PURPOSE -

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the issues associated with domestic abuse and violence. Students will be introduced to the broad scope of abuse and violence and the inevitable consequences for the individual and the systems involved. This will include: nuclear family, extended family, and congregational family systems. Students will be expected to read a variety of books and articles and be prepared to discuss the complex consequences of abuse and violence. In addition, students will be expected to examine the issues around abuse and violence from a biblical and theological perspective in order to form a substantial Christian response to this growing problem. The structure of the course will involve: lecture/discussion, group and individual case presentations as well as the viewing of appropriate media materials.

COURSE OBJECTIVES –

1. To develop an understanding of the complexity and negative effect of domestic abuse and violence.

2. To survey the major theoretical views regarding the etiology, consequences, and interventions required for the treatment of both victim and perpetrator.

3. To develop beginning skills in the assessment of and treatment planning for individuals families involved with abuse and violence.

4. To understand the appropriate biblical and theological foundations for the nature of relationships and to apply a Christian world and life view to the amelioration of abuse and violence

READING REQUIREMENTS –

REQUIRED TEXTS:


Read 1500 – 2000 pages in addition to the texts.
Maintain a reading log

Write a one-half page critical review of each source read.

WRITTEN WORK –

1. Prepare a carefully designed case study to be utilized in class sessions. Cases are to be related to the topics presented.
2. A final paper of no more than 15 pages, plus bibliography, that deals with a particular issue related to domestic violence and abuse.

GRADING PLAN

Case Study - 25%
Final Paper - 50%
Annotated Bibliography - 25%

COURSE OUTLINE

SESSION 1. –

Introduction to the course
Assignment of Case Study dates
The scope and consequences of domestic abuse and violence

SESSION 2. –

A biblical and theological foundation for understanding the appropriate nature of interpersonal relationships and a critical view of the consequences of abuse and violence,

SESSION 3. –

A discussion of the nature, extensity, and consequences of spousal abuse.

SESSION 4. –

Assessment and treatment options for both victim and perpetrator in spousal abuse.

SESSION 5. –

A discussion of the nature, extensity, and consequences of child abuse
SESSION 6. –
Assessment and treatment options for both victim and perpetrator of child abuse

SESSION 7. –
A discussion of the role of family therapy intervention and treatment in coping with domestic violence and abuse.

SESSION 8. –
Coping with the issue of abuse in relationship to the helping professions: both counselors and ministers. How do professional organizations deal with this serious moral and ethical issue?

SESSION 9. –
The role of the congregation and the counseling clinic in dealing with the issues of healing, reconciliation, restoration.

SESSION 10. –
This is an open forum session in which both professor and students can bring specific concerns and questions for both small group and class discussion. Since this is an introductory course it is important in this session to provide summary concerns and ideas as well as wrestling with the problems of the integration of biblical, theological, and psychological data as it relates to domestic abuse and violence.

DUE DATES FOR WRITTEN WORK –

Cases will be due at appropriate times throughout the term – assignments for due dates will be made during the first class period.

The final paper and the annotated bibliography are due the last day of class.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


