

SYLLABUS

SOCL 4633-201 FAMILY VIOLENCE

Spring 2026

Contact Information

PROFESSOR: Dr. Beverly L. Stiles

OFFICE: O'Donohoe, Rm 124

OFFICE HOURS:

- Mon. 9:30-11:00
- Tues. 10:00-11:00
- Wed. 9:30-11:00
- Thurs. 10:00-11:00
- Friday: By appointment

PHONE: 397-4019

EMAIL: Beverly.stiles@msutexas.edu

TEXT:

- Family Violence: Legal, Medical, and Social Perspectives by Harvey Wallace, Cliff Roberson, and Julie L. Globoker 9th Edition. Not everything in the text will be covered.
- Paper back book(s) for book analysis (can be bought online or Retail bookstores.
- Additional handout(s) that I'll provide

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide an in-depth examination of the different types and definitions of violence in families, with special attention given to child abuse. The kinds of questions that we will be examining are: What is and what is not family violence? How do the various types of family violence differ, and what do they have in common? Does male patriarchy contribute to the abuse of women and children? How valid is the claim that being abused as a child increases the likelihood that you will abuse your own child, or your spouse? What can we do to reduce the level of violence in our own families and in society?

SPECIAL GUIDELINES

- It is likely that some students in this class have experienced family violence. It is important that we abide by some special guidelines.
- Do not feel obligated to talk about your experiences. However, you may feel more freedom to do so since this is a web course. Please respect those who wish to talk about their experiences.
- Please respect the criticisms and disagreements of your fellow students. This is a tough subject and it is easy to get angry when others' opinions differ from our own.
- Try to remember that we are in an academic setting and as such our discussions need to be understood as an exercise in "academics"...not reflective of how we "personally" feel about those whose opinions differ from our own.

- Expect that in the course of learning about this very important subject, you may feel somewhat depressed or sad about it from time to time. Remember that in learning and discussing these issues, you are part of those who can work to bring about changes in society. Also, keep in mind, that while we still have much to learn and much to change, things are so much better today because of activists, academics, and professionals who wish to learn and work for change.

ATTENDANCE:

You will find a high correlation between attendance and class grade! In-class exercises and pop quizzes will comprise part of your grade. If you miss an in-class assignment, you **WILL NOT** be able to make it up. Therefore, good attendance is a necessity.

***IMPORTANT: IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN THREE (3) UNEXCUSED ABSENCES, YOU WILL BE DROPPED FROM THIS CLASS WITH AN F. I may drop a student for excessive excused absences as well, at my discretion. If your combined excused and unexcused absences add up to more than 3 (three) absences, I will deduct 5 points from your final grade for each additional absence.**

An absence is considered officially excused ONLY if a student:

- Presents a written excuse from a physician, or MSU infirmary
- Presents written evidence of attending a mandatory university function (band, choir, sports, etc.)
- Presents a written excuse from a physician for a dependent child's illness, or
- Has a death in his/her immediate family

Grades

EXAMS and Participation	GRADING
Exam 1	100 points
Exam 2	100 points
Exam 3 (final—May 14th, 10:30)	100 points
Quizzes	100 points
Book Analysis	50 points
Movie Analysis	50 points

To average your grade, add up all points and divide by 5

Grades will be determined by the following scale:

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = below 60

Each exam will consist of both multiple choice and essay questions. You will also have two papers due at different times this semester. The details and helpful suggestions for the paper assignment (book analysis, and movie analysis) are at the end of the syllabus.

If you miss an exam: You may take an ***ALL ESSAY MAKE-UP EXAM ON Thursday, May 7th in this classroom at 2:00**, but only when you provide proof of an excused absence. I will lower your grade one letter grade from what you actually score on the exam (I deduct 10 points). If you miss more than one exam on the day it is scheduled, I will automatically drop you from class. Please do not miss any exams!

THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The Americans with Disabilities Act is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Office of Disability Accommodation. The telephone number is 397-4140.

BOOK ANALYSIS: Due by March 19 at 11:00 PM.

This paper should be 5-6 pages in length (you may go over this if necessary to do a thorough job). The requirements for font, margins, etc. are Times New Roman, 12 pt., 1 inch margins on all sides. I simply want you to analyze/interpret one of the following book choices: *Don't You Love Your Daddy* by Sally East and Toni Maguire; or the first book by Dave Pelzer: *A Child Called It*; *Broken* by Shy Keenan; *Sickened: The Memoir of a Munchausen by Proxy Childhood*, by Julie Gregory; *Spilled Milk: Based On a True Story* by K.L. Randis. You will analyze the book you select in terms of the information learned from class notes and your text. This means that I want you to use concepts, and theories that you will have learned this semester (and must provide page numbers from your text in your analysis (I do not need text references from the book you chose to read). This is a paper and you should write it accordingly (like you learned to write and reference in your English classes). Do not simply retell the story because that is just a book report. You should be providing me with an interpretation and analysis that tells me how this story supports/confirms or sometimes disconfirms what the empirical literature says (from your text information), and provide examples. In other words, tell me how the book supports the theories and concepts in the text and lecture. If there are drastic differences you can comment on that as well. You will need to provide page references from your text in your analysis. Just as for the final paper, the film/movie analysis, you will receive an automatic zero for not referencing your text throughout your paper, and half credit lost for not adequately addressing the theories that apply as well.

MOVIE ANALYSIS: Due by April 28th at 11:00 PM

This paper should be 5-6 pages in length. Here are some guidelines to assist you:

List director, title of film and year published

Explain, IN YOUR OWN WORDS, the intent or purpose of the film and what is to be studied, explained or portrayed. This will be short (a paragraph or two).

Identify the key points of the film as they relate to the above stated purpose and to family violence in particular

Discuss conclusions drawn by the director(s), for example, how are they asking you to view the social world as they are presenting in the film, or as a consequence of doing such? How are they asking you to think of family violence, its consequences and efforts at social control? This shouldn't take up much space either.

Relate the film as an illustration of support for, or an argument in contradiction to, theories and concepts of family violence, class readings and/or notes and discussions (use notes from discussion only if I bring additional material to class, not contained in your text). Be specific. It is not necessary for you to agree or to disagree with the stand taken by the director. This should comprise the majority of your paper.

You will need to provide page references from your text in your analysis of your movie, just as you did for the first paper.

This is a paper and you should write it accordingly (like you learned to write and reference in your English classes). Do not simply retell the story. You should be providing me with an interpretation and analysis that tells me how this story supports/confirms or disconfirms what the empirical literature says, and provide examples. In other words, tell me how the movie supports the theories, material, and concepts in the text and lecture. If there are drastic differences you can comment on that as well.

I would choose a movie that will have much from which to draw. If the movie only has a minimal amount of family violence, or you feel you can't really write much about what takes place, then choose another movie to analyze.

You will need to provide page references from your text in your analysis. Just as for the book analysis, you will receive an automatic zero for not referencing your text throughout your paper, and half credit lost for not adequately addressing the theories that apply as well.

Exam Content

- Exam 1
 - Introduction from Class notes including the history of F.V.
 - Chap. 1 Characteristics and Consequences
 - Chap. 5 Physical Child Abuse
 - Chap. 6 Child Sex Abuse
 - Chap. 7 and Chap. 9 Child Neglect and Exploitation
- Exam 2
 - Chap. 8 Sibling Abuse
 - Chap. 10 Special Issues in Child Abuse
 - Chap. 2 Intimate Partner Abuse
 - Chap. 13 and Chap. 14 Sexual Viol. and Stalking
- Exam 3 (Wed May 14th at 10:30 in this room)
 - Chap. 4 Elder Abuse
 - Chap. 12 Special Populations
 - Chap. 15 Victim's Issues