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Fall 9-1-2021

### PSYX 348.01: Psychology of Family Violence

Laura G. Kirsch

*University of Montana, Missoula*, [laura.kirsch@umontana.edu](mailto:laura.kirsch@umontana.edu)

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**PSYX 348**  
**Psychology of Family Violence**  
**Fall 2021**

**Course Location and Time**

Location: Chemistry 123  
Tues/Thurs 11:00am – 12:20pm

**Instructor Information**

Instructor: Laura Kirsch, Ph.D.  
Office: Skaggs 364  
Office hours: Tuesdays 9-10 am and 1-2pm, or by appointment  
Email: [laura.kirsch@umontana.edu](mailto:laura.kirsch@umontana.edu)  
Phone: 406-243-6817

**Course Description**

This course will explore the theoretical explanations for the presence of violence in American families, in addition to examining the relevant research on incidence, perpetrators, victims, and interventions for a variety of types of family violence, including child neglect, child physical and sexual abuse, intimate partner violence, dating violence, and elder abuse. *Prerequisite:* PSYX 100 (Introduction to Psychology). *Recommended prerequisites:* PSYX 222 (Psychological Statistics) and PSYX 340 (Abnormal Psychology).

This course is one of the approved electives for the Major and the Minor in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. If you enjoy this course and would like to know more about the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, please visit the [Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies website](#).

**Please note:** Throughout this course we will be discussing and viewing *very sensitive material* that pertains to family violence, which may be difficult to hear or watch. It is important that you evaluate whether you are prepared to take this course. If you have concerns about your readiness or ability to remain in the course, please see me after class or during office hours to discuss your options. Also, please be advised that this course is not designed to be a therapeutic experience, or to replace any therapeutic work. Consequently, overly personal information should not be relayed in class discussions. However, students are welcome to meet with me to discuss campus and community resources for help, as needed.

**Educational Goals**

After taking this course, you should be able to:

- Identify and describe the different forms of violence that occur within families.
- Understand and describe the impact that violence has on the family, including children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly.
- Understand and describe current theories explaining the perpetration of family violence.

- Describe prevention and intervention programs designed to reduce the different types of family violence.
- Think critically about how the different forms of family violence are perceived and addressed in our society.

### **Required Readings**

**Required Text:** Miller-Perrin, C.L., Perrin, R.D., & Renzetti, C.M. (2021). *Violence and maltreatment in intimate relationships* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Sage.

On occasion, additional readings such as newspaper, magazine and academic journal articles and book chapters will be provided in electronic format on the course Moodle page. Please see the Course Calendar for dates and citations.

### **Student Evaluation (a.k.a. “grading”)**

#### **Exams**

There will be two in-class exams and one final exam (which is cumulative). Each exam is worth 100 points. Exams will include multiple choice and short answer questions, and will cover lecture material and required readings. Details for each test will be discussed in class prior to the exam as well as in a post on Moodle. You are responsible for bringing a #2 pencil and a Blue/Green Scantron Sheet to each exam (available at the UM Market or bookstore). Questions about exam grades should be raised within one week of exam return.

You are expected to take the exams on the scheduled dates. If you have an UNAVOIDABLE conflict with one of the exams, please speak with me PRIOR to the exam to schedule a make-up exam. If you are sick on the day of the exam, you must provide medical documentation in order to take a make-up. Make-up exams will be essay exams. Please note: sleeping through your alarm, getting a flat tire, and any sickness without a doctor’s note are NOT grounds for a make-up and you will receive a grade of 0 on the missed exam. **The Final is scheduled for: Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. I will not allow students to take the Final Exam at an earlier date.** You must take it on the University designated date, so please make your travel plans accordingly.

#### **Media Reflection Paper**

Students are required to watch a documentary or read a book depicting a real-life case of family violence and write a 3-5 page paper discussing their reaction to the material as well as relating it to course concepts. Additional details will be provided, along with a list of media options. The paper is worth 100 points towards your course grade and is due on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **In-Class Activities and Quizzes**

There will be several in-class quizzes and group activities throughout the semester to encourage attendance and participation and to help students interact with the course material in a more hands-on manner. These will occur randomly throughout the semester, and will be worth between 5 and 10 points each, for a total of 50 points towards your course grade. Make-ups will be allowed if you have a university-excused absence.

#### **Grading**

Points toward the final grade will be counted as follows:

In-class Exam 1:                      100 points

In-class Exam 2:	100 points
Final Exam:	100 points
Paper Assignment:	100 points
In-Class Activities/Quizzes :	50 points
<b>Total:</b>	<b>450 points</b>

Course grades will be based on total points earned at the end of the semester out of a possible 450 points. Your letter grade will be determined in the following way: your 3 exam grades, your reflection paper grade, and your in-class activities/quiz grade will be added together to determine your point total for the course. Your point total will be divided by 450 (the total points available), to yield a percentage grade and the following scale will be applied to determine your letter grade:

% = Letter Grade		
93 - 100% = <b>A</b>	80 - 82% = <b>B-</b>	67 - 69% = <b>D+</b>
90 - 92% = <b>A-</b>	77 - 79% = <b>C+</b>	63 - 66% = <b>D</b>
87 - 89% = <b>B+</b>	73 - 76% = <b>C</b>	60 - 62% = <b>D-</b>
83 - 86% = <b>B</b>	70 - 72% = <b>C-</b>	Below 60% = <b>F</b>

Please note: I **will not** bump up grades that are close to the cutoff.

### Course Guidelines and Policies

#### Course Website

Materials for the course (besides the text) will be available on the course Moodle site. PowerPoint slides for the lectures will generally be posted by topic, no later than 9pm the night before each class, so that you can print them and use them in class. *Please be advised that these are incomplete versions of the class slides, and require that you fill in additional information during lecture. Slides are provided to help structure your note-taking and reduce the total amount you have to write during class, but are not a substitute for note-taking in class.* Class announcements will also be posted when necessary, so please check the website on a regular basis. In addition to checking Moodle, you are also responsible for checking your University of Montana email regularly, as you may receive course-related emails from time to time.

#### COVID-19 Policies and Procedures

This course complies with the University COVID Operations Plan for Fall 2021, which includes the following protocols:

- Mask use is required within the classroom.
- If you feel sick and/or are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please don't come to class and contact the Curry Health Center at **(406) 243-4330**.
- If you are required to isolate or quarantine, you will receive support in the class to ensure continued academic progress. **Please email me as soon as possible to discuss support arrangements.**
- Where social distancing (maintaining consistent 6 feet between individuals) is not possible, specific seating arrangements will be used to support contact tracing efforts.
- Class attendance and seating will be recorded to support contact tracing efforts.
- Drinking liquids and eating food is discouraged within the classroom.

- In the event that the class is being recorded for students who cannot attend, I will notify you at the beginning of class.
- It is highly recommended that you get the COVID-19 vaccine. Please feel free to reach out to the Curry Health Center with concerns/questions.

### **Missed Classes**

Although your attendance is not mandatory, in order to do well in this course you should attend every lecture, since exams and assignments are based heavily on lecture material. With the exception of University-excused absences (including COVID isolation or quarantine), in the event that you have to miss a class, come late, or leave early, you are responsible for obtaining the notes from another class member. You will also be held responsible for any changes or additions to the syllabus that were announced in class. Copies of handouts and announcements will be posted on Moodle.

### **Email Policy**

You are welcome to email me with general questions about the course, and I will typically respond within a business day. However, if you have a lot of questions, I prefer you come to office hours. Also, I will not answer emails sent to me after 8pm the night before an exam. Please do your best to study in advance so that you have enough time to expect a response.

### **The Learning Environment**

I would like this class to have a relaxed atmosphere where students can feel free to ask questions and comment on the material being presented and discussed. Please do not hesitate to raise your hand for clarification on a topic, to ask about related material, or to raise an interesting point. However, remember that not everyone has similar viewpoints or experiences, so please try to be respectful of your classmates and their opinions. Also, please note that some of the subject matter in this course is sensitive, and at times, the material may be upsetting to some students. Moreover, there may be students who have had personal experiences with family violence. As such, please be considerate of others, and voice your opinions or comments with others' feelings in mind.

Another way to create a respectful and productive learning environment is to ensure that it is free from distractions. Therefore, please turn off your cell phones and other personal electronic devices prior to coming to class. Repeated use of personal electronic devices during class time will result in points being deducted from your course grade. If you wish, you may use a laptop or tablet to take notes. However, if I see that you are emailing, surfing the web, or using it for any non-class-related purposes, you will lose the privilege of using it in class. Although coming to class late and/or leaving early is discouraged, on those occasions that it is unavoidable, please do it in such a way as to minimize disruption.

### **Disability Modifications**

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [The Office for Disability Equity](#). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with the Office for Disability Equality (ODE), please contact them in Lommasson

Center 154 or call 406-243-2243. I will work with you and ODE to provide an appropriate modification.

### Academic Integrity

You are expected to adhere to the University of Montana’s [Student Conduct Code](#) with regard to academic integrity. Academic misconduct in this course will result in an academic penalty commensurate with the offense as well as possible disciplinary action by the university.

### Feedback

I hope to make this an enjoyable learning experience for everyone in the class. If you have any suggestions as to how to improve the class, please feel free to give me constructive feedback.

### PSYX 348 Course Calendar

Please note that the dates and topics listed below are tentative, and are subject to change with proper notification. Readings and assignments are due by the date listed below. **Exams, assignment due dates, and holidays are highlighted in gray.**

DATE	TOPIC	READING DUE
8/31	Introduction and Overview	
9/2	What is Family Violence?	Ch. 1
9/7	Research Methods and Perspectives	Ch. 2
9/9	Research Methods and Perspectives	
9/14	Child Physical Abuse	Ch. 3
9/16	Child Physical Abuse	
9/21	Child Neglect	Ch. 5
9/23	Child Neglect	
9/28	Child Sexual Abuse	Ch. 4
9/30	Child Sexual Abuse	
10/5	Child Abuse Prevention; Resilience	<i>CDC: Essentials for Childhood Framework</i>
10/7	Catch up/review	
<b>10/12</b>	<b>EXAM 1</b>	
10/14	Intimate Partner Violence	Ch. 8
10/19	Intimate Partner Violence	
10/21	Intimate Partner Violence	
10/26	Perpetrators of Intimate Partner Violence	Ch. 9
10/28	Perpetrators of Intimate Partner Violence	<i>Feder &amp; Wilson (2005)</i>
11/2	Abuse in Adolescent and Emerging Adult Relationships	Ch. 7
11/4	Abuse in Adolescent and Emerging Adult Relationships	
11/9	Sexual Assault on College Campuses	
<b>11/11</b>	<b>NO CLASS: VETERAN'S DAY</b>	
11/16	Family Violence in the Court System	TBA
<b>11/18</b>	<b>EXAM 2</b>	
11/23	IPV: Policy and Prevention	<i>Snyder (2013)</i>

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>READING DUE</b>
<b>11/25</b>	<b>NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>	
11/30	Sexual Assault Prevention and Treatment	<i>Letourneau &amp; Levenson (2011)</i>
<b>12/2</b>	Abuse of Older Adults and People With Disabilities	Ch. 10; <b>PAPER ASSIGNMENT DUE</b>
12/7	Abuse of Older Adults and People With Disabilities	TBA
12/9	Review for Final	
<b>Thursday 12/16 10:10am-12:10 pm</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	