



IHHS 411

Violence Across the Lifespan



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Instructor : Dr. Elaine Alpert:
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Credits: 3

Dates Offered: Jan 4-April 3

Semester: Winter II 2011
Location: On-line/distance

Course Description:

This interprofessional distance-education course provides a topic-focused overview of violence and abuse across the lifespan, with particular attention to building knowledge around epidemiology, dynamics, health effects, and an introduction to programs targeted to both intervention and prevention. The socio-ecological model will be used to examine social factors that contribute to violence and abuse, and that can be utilized in crafting prevention-focused interventions. Learners will progress through the course in interprofessional collaborative teams that will serve as models for a coordinated community response to violence and abuse.

Intended Students:

This course is designed for upper-level undergraduate students, health and human service graduate students, and practicing health and human service professionals. Violence in families is a topic of relevance to all health and human service professionals, educators, and those who may come in contact with survivors, perpetrators, and intermediaries. Given the demonstrated importance of forging a coordinated community response to violence and abuse, a collaborative, interprofessional approach to learning and practice is emphasized throughout the course. Particular attention will be paid throughout the learning process and in the assignment of marks to active and engaged participation by students in on-line discussion forums, and to group process.

Course objectives: Students who complete this course will be able to:

1. Articulate social and behavioural factors that contribute to violence and abuse across the lifespan;
2. Describe the prevalence and characteristics of violence and abuse across the lifespan;

3. Identify ways in which both survivors and perpetrators of violence and abuse across the lifespan present, or fail to present, to the health care system;
4. Explain the main features of viable interprofessional coordinated community responses to violence and abuse;
5. Describe and critique existing Canadian and international initiatives in the intervention and prevention of violence and abuse across the lifespan;
6. Articulate social and behavioural factors that contribute to resilience and recovery;
7. Identify and access local, regional and national resources for prevention and intervention;
8. Apply knowledge of your own discipline (or area of expertise) and demonstrate knowledge of others' disciplines (or areas of expertise) in order to work effectively as a member of an interprofessional team dedicated to addressing violence across the lifespan;
9. Apply concepts of confidentiality and professional boundaries to interprofessional work; and
10. Describe how those interested in ongoing work in the field can craft a path to specialized expertise and leadership in addressing violence and abuse.

Week-by-Week Course Outline:

Week	Time Period	Topics Covered
Week 1	January 4-9	Introductions, Course Goals The Social-Ecological Model The Human Rights Framework Cultural Awareness Boundaries and Self Care
Week 2	January 10-16	Overview: Violence Across the Lifespan
Week 3	January 17-23	The Adverse Childhood Experiences Study
Week 4	January 24-30	Adult Intimate Partner Violence Adolescent Relationship Violence (Teen Dating Violence)

Week 5	January 31- February 6	Child Abuse and Neglect Child Exposure to Family Violence
Week 6	February 7-13	Abuse in Later Life (Elder Abuse) Abuse in Non-Majority Cultures
Week 7	February 14- 20	Sexual Violence
Week 8	February 21- 27	Abuse by Clergy and Other Trusted Members of Society
Week 9	February 28 – March 6	Sexual Violence in the Military, during War, and in Post-Conflict Settings
Week 10	March 7-13	Human Trafficking
Week 11	March 14-20	News and Entertainment Media – Friend, Foe or Ally?
Week 12	March 21-27	Men as Allies
Week 13	March 28- April 3	Building a Coordinated Community Response to Violence and Abuse Across the Lifespan

Required Materials:

- Reliable internet access is an absolute necessity as this is an online course that requires organization and teamwork!
- Required and recommended readings and videos will be available via web-links provided by the instructor.

Course Work and Assignments:

A description of required course work and marks for each respective component is summarized in the table below. Total possible marks = 105

Item	Points	Graded as	Description
Resource list	5	Individual	Each student will research and submit a summary of local community resources related to violence across the lifespan.
Discussion	55	Team	For each discussion forum topic,

Forums	(11 discussions, 5 points each)		each team will post a summary based on its members' contributed thoughts.
Reflection	5	Individual	Each individual will compose a summary reflection as an individual and as a member of an interprofessional team.
Peer evaluation	15	Individual	Each individual will assign performance points to the others in the team, according to each member's contributions to the team.
Final assignment	25	Team or custom group	Teams or custom groups will work together to submit a paper, agency assessment or project.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON GRADING:

Except for factual items, such as provisions of specific laws, there are very few, if any, absolutely "right" or "wrong" answers in this field, or in life in general, for that matter. Your grade in this course, therefore, will be based primarily on the timeliness, quality, depth, critical thinking and team product (for team assignments) of your work, assessed to the best of your instructors' ability. Since this is an online course, the only way we as your instructors can make a fair and unbiased assessment of your abilities is by reviewing and critiquing your written submissions.

For your team discussion posts, as well as for your team's critiques and responses, we will be looking at the degree to which your team's submissions illustrate the following traits:

- originality of thought;
- depth of critical analysis;
- use of course and additional resources;
- sensitivity in responses to other team members' posts;
- the degree to which your posts reflect opportunities and challenges of interprofessional practice; and
- proper spelling and grammar (yes, seriously).

Please note: If English is not your first language, please let your team members and instructor know so we can take this into account when reviewing your written work.

Additional Information: To find out more about this course or to contact the Course Director, please email Elaine J. Alpert, MD, MPH: elaine.alpert@ubc.ca