

## MENNONITE BRETHERN BIBLICAL SEMINARY

**COURSE:** MF-648  
**TITLE:** DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
**UNITS:** 1.0  
**OFFERED:** SPRING, 2006  
**INSTRUCTOR:** MARY A. SHAMSHOIAN, M.A., L.M.F.T.  
**TELEPHONE:** (559) 452-1778  
**SCHEDULE:** FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 6:00 - 9:00 P.M.;  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 8:30 - 4:30

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course explores the nature and scope of violating behavior in the home, the impact of violence on the family, and the response of society and the church to this problem. Prevention and treatment approaches for both batterer and survivor will also be presented.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

In addition to learning how to assess for and identify domestic violence, students will become aware of the prevalence of domestic violence locally and nationally. Students will be able to identify individual characteristics, religious beliefs, and cultural ideals that place family members at greater risk of violence. Students will begin to articulate a personal theology of the marriage covenant and examine how this theology impacts their abilities to intervene safely and helpfully with violent families. Students will gain understanding and skills necessary to counsel and refer those experiencing domestic violence.

### **PRIMARY REQUIRED TEXT:**

Alsdurf, James & Alsdurf, Phyllis (1989). Battered Into Submission. Downers Grove, Illinois: Intervarsity Press.

*Texts for this course will not be available in the FPU Bookshop. Please obtain them through other resources. This text, though out of print, is readily available on the internet.*

### **ADDITIONAL REQUIRED TEXTS/READINGS:**

For MFCCs-- Wallace, Harvey (2002). Family Violence: Legal, Medical and Social Perspectives (Third Edition). Boston, Massachusetts: Allyn & Bacon. Chapters 1, 8-16.

For MA/MDiv-- Switzer, David (1989). Pastoral Care Emergencies. Mahwah, New Jersey: Paulist Press. Chapters 1-3, 9-11.

### **ADDITIONAL READING(S) ON RESERVE:**

Barnett, Ola & LaViolette, Alyce (1993). It Could Happen to Anyone. Newbury Park, California: SAGE Publications.

Miller, Melissa (1994). Family Violence: The Compassionate Church Responds. Waterloo, Ontario: Herald Press.

Mennonite Central Committee (1989). The Purple Packet. Akron: MCC

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:**

1. Class attendance and participation 20 points
2. Portfolio/Referral list 30 points
3. Response paper 50 points

### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

Students will assemble a portfolio of materials from which they will create an intervention and referral list for families experiencing domestic violence. The referral list should contain local domestic violence services and how to access them. The referral list should be appropriate for a wide range of cultures and socioeconomic groups and should be designed for use with clients/congregants.

Students will write a five to seven page paper responding to their class experience. The paper must integrate theological insights, required readings, and presentations by the lecturers. Students will consider the context in which they might be called on to intervene in family violence, their ideal response, and the personal biases/issues they may need to overcome in order to be helpful.

All assignments are due on or before 3/24/06.

### **GRADING:**

Assignments must be turned in on time for full credit. Late assignments result in a deduction of points equivalent to one-half letter grade for every two days late. Students must attend a minimum of 9 hours of class time to receive passing credit for attendance/participation.

A= 100 - 94%

A- = 93 - 90%

B+ = 89 - 87%

B = 86 - 83%

B- = 82 - 80%

F = 69% and below

**CLASS POLICIES:**

Academic Policies. MBBS academic policies (as well as other school policies) are described at <http://www.mbseminary.edu/fresno/policies>. These policies provide guidance on academic integrity and plagiarism, incomplete course work, extensions, dates for changing registration, non-discriminatory and inclusive language, appeals, etc. Students are expected to be familiar with these policies and will be held responsible for adhering to them. If you have questions about how these policies relate to you or to a situation that you face in your studies, please speak to the professor or consult the Registrar or Academic Dean.