# SOC 275 Special Topics: Victim Advocacy

## Course Master Syllabus

## Course Information

**Catalog Description:** This special topics course is designed for social science majors who wish to obtain a certificate to become a victim advocate. The course explains the roles and responsibilities of an advocate and volunteer in a crisis center. This course also teaches students how to properly work with clients following procedure and protocol and trains them in how to address client issues.

**Prerequisite(s):** None

**Corequisite(s):** None

**Credits:** 3

**Hours:** 3

**Required Text(s):**

**Supplemental Materials:**

## Instructor Information

**Instructor's Name:**

**Contact Information:**

**Office Hours:**

## Program Goals

1. Explain key concepts, theories, and empirical findings in major areas of social science including biological, cognitive, developmental, and social psychology.
2. Examine scientific research and primary sources to understand key concepts in psychological and sociological theories.
3. Discuss recent advances in behavioral genetics, brain development, and cross-cultural approaches, with an emphasis on lifespan development.

4. Investigate human behavior, mental health, and social factors using cognitive, moral, and sociocultural perspectives.
5. Explore the causes, diagnosis, and treatment of mental illness, using the DSM framework and various assessment instruments.
6. Compare sociological theories and perspectives on racial and ethnic group interactions and dominant-minority relations in the United States.

## Class Core Competencies

The following core competencies are embedded in this curriculum:

- Communicate effectively in both speech and writing.
- Use scientific method of inquiry, through the acquisition of scientific knowledge.
- Use computer systems or other appropriate forms of technology to achieve educational goals.
- Use social science theories and concepts to analyze human behavior and social and political.
- Understand historical events and movements in world, Western, non-Western or American societies and assess their subsequent significance.
- Understand the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples.
- Understand ethical issues and situations.

## Class Learning Assessment

| Student Learning Outcomes | Suggested Means of Assessment |
|---|---|
| Describe the roles and responsibilities of the victim advocate | Written assignments, discussions, final exam |
| Examine and assess situations of clients | Written assignments, discussions, final exam |
| Evaluate and describe the correct protocol and practices for working with victims, including adhering to the laws surrounding client confidentiality | Written assignments, discussions |

| Student Learning Outcomes | Suggested Means of Assessment |
|---|---|
| Explore techniques to be used when working with clients through simulated real life case scenarios and create specific action plans | Case scenarios, written assignment, final exam |
| Analyze and describe the responsibilities of the victim advocate | Written assignments, discussions, final exam |

## Grading System

| Letter Grade | Percentage Range |
|---|---|
| A | 90 to 100 percent |
| B Plus (B+) | 87 to 89.9 percent |
| B | 80 to 86.9 percent |
| C Plus (C+) | 77 to 79.9 percent |
| C | 70 to 76.9 percent |
| D | 60 to 69.9 percent |
| F | Below 60 percent |

## College Information

### Disability Services

Disability Services Webpage

### Statement and Policy on Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Conduct

Academic Conduct Policy (Policy 304) [PDF]

Students are required to perform all the work specified by the instructor and are responsible for the content and integrity of all academic work submitted. A violation of academic integrity will occur if a student: (1) knowingly represents work of others as one's own, (2) uses or obtains unauthorized assistance in any academic work, (3) gives fraudulent assistance to another student, or (4) furnishes false information or other misuse of college documents.

Unauthorized use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is prohibited unless the instructor explicitly permits it in the syllabus or assignments. If tools such as ChatGPT are permitted by an instructor to be used for an assignment, they should be used with caution and with proper citation. In all such cases, you may only use the specific tools identified as

acceptable and you must adhere to the College's standards for attribution, validation, and transparency.

In cases of suspected violation of academic integrity, the incident is to be reported to the Office of Academics. A student found guilty of violating the rule of academic integrity by the Vice President of Academics will be considered to have failed in personal obligation to the College; such failure will be subject to disciplinary action by the College. Unless otherwise notified, the instructor will allow students who are pending disciplinary action to attend class.

**Tutoring and Testing at the Instructional Support Center (ISC)**

- Instructional Support Center (ISC) Webpage

**WCCC Library Services**

- WCCC Library Website

**Citation Styles and Formatting**

Work submitted for any Warren County Community College course must conform to the required formatting and citation style that are specified by the instructor. The Library and Instructional Support Center can assist students with formatting and citations for assignments and papers. This psychology course will require students to utilize APA formatting in all assignments and discussion posts.

**WCCC Attendance Expectations**

The College expects students to attend and participate in all classes. This involves sharing discussions and lectures in class, as well as interacting with other students. Grades are based on the quality of work students complete in meeting the requirements for a particular course, as stated in the course syllabus and catalog description. Attendance, among other factors, may be an additional criterion for assigning grades. Students should realize that they are responsible for all class meetings and that work missed because of absences may affect their grades. Attendance in online classes is determined by the completion of assignments/ tests. Students who have not completed any assignments or tests will be considered non-attending and receive an NF grade in online classes.

**Class Attendance Expectations**

## Topical Outline

- Roles of advocate and volunteer
- Values clarification
- Burnout, vicarious trauma, and self-care
- Overview of the domestic violence
- Overview of the sexual assault
- Children and domestic violence
- Child sexual assault, adult survivors, Megan's Law
- Military victims
- Sexual assault
- Victims with disabilities, substance abuse
- Teen dating violence, elder abuse, male victims
- Batters and offenders
- Intervention skills and survivorship
- Safety planning
- Hotline training
- Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT) protocol
- Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) protocol
- Legal advocacy
- Prevention and evaluations

## Grading Methods

| Assignment | Points/Percentage |
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## Class Itinerary

| Week / Unit | Topic | Readings/Assignments |
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