

## MENNONITE BRETHREN BIBLICAL SEMINARY

**COURSE:** MF- 535  
**TITLE:** FAMILY VIOLENCE  
**UNITS:** 1.5  
**OFFERED:** FALL, 2009  
**INSTRUCTOR:** MARY A. SHAMSHOIAN, M.A., L.M.F.T.  
**TELEPHONE:** (559) 452-1778  
**SCHEDULE:** FRIDAY, 9/11 & 10/2, 5:30- 9:00 PM;  
SATURDAY, 9/12 & 10/3, 8:30 AM – 4:30 P.M.  
**LOCATION:** MANITOBA ROOM, FRESNO CAMPUS

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course explores the nature and scope of violating behavior in the home and in faith communities. The course is designed to meet the California Board of Behavioral Sciences 7 hour MFT requirement of child abuse assessment training as well as the Board's requirement of 15 hours of Domestic Violence education. Students hoping to pursue California licensure are encouraged to enroll in this course using the course numbers MF-525 (Child Abuse, .5 unit) and MF-648 (Domestic Violence, 1 unit) for transcript clarity. This course will emphasize identification and assessment of the spectrum of abusive behaviors, mandated reporting responsibilities and procedures for clinicians and clergy, safety planning, and prevention. 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 recognize and assess for child abuse and domestic violence, students will review the historical understanding of family abuse, consider theories on the etiologies of family violence, identify the individual characteristics, religious beliefs, and cultural ideals that place family members at increased risk. Students will begin to articulate a personal theology of marriage and parenting and critique the way in which their theology impacts their abilities to intervene safely and helpfully with violent families.

### **PRIMARY REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Alsdurf, James & Alsdurf, Phyllis (1998). *Battered into Submission*. Downer's Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press.

Ola Barnett, Cindy L. Miller-Perrin, & Robin D. Perrin (2005). *Family Violence Across the Lifespan: An Introduction (2nd Edition)*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

## **ADDITIONAL SUGGESTED TEXTS/READINGS:**

Melton, J. (2002). *Safe Sanctuaries: Reducing the Risk of Child Abuse in the Church*. Nashville, TN: Discipleship Resources.

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

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

Texts will not be available in the bookstore and should be ordered online. The Alsdurf text is periodically out of print but is readily available online used, usually for under \$12.00. The instructor may have copies of the required texts available to lend, with a deposit, should students' shipped copies not arrive on time for class. There is no required prereading before the first class meeting.

## **RELATED LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Students will work at intermediate 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 | 10 points |
| 2. Response to Required Reading       | 30 points |
| 3. Essay/Sermon                       | 30 points |
| 3. Portfolio Project                  | 30 points |

## **ASSIGNMENTS:**

Students will write a 900 word critique of the primary texts, *Family Violence Across the Lifespan* and *Battered into Submission*. In the critique, students should include reflections on their thoughts and emotional responses to the material in the texts.

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, incest, religious abuse, etc.) or general (e.g. the parent/child relationship, the marriage covenant, etc.). The 1200 word essay or sermon manuscript should include both exegetical/theological reflection and a call for responsive action.

Students will assemble a portfolio of materials from which they will create an intervention and referral list for families experiencing violence. An exceptional portfolio will include: local child abuse and domestic violence resources and how to access them; therapists specializing in child abuse, partner abuse, perpetrator treatment, and trauma; related services such as legal, medical, and emergency housing resources; websites and online resources; handouts and bibliographies. The portfolio should apply to a diverse community, and should be tailored to the students' intended area of ministry (i.e. counseling or pastoral care) and their intended locality, if possible. The portfolio can be submitted in a folder, binder, box, or expanding file, with all materials securely attached. Oversized portfolios will be returned above the faculty mailboxes in the NorthWing.

All assignments are due on or before October 26, 2009. Hard copies of the assignments are preferred, although Word documents will be accepted in consideration of those who commute long distances (please attach papers saved as ".doc", rather than ".docx"). 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. Students enrolling concurrently in course numbers MF-525 and MF-648 will receive the same grade for both courses, based on their total points.

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.