



**SOC 355**  
**Investigative Techniques in Social Services**  
**Saturday -9AM -5 PM**

September 26, 2009

October 17, 2009

November 7, 2009

December 5, 2009

**3 Credits**

**Instructor:** Kenyatta Lewis, LLMSW  
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**Text:**

There is no textbook for this course. Class handouts and e-reserve will be utilized. You will also receive material in class generated by the Department of Human Services and the Michigan State Child Protection Law.

**Siena Heights University Outcome Statement**

Graduates of Siena Heights University programs will have gained the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to continue developing as self-respecting professionals. They will be capable of:

- Making sense out of their daily work and personal lives;
- Taking appropriate actions;
- Realizing that their search for final answers must be lifelong.

**General Studies Learning Outcomes**

“While a general education curriculum seeks to be both expansive and incisive, at Siena Heights University it may best be characterized as challenging students in these areas:

- A. Liberal Arts Learning
- B. Modes of Learning
- C. Communication Skills
- D. Diversity in Community

- E. Ethical and Moral Understanding
- F. Social Responsibility
- G. Life-long Learning”

*(Please consult the Undergraduate Catalogue, 2000-2002, page 10, for a more detailed outline of these learning outcomes.)*

### **Community Services Program Learning Outcomes**

1. Develop an interdisciplinary and ethical approach to adult and child abuse/neglect investigations and interview practices.
2. The student will develop skills to evaluate risk and protective factors for children and families.
3. Develop effective communication and interpersonal skills appropriate for use in the roles of human service practice.
4. Develop an understanding of the State of Michigan Child Welfare system.

### **Relationship of PSC Outcomes to General Education Program Outcomes**

	General Education Program Outcomes (Siena Heights University 2000-02 Undergraduate Catalogue, p. 10)					
	A1, A3	B1, B2	C1	C2	D1 D2	E1, E3
1. Ethics/Interdisciplinary	X X					X X
2. Learning Skills		X X				
3. Communication/Personal Skills			X	X	X X	
4. Methods for change		X X				

### **Course Description**

This is an introductory investigation course which covers the techniques involved in the investigation of child abuse and neglect. Students will also prepare for work in the Child Welfare field by reviewing child welfare programs.

#### **GOALS:**

1. Provide the student with knowledge of the fundamental skills necessary to conduct non-criminal investigations.
2. Provide the student with the capacity to inter-relate the investigative process to actual case planning/processing.
3. Create an awareness of the complex ethical issues intrinsic in investigation and provide the student with an ethical framework for identifying and addressing these issues.

## Course Methods

Lecture, discussions, reading assignments in preparation for class discussion, case studies, current event reports, interactive applications, videos, and instructor evaluation.

## NOTE: Pre-Class Assignment

### 2 Mini Assignments ( 20 points each – total 40 points)

The mini assignments will allow you to challenge your thinking as it relates to the child welfare field.

#### Mini #1 Due September 26, 2009

Review an article that links economics and child welfare and analyze in 2 paragraphs. You must describe the major points of the article and describe how you view the connection of the impact of the economy and children and families.

#### Mini #2 Due September 26, 2009

MARE in the acronym for the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange. You will visit this site at: <http://www.mare.org/> Go through the pages of MARE and answer the following questions in two paragraphs. Is this your first time reviewing this site, and what is your reaction. Describe any themes that you identify on this site.

Assignments – Due at the beginning of class on the specified date.

#### Presentation (50 points) Due October 17, 2009

You will select one unique population served in child welfare and complete a professional presentation on this topic. **You will identify your topic and email your presentation topic to the instructor no later than the first day of class.** The instructor will determine the order of presentations. (see handout)

#### Assignment 1 (35 points) Due November 7, 2009

\*Note\* We will utilize some class time to work on this assignment however your final typed assignment is due on 11/07/09.

This is a two part assignment that will allow you to display skills in the area of child welfare interviewing techniques and assessment. (see handout)

#### Assignment 2 (35 points) Due December 5, 2009

\*Note\* We will utilize some class time to work on this assignment however your final typed assignment is due on 12/05/09.

This is a two part assignment that will allow you to demonstrate skills in petition writing and treatment planning. (see handout)

#### Media Case Review (50points) Due December 5, 2009

You will critically review information provided by the media on a social welfare case. (see handout)

All written assignments **must be double-spaced and typewritten**. Handwritten papers **will not** be accepted and will receive zero points. Late papers **will not** be accepted.

### Writing Standards

Written assignments are expected to conform to the standards of college level academic writing. All written work must be submitted in accordance with APA format and meet the highest standards of academic achievement. Correct spelling, grammar, structure, notation and bibliography are minimal requirements for which the student will be held accountable. Excessive margins, font size, line spacing or other obvious attempts to “inflate” the size of paper will be penalized. Students should refer to the Handbook of Current English by Corder/Rusiewicz for further information. Students who need additional assistance with writing should contact the instructor of the Siena Heights University tutor, which is a free service.

### Assignments/Class Expectations \* denotes Pre-Class Assignment

09/26	Mini Assignments* #1 & 2 Due
10/17	Class Presentations Due
11/07	Assignment #1 Due
12/05	Assignment #2 and Media Case Review Due

### Method of Evaluation

Attendance/Participation	40 points
Mini's	40 points
Assignment 1	35 points
Assignment 2	35 points
Presentation	25 points
Media Review	25 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>200 points</b>

### Attendance

The nature of Siena Heights' intense course format means that attendance is critical to student performance. The student is expected to attend all class sessions. An absence does not excuse the student from the responsibility of assigned work and/or testing. Illness or work-related absences are sometimes necessary. Students must contact the instructor prior to any absence when possible. Assignments are still due, regardless of absence. Students are responsible for getting any class notes or assignment information. Due to the in-class activities and discussion, absences can affect a student's final grade. **Students who miss the first day of class will be automatically dropped from the**

**course. More than one absence will result in the student receiving a failing grade for the course.**

### **Accommodations**

In accordance with University policy and the equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may be eligible for as a student with a disability. Please contact me for an appointment to discuss possible accommodations. Students must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities for disability verification and determination of reasonable accommodations. Requests for accommodations must be done in a timely manner and are not retroactive.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

“Academic dishonesty” is unethical behavior which in any way violates the standards of scholarly conduct. It includes such behaviors as cheating on assignments or examinations, plagiarizing, submitting the same or essentially the same papers for more than one course without the consent of the instructors concerned. Also included in academic dishonesty is knowingly or intentionally helping another violate any part of this policy.

Plagiarism is the failure to give credit for the use of material from outside sources. It includes, but is not limited to, verbatim use of a quote without quotation marks and adequate documentation, submission of a paper prepared by another person as one’s own work, using the ideas, facts, words or data of someone else and claiming them as your own, or not documenting ideas, facts, words or data gathering during research.” Academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course and written notification to the Dean of Academic Affairs.

### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Students are expected to be adequately prepared for each class session. It is reasonable in an 8-week session to expect at least two (2) hours of outside study for every hour spent in the classroom.

Students must successfully complete the necessary prerequisite course(s) prior to taking higher-level courses. If you are not sure a prerequisite has been met, contact your advisor for assistance.

Students are expected to uphold the principles of academic integrity. It is assumed that academic honesty and ethical behavior will be exercised by students at all times. In cases where it is not (cheating, plagiarism, inability to complete assignments on time and in accordance with instructor expectations, etc.) instructors are expected to take appropriate action. This action may result in a failing grade for the assignment or for the course.

Students are not permitted to bring guests to class without prior permission from their instructor. Rude and/or obnoxious behavior toward another student and/or an instructor will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the building.

Child care arrangements are the responsibility of the student. Thus, children are not allowed in classrooms nor can they be left unattended in any room or hallway in the suite.

Cell phones and pagers must not disrupt a class. Therefore, all pagers and cell phones must be turned off or set to “vibrate” when the student is in a class session.

Laptop computers may be used in class for the purpose of note-taking only. Surfing the internet, checking email, Facebook, MySpace, etc. will not be tolerated. Students who engage in such behavior will not receive attendance credit for the class session.

**Assignment #1**  
**Due 11/07/09**  
**35 points**

Students will have a simulated experience of working a child welfare case. At the beginning of the semester, students will receive a case for both in class and home assignments. Students are allowed to “work together” during class time to complete the assignments, however your work should reflect independent thoughts. Review the aspects of the assignment below, be sure to use spell and grammar check. All headings and subheadings must be followed.

**PART 1 (15 POINTS)**

1) Referral:

3200 Form. (this form can be handwritten) Must be completed directly from your assigned Children’s Protective Services Referral (Case)

Cite the area of the Michigan Child Protection Act: Page number and language.

Identify the Maltreatment (s)

**PART 2 (20 POINTS)**

2) Risk and Protective Factors

Identify the Risk Factors surrounding your referral as well as the Protective Factors that may be in place.

3) Critical Assessment Questions

In Bullet point form, list the critical questions you will ask to gather pertinent information for this case.

**Assignment 2**  
**Due 12/05/09**  
**35 points**

Students will have a simulated experience of working a child welfare case. At the beginning of the semester, students will receive a case for both in class and home assignments. Students are allowed to “work together” during class time to complete the assignments, however your work should reflect independent thoughts. Review the aspects of the assignment below, be sure to use spell and grammar check. All headings and subheading must be followed.

**PART 1 (15 POINTS)**

1. Petition for Removal  
Students will complete a petition based on the referral/case assigned in class.

**PART 2 (20 POINTS)**

2. Treatment Plan  
Students will complete a treatment plan for the family based on the referral/case assigned in class.

**Media Review**  
**Due 12/05/09**  
**25 points**

Students will be provided with a child welfare case that has been profiled by the media. Students will critically review the case.

Utilize the questions/topics listed below to address relevant topics of the case.

You must utilize at least 5 of the questions/topics listed below and thoroughly discuss in the body of your paper.

Paper should be 3-5 pages in length. (-5 points for under 3 pages)

**These are the questions that must be answered: (choose at least 5)**

1. How did this case impact you?
2. Who was at fault in the child's death? \*be sure to explain why you feel this way.
3. What could have been done differently to prevent the abuse?
4. Which mandatory reporters should have filed a report?
5. Does the information presented seem accurate?
6. What was the nature of the abuse?
7. Assume you are the social worker; develop a treatment plan that could ensure the safety. What services would you provide or arrange to be provided?
8. Based on your readings from the case, what interview techniques might have been used?
9. Does the media seem to draw conclusions without sufficient information/evidence?
10. What ecological realities are impacting this case?

**Presentation**  
**Due 10/17/09**  
**25 points**

Students will have an opportunity to present information to the class on one of the following Special Child Welfare Topics:

The presentation may be done in a group of no more than 2 students or individually. Each student will be graded individually basis on their contribution to the presentation. The presentations should be no less than 20 minutes and no more than one hour in length.

**NOTE: You will identify your presentation topic and email your topic to the instructor no later than the first day of class. The instructor will determine the order of presentations.**

**Child Trafficking/Homeless Youth**  
**Youth ageing out of Foster Care (SIL Programs)**  
**Teen Pregnancy**  
**Delinquency Programs**  
**Binsfield Legislation**  
**LGBT Youth in Care**  
**Indian Child Welfare Act**  
**Absent Parent Protocol**  
**Kinship Care**  
**Safety in the Field**

Students should develop a comprehensive presentation that will engage the class. Students may use a visual aid as part of the presentation. (Power Point, Video, Handouts, etc.)

***Please feel free to call the instructor at 734 756.0564 with any questions prior to the beginning of class.***