

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
STEVE HICKS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

**Course Number:** SW 360K4/393U1

**Unique Number:** 61510/61830

**Semester:** Fall 2021

**Meeting Time/Place:** Wednesday  
5:30p – 8:30p  
SSW 2.116

**Instructor:** Lori Lewis-Conerly, MSW

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**Office Phone:** 512-554-3159

**Office Hours:** Wednesday 4:45p – 5:15p  
8:30p - 9:00p

Other times by appt

**SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN AND  
FAMILIES**

**I. STANDARDIZED COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines from a variety of theoretical frameworks the factors, indicators, and dynamics associated with child maltreatment, including physical abuse, assessment orientation, with a child-focused, family-centered strengths approach. Prevention, practice, policy and research issues will be critically assessed. Child maltreatment will be examined within its relationship to other social welfare problems. The course will explore indicators of populations at risk of being victims of abuse and neglect, as well as those at risk of abusing or neglecting their children. Particular attention will be given to understanding the service delivery systems involved in developing the health and well-being of maltreated children and their families, including investigation of allegations, risk assessment, emergency shelter services, family safety services, out of allegations, risk assessment, emergency shelter services, family safety services, out of home placement, foster care and kinship care, and adoption. The role of the legal system will be explored as well. Controversial issues in child welfare will be discussed within the framework of the values of the social work profession.

This course is a cross-listed practice elective. Social work students are given priority for course registration, while students from other disciplines are admitted with permission of the instructor. This course does build on the liberal arts perspective. No other prerequisites are required. Issues related to social injustice and cultural diversity will be addressed in micro, mezzo, and macro level assignments, course readings, bibliography, and special topics designated in the course schedule of this syllabus.

**II. STANDARDIZED COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. Understanding the social context of abuse and neglect of children through a historical overview of child maltreatment.
2. Demonstrate self-awareness of personal beliefs, values, and attitudes about child abuse and neglect through examination of ethical dilemmas and their impact on practice, service, and clients.
3. Demonstrate understanding, affirmation, and respect for persons from different backgrounds, including age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, class, religious belief or spirituality, family structure, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, national origin, or other issues of diversity related to child abuse and neglect.

4. Apply varied theoretical approaches in assessing factors, indicators, and dynamics associated with child maltreatment.
5. Identify the impact of abuse and neglect on the physical, intellectual, psychosocial, and moral development of the child.
6. Understand and apply risk assessment skills to the service stages of child protection.
7. Critically assess policy, practice, and research issues that focus on culturally relevant prevention and intervention in child maltreatment.
8. Understand social and economic justice issues relating to child maltreatment and its relationship to other social welfare problems including juvenile crime, substance abuse, domestic violence, poverty, as well as developing an awareness of the global interconnections of violence and oppression.
9. Understand the complex array of social services provided to abused children and their families in order to promote healthy families and well-being, as well as an understanding of the process and services provided when out of home placement is in the best interest of the child's safety, health and well-being.

### III. TEACHING METHODS

A variety of teaching methods will be used to draw on diverse pedagogical approaches to be inclusive of a variety of learning styles; activities include readings, writings, discussions, lectures, videos, in-class group activities, self-reflection, community guests, and a field trip to an emergency children's shelter. As this is a seminar course, much of the learning will take place in class discussions. This course will highlight diverse perspectives of thought and encourages students to engage in new ways of thinking that may be represented by speakers, the professor, and classmates from diverse backgrounds.

You are expected to ask questions to clarify content discussion, concepts, etc. Also provide me with constructive feedback in a timely manner and meet with me individually as needed and/or when requested. All in-class discussions related to personal values, beliefs, or life experiences are encouraged with extreme attention to respect to others.

### IV. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Cresson-Tower, C. (2020). *Understanding child abuse and neglect* (10<sup>th</sup> ed.). New Jersey: Pearson Education, Inc. **(Required) You must bring your textbook to class.**

**Canvas:** Grades will be posted in Canvas.

Students will select, from the list below, an additional reading to complete the Book Reflection assignment.

Crosson-Tower, Cynthia. (2007). *From the Eye of the Storm: The Experiences of a Child Welfare Worker*. Pearson.

Perry, B. (2006). *The boy who was raised as a dog; And other stories from a child psychiatrist's notebook*. New York: Basic Books

McKenzie, C. (2009). *She Never Answered*. Asta Publications.

Any additional readings will be provided in class or via e-mail.

**V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

<u>Due Dates</u>	<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Possible Points</u>
Sept. 15	Parental Behaviors Assignment	75
Sept. 29	Topic Reflection Paper	50
Oct. 6	Exam I	100
Nov. 3	Book Reflection Paper	100
Nov.17/Dec.1	Group Project	100
Dec.1	Exam II	100
Ongoing	Attendance & Class Participation	25
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>550</b>

1. **ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION.** This course is designed as a seminar where we will investigate many topics on child abuse/neglect, parenting, engaging and assessing families and service provision. Participation and discussion are critical parts of the course. You are expected to attend all class sessions. In addition to class attendance, your contributions to and participation in the discussion should reflect critical thinking, analysis, and synthesis of the content presented during class and in the required readings. **Absence from 2 classes is an automatic loss of 15 out of the 25 points assigned to this category.**

**2. TOPIC REFLECTION PAPER - IMPORTANCE OF PARENT/CHILD VISITATION IN CHILD WELFARE**

One-page (excluding title page) reflection paper should include:

1. How does parent/child visitation impact family reunification efforts?
2. Share evidence-based research to support the need for parent/child visitation?
3. Provide an example of a state’s policy or guidelines regarding parent/child visitation.

**Note: 1 full page...anything more or less will** result in a deduction of points.

**1-inch margins**

**1<sup>st</sup> page – Cover Page**

**2-3 pages - Topic reflection content**

**4<sup>th</sup> page – References (if applicable)**

## SUBMIT VIA CANVAS OR EMAIL

**3. PARENTAL BEHAVIORS (PARENT/CHILD INTERACTION).** Assignment details to be provided.

### 4. GROUP PROJECT

This assignment gives the student the opportunity to conduct further research on a critical child welfare issue. Working in small groups, students will make an in-class presentation on an assigned topic. Grading is based on the group's ability to research and present major child welfare points and should address the following:

- Overview of the topic and how it impacts child welfare
- Child welfare policy implications ~ agency policies that guide how social work services are delivered to families
- Child welfare practice implications ~ discuss research that is evidenced based, evidenced informed or promising practices associated with the topic
- Federal/state/local laws supporting or governing work with families
- Data supporting the intersection of the topic and child welfare
- Describe if there is/is not a need for attention to this topic

Sources, **must include**, but are not limited to: (you must cite sources)

- Information learned in class
- National Child Welfare journals/websites/books
- Information obtained from a child welfare agency website
- Fact finding should also include contacting persons employed with child welfare agencies and/or organizations

**Each group member is expected to participate in a 30-minute oral presentation.** Groups will ensure the instructor receives a copy of all handouts, including the PowerPoint. A bibliography is required.

**Group members are required to wear professional clothing (absolutely no jeans/flip flops/shorts/capris/tank tops without a jacket).**

*For this class assignment, the dress code is designed to provide a set of standards modeling appropriate work attire. A well-defined dress code communicates maturity, professionalism, capability, and competency. Your attire reflects your attitude(s) about yourself and portrays the impression you want others to have of you.*

- **Group presentation packet** includes, but is not limited to:
  - presentation PowerPoint,
  - handouts, and
  - any other group presentation supporting documents.

- **Group Member Evaluation Statement**

- Each group member will prepare a **brief type-written statement** (no more than 4-5 sentences) outlining their contribution and an evaluation of each group member. This statement will be turned in by individual group members.

Due on the day of the presentation **via mail**, by noon is the group presentation packet and group member evaluation statement.

Due on the day of the presentation, **at the beginning of class**, is a hard copy of the group presentation packet.

***Failure to receive individual statements timely will result in an automatic 10-point deduction for ALL group members.***

*Grading rubric will be provided.* The dates for the presentations are noted in the course schedule. As time allows, class time will be dedicated to group to work on their presentation. The dedicated class time **is not** intended to be the only opportunity for groups to meet. The expectation is that groups will arrange additional meetings outside of class.

### **Group Presentation Topics**

1. Poverty, Neglect & Child Maltreatment
2. Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment
3. Alcohol, Substance Abuse & Child Maltreatment
4. Mental Health & Child Maltreatment
5. Safety & Risk Assessments

### **5. BOOK REFLECTION PAPER**

This paper will give the student the opportunity to reflect on their observations, articulate their position to the author's approach and intervention strategies and contrast with class discussions/topics.

- ✓ Reflect on at least 6 chapters. (Include chapter name/number as subtitles within the paper)

**Chapter 3 – Chapter Name**

..... reflection content

**Chapter 6 – Chapter Name**

.....reflection content

- ✓ 4 pages (excluding title and reference pages) - **double spaced**
- ✓ 1” margins *explicitly*

**Note: full 4 pages...anything more or less will result in a deduction of points.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Page** – Cover Page

**Pages 2 thru 5** - Reflection content

**6<sup>th</sup> Page** – References (if applicable)

**SUBMIT VIA CANVAS  
OR EMAIL**

## EXAMINATIONS

**Mid-term and final examinations are based on readings, lectures, speakers, discussions and class activities.** Exams may include a variety of testing strategies but will primarily consist of short answer questions and case scenarios. Quizzes may be verbal or written. Seventy (70) minutes is allowed for the mid-term and final exam. Quiz time depends on the quiz type and content.

### Careers in CPS

This is voluntary and will be discussed with those students who choose to remain immediately after the last class day is dismissed. The student is allowed the opportunity to become familiar with Texas Child Protective Service (CPS) website and the many careers available in CPS. To prepare, visit the website ([www.dfps.state.tx.us](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us)) prior to the last day of class and review the process for submitting employment applications. Check available job postings throughout the semester and print a job description that interest you. Bring the job description to the last class.

## VI. GRADES

94.0 and Above	A
90.0 to 93.999	A-
87.0 to 89.999	B+
84.0 to 86.999	B
80.0 to 83.999	B-
77.0 to 79.999	C+
74.0 to 76.999	C
70.0 to 73.999	C-
67.0 to 69.999	D+
64.0 to 66.999	D
60.0 to 63.999	D-

## VII. CLASS POLICIES

Students are expected to produce high quality work in terms of appearance, writing style, and content. POINTS will be deducted for errors, misspellings, incorrect grammar, poor organization, repetitive information and failure to adhere to assignment details.

**Papers and assignments are to be submitted via Canvas or email.  
Automatic 10 points will be deducted for more or less than the number of  
pages specified for the assignments.**

- 1. Late papers and assignments will be penalized 5pts. for each late calendar day.**
- 2. A paper or assignment is late if not received by the end of class (8:30p.m.) on the date the paper or assignment is due. *If not received by 5:30p.m., the next day it is considered two days late, etc.***

**Laptops will not be needed in class nor are they allowed.**

## VIII. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

**COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION.** The University's policies and practices related to the pandemic may be accessed at: <https://protect.utexas.edu/>

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HONOR CODE.** The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

**DOCUMENTED DISABILITY STATEMENT.** Any student who requires special accommodations must obtain a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (471- 6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). A student should present the letter to the professor at the beginning of the semester so that needed accommodations can be discussed and followed. The student should remind the professor of any testing accommodations no later than five business days before an exam. For more information, visit: <http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>.

**PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND CIVILITY IN THE CLASSROOM.** The professor expects students to act as professionals in class. This means students should arrive on time for class, be prepared to participate in the class discussion, and show respect for one another's opinions. A course brings together a group of diverse individuals with various backgrounds. Students are influenced and shaped by such factors as race, ethnicity, gender, sex, physical abilities, religious and political beliefs, national origins, and sexual orientations, among others. We expect to learn from each other in an atmosphere of positive engagement and mutual respect. This atmosphere includes working intentionally to recognize and dismantle racism, sexism, heterosexism, and ableism in the classroom. Social Work also deals with complex and

controversial issues. These issues may be challenging and uncomfortable, and it would be impossible to offer a substantive classroom experience that did not include potentially difficult conversations relating to challenging issues. In this environment, we will be exposed to diverse ideas and opinions, and sometimes we will not agree with the ideas expressed by others. Nevertheless, the professor requires that students engage one another with civility, respect, and professionalism.

**UNANTICIPATED DISTRESS.** Students may experience unexpected and/or distressing reactions to course readings, videos, conversations, and assignments. If so, students are encouraged to inform the professor. The professor can be responsive and supportive regarding students' participation in course assignments and activities, but students are responsible for communicating clearly what kind of support is desired. If counseling is needed, students may contact a service provider of their choosing, including the UT Counseling Center at 512-471-3515 or online at <https://cmhc.utexas.edu/>.

**POLICY ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION.** Public social networks are not private. Even when open only to approved or invited members, users cannot be certain that privacy will exist among the general membership of sites. If social work students choose to participate in such forums, please assume that anything posted can be seen, read, and critiqued. What is said, posted, linked to, commented on, uploaded, subscribed to, etc., can be accessed and archived, posing potential harm to professional reputations and prospective careers.

Social work students who use social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and other forms of electronic communication (e.g. blogs) must be mindful of how their communication may be perceived by clients, colleagues, faculty, and others. Social work students are expected to make every effort to minimize material which could be considered inappropriate for a professional social worker in training. Because of this, social work students are advised to manage security settings at their most private levels and avoid posting information/photos or using any language that could jeopardize their professional image.

Students are asked to consider the amount of personal information posted on these sites and are obliged to block any client access to involvement in the students' social networks. Client material should not be referred to in any form of electronic media, including *any* information that might lead to the identification of a client or compromise client confidentiality in *any* way. Additionally, students must critically evaluate any material that is posted regarding community agencies and professional relationships, as certain material could violate the standards set by the School of Social Work, the Texas Code of Conduct for Social Workers, and/or the NASW Code of Ethics.

Social work students should consider that they will be representing professional social work practice as well as The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work program while in the classroom, the university community, and the broader area communities.

**POLICY ON SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY.** Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all



students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, the student may refer to the Web Site of the Student Judicial Services, Office of the Dean of Students: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/>.

**USE OF COURSE MATERIALS.** The materials used in this course, including, but not limited to exams, quizzes, and homework assignments, are copyright protected works. Any unauthorized duplication of the course materials is a violation of federal law and may result in disciplinary action being taken against the student. Additionally, the sharing of course materials without the specific, express approval of the professor may be a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty, which could result in further disciplinary action. This sharing includes, among other things, uploading class materials to websites for the purpose of distributing those materials to other current or future students.

**CLASSROOM CONFIDENTIALITY.** Information shared in class about agencies, clients, and personal matters is considered confidential per the NASW Code of Ethics on educational supervision and is protected by regulations of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as well. As such, sharing this information with individuals outside of the educational context is not permitted. Violations of confidentiality could result in actions taken according to the policies and procedure for review of academic performance located in sections 3.0, 3.1, and 3.2 of the Standards for Social Work Education.

**USE OF E-MAIL FOR OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO STUDENTS.** Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, students are responsible for reading their email for university and course-related information and announcements. Students are responsible for keeping the university informed about a change of e-mail address. Students should check their e-mail regularly and frequently—daily, but at minimum twice a week—to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-sensitive. Students can find UT Austin's policies and instructions for updating their e-mail address at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php>.

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS.** By UT Austin policy, students must notify the professor of a pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If the student must miss a class, examination, work assignment, or project in order to observe a religious holy day, the professor will give the student an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

**TITLE IX REPORTING.** In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the University of Texas at Austin is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from discriminatory conduct on the basis of sex <https://titleix.utexas.edu/>. Faculty, field instructors, staff, and/or teaching assistants in their supervisory roles are mandated reporters of incidents of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, stalking, dating violence, or any other forms of sexual misconduct. Students who report such incidents will be informed of University resources. Incidents will be reported to the University's Title IX Coordinator. Further information, including student resources related to Title IX, may also be found at <https://titleix.utexas.edu/>.

**CAMPUS CARRY POLICY.** The University’s policy on campus carry may be found here: <https://campuscarry.utexas.edu>.

**SAFETY.** As part of professional social work education, students may have assignments that involve working in agency settings and/or the community. As such, these assignments may present some risks. Sound choices and caution may lower risks inherent to the profession. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and adhere to policies and practices related to agency and/or community safety. Students should notify the professor regarding any safety concerns.

**BEHAVIOR CONCERNS and COVID-19 ADVICE LINE (BCCAL).** If students have concerns about their behavioral health, or if they are concerned about the behavioral health of someone else, students may use the Behavior Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line to discuss by phone their concerns. This service is provided through a partnership between the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <https://safety.utexas.edu/behavior-concerns-advice-line>. The Behavior Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line has been expanded to support The University of Texas at Austin community during the COVID-19 pandemic. By calling 512-232-5050 - Option 2 for COVID-19, students, faculty and staff can be assisted in English and Spanish with COVID-19 support.

**EMERGENCY EVACUATION POLICY.** Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors in the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform the professor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the professor’s instructions.
- Do not re-enter a building unless you are given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

**IX. COURSE SCHEDULE**

Check Canvas regularly and use it to ask questions about the course schedule. Changes to the schedule may be made at the professor’s discretion and as circumstances require.

Date	Topic	Assignment Due	Readings
Aug. 25	<p align="center"><b>Class 1</b></p> <p align="center">Course Overview/Syllabus Historical Perspective of Child Maltreatment Indian Child Welfare Act</p>		<p>Crosson-Tower, The Maltreatment of Children Then and Now.</p> <p>Chapters 1</p>
Sept. 1	<p align="center"><b>Class 2</b></p> <p align="center">The Family Roles Trauma &amp; the Developing Child</p>		<p>Crosson-Tower, Chapters 2 and 3.</p>

			The Healing Neen Documentary
Sept. 8	<p align="center"><b>Class 3</b></p> <p>Neglectful Supervision, Physical Neglect, Abandonment, Refusal to Accept Parental Responsibility</p> <p align="center">Physical Abuse</p> <p align="center">Sexual Abuse</p>	<p><i>Presentation Topics/Group Member Assignments</i></p>	<p>Crosson-Tower, The Neglect of Children, Ch.4. Treatment: PHAB, Ch. 5</p> <p>Crosson-Tower, The Sexual Abuse of Children, Ch. 6.</p> <p>Crosson-Tower, Intra/Extrafamilial Abuse, Ch.7 &amp; Ch.8</p>
Sept. 15	<p align="center"><b>Class 4</b></p> <p align="center">Austin Children's Shelter</p> <p align="center">Emotional Abuse</p>	<p><i>Parental Behavior Paper Due</i></p>	<p>Jasmine Matthews, LCSW, LCCA Director of Emergency Care Stop Child Abuse for Everyone (SAFE) 4800 Manor Road Austin, Texas</p> <p>Crosson-Tower, Psychological Maltreatment, Chapter 9</p>
Sept. 22	<p align="center"><b>Class 6</b></p> <p align="center">Assessment Pilot</p>		
Sept. 29	<p align="center"><b>Class 7</b></p> <p align="center">Stages of Service</p>	<p><i>Topic Reflection Paper Due - Importance of Parent/Child Visitation</i></p>	<p>Crosson-Tower, Intervention: Reporting and Investigation &amp; Case Management Ch. 10.</p>
<p><b>Oct.6 ~ Class 8</b></p> <p><b>Exam I</b></p>			
Oct. 13	<p align="center"><i>Guests/CPS Panel</i></p>		Evidenced Based Tools

Oct. 20	<b>Class 9</b> Foster & Adoptive Services/ Permanency & Child Placement Permanency & Concurrent Planning, Service Planning		Crosson-Tower, Collaborative Intervention and Case Management, Ch. 11.
Oct. 27	<b>Class 10</b> Assessing Families		Legal Response to Child Abuse & Neglect, Chapter 12
Nov.3	<b>Class 11</b> Adoption of Children from CPS Placements, Foster Care, Adoption, Child Placing Agencies	<i>Book Reflection Paper Due</i>	<b>Professional Panel Presentation:</b> CASA of Travis County BAIR Foundation TexProtects Change 1
Nov. 10	<b>Class 12</b>		
Nov. 17	<b>Class 13</b> <b>Group Presentations:</b> <b>#1 Poverty, Neglect &amp; Child Maltreatment</b> <b>#2 Domestic Violence &amp; Child Maltreatment</b> <b>#3 Alcohol, Substance Abuse &amp; Child Maltreatment</b>		
<b>Nov. 24 ~No Class</b>			
Dec. 1	<b>Class 14</b> <b>Group Presentations:</b> <b>#4 Mental Health &amp; Child Maltreatment</b> <b>#5 Safety &amp; Risk Assessments</b>  <b>FINAL EXAM</b>		

## X. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Crosson-Tower, C. (2007). *Understanding child abuse and neglect* (7<sup>th</sup>ed.). Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.

Data Book (2019). Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

*Deliberate Information Gathering*. (November 2006). Retrieved May 2011 from Action for Protection web site.