

MENNONITE BRETHREN BIBLICAL SEMINARY

COURSE: MF-525
TITLE: CHILD ABUSE
UNITS: 0.5
OFFERED: FALL, 2008
INSTRUCTOR: MARY A. SHAMSHOIAN, M.A., L.M.F.T.
TELEPHONE: (559) 452-1778
SCHEDULE: FRIDAY, 10/3, 6:00- 9:00 PM; SATURDAY,
10/4, 8:30 AM – 12:30 P.M.
LOCATION: CALIFORNIA ROOM, FRESNO CAMPUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

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PRIMARY REQUIRED TEXT:

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:

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| 1. Class attendance and participation | 20 points |
| 2. Response to Required Reading | 35 points |
| 3. Essay/Sermon | 30 points |
| 3. Application Project | 15 points |

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| 3. Essay/Sermon | 30 points |
| 3. Application Project | 15 points |

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MENNONITE BRETHREN BIBLICAL SEMINARY

COURSE: MF-525
TITLE: CHILD ABUSE
UNITS: 0.5
OFFERED: FALL, 2008
INSTRUCTOR: MARY A. SHAMSHOIAN, M.A., L.M.F.T.
TELEPHONE: (559) 452-1778
SCHEDULE: FRIDAY, 10/3, 6:00- 9:00 PM; SATURDAY,
10/4, 8:30 AM – 12:30 P.M.
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OFFERED: FALL, 2008
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to meet the California Board of Behavioral Sciences MFT requirement in child abuse assessment training. This course will emphasize identification and assessment of the spectrum of abusive behaviors, mandated reporting responsibilities and procedures for clinicians and clergy, and the prevention of abuse. The impact of abuse on the developing child, the family unit, and the community will be addressed. Applications for clinical treatment and ministry will be offered.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

In addition to learning how to assess for, recognize, and report child abuse, students will review the historical understanding of child abuse, definitions of abuse, and California Penal Codes regarding child abuse. Students will gain an understanding of the multiple effects of abuse on neurobiology and human development. Students will examine theological beliefs and practices that impact child abuse and examine how their own theology impacts their abilities to intervene safely and helpfully to protect children.

PRIMARY REQUIRED TEXT:

Crosson-Tower, C. (2007). *Understanding Child Abuse and Neglect (7th Edition)*. Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED TEXTS/READINGS:

For MFCC-- Wallace, H. (2008). *Family Violence: Legal, Medical and Social Perspectives (Fifth Edition)*. Boston, Massachusetts: Allyn & Bacon. Chap. 2-7.
For MA/MDiv-- Melton, J. (2002). *Safe Sanctuaries: Reducing the Risk of Child Abuse in the Church*. Nashville, TN: Discipleship Resources.

RELATED LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will work at beginning level application of the following MBBS learning outcomes—practice integrity and ethical behavior in personal and professional relationships (1.2.3), describe the Biblical call to justice and peacemaking (2.2.6), analyze contemporary church and world issues (2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.4.3), describe the *Missio Dei* of the church (3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.1.4), explore issues of faithful pastoral leadership (MDiv 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3, 4.2.4), provide basic pastoral care and counseling (MDiv 4.8.3, 4.8.4), articulate integrative views of humanity, theology, and counseling (MFCC 4.1.2, 4.2.3), demonstrate appropriate use of one’s self in response to human need (MFCC 4.3.1, 4.3.2, 4.3.4), demonstrate practice consistent with applicable laws and ethics (MFCC 4.4.1, 4.4.2, 4.4.3, 4.4.4, 4.4.5), demonstrate proactive skills across diverse populations (MFCC 4.7.1), demonstrate proactive commitment to a community of witness, justice, and peace (MFCC 4.8.3, 4.8.4).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:

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| 1. Class attendance and participation | 20 points |
| 2. Response to Required Reading | 35 points |
| 3. Essay/Sermon | 30 points |
| 3. Application Project | 15 points |

ASSIGNMENTS:

Students will write an 800 word critique of the primary text, *Understanding Child Abuse and Neglect*. In the critique, students should include reflections on their thoughts and emotional responses to the material in the text.

Students will write either an essay or a sermon (depending on their proposed area of ministry) responding to their class experience. The essay or sermon’s theme may address any area of the class material, whether specific (e.g. verbal abuse, legislative reform, foster care, incest, etc.) or general (e.g. the parent/child relationship, the Biblical significance of children, etc.). The 1200 word essay or sermon manuscript should include both exegetical/theological reflection and a call for responsive action.

Students will choose an application project from a provided list, depending upon their potential area of ministry. Students may propose an alternate application project, but the alternate must be approved in advance by the instructor. Students may use any format appropriate (e.g. manual, workshop outline, powerpoint presentation, etc.) to achieve the goals of their project.

All assignments are due on or before October 27, 2008. Hard copies of the assignments are preferred, although Word documents will be accepted in consideration of those who commute long distances. Assignments submitted in envelopes will be returned in envelopes. Students wanting their papers returned by mail should provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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 three days late. As this is a short course, students must attend a minimum of 85% of the 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:

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, accommodation for disabilities, 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 with the Registrar, Academic Dean, or Dean of Students, as applicable.