monday- December 5, Saturday, 2026 November 25- November 29, 2026 Thanksgiving Break	Abusive/Neglectful Parenting -- Ch. 9-11	FINAL EXAM- December 7, Monday (12.01 a.m.) – December 8, Tuesday (11.59 p.m.) Questions are over chapters 9-11