



CCJS 498K CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS Fall 2023

FALL 2022

REQUIRED READINGS

Instructor: Louis Morlier

Contact Info: email preferred lh14@umd.edu (please use CCJS498K in the Subject Line)

Office Hours: By appointment

Meeting Information: This is an IN PERSON course. Meetings will be held on Wednesdays from 6:30pm to 9:00pm in Room III-2225

Course Description

This course provides knowledge about the nature, causes, and societal responses to child abuse. The course is intended to discuss child abuse from the perspective of multiple disciplines, including social science and public policy. The specific topics of physical, psychological, and sexual abuse, internet exploitation, and child pornography will be analyzed in depth.

* Understanding Child Abuse and Neglect (10th ed.)
Pearson. ISBN020539969X

*ELMS—additional readings will be required and available on ELMS

Course Objectives

1. Discuss child abuse in its historical, legal, economic, political and social contexts.
2. Identify the scope of the problem, different forms of child abuse in the United States and the different interventions involved at all levels.
3. Discuss the dynamics of child abuse in order to understand the relationship between offenders, victims, and observers.
4. Examine the roles of government, the community and individual actors in addressing the problem.
5. Compile strategies that have proven effective in intervention and prevention.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

This is an upper-level course. A typical week in this course will involve the student completing the assigned readings, completing a written assignment, and completing an asynchronous discussion (discussion forum). On the fifth, tenth, and last week of the course, students will complete an online, multiple-choice quiz. Those readings which are not chapters in your text will be provided by the instructor.

The class will meet each Wednesday from 6:30pm to 9:00pm.

Quizzes: There are three online, multiple choice quizzes in this course. They are scheduled in the syllabus. The quizzes will be available on quiz day (Wednesday of that week EXCEPT for the last quiz) from 12:00pm to 11:59pm. You may complete the quiz any time during the period they are open. You are expected to complete the quizzes independently.

Reading Assignments: Each student is responsible for reading assignments as outlined below as well as other readings posted on the ELMS website. All students should be fully prepared to participate in asynchronous (online) discussions.

Participation in Weekly Discussions: Weekly discussions begin on Monday of each week and all original posts are due by Wednesday evening at 11:59pm of that week; responses are due by Sunday night at 11:59pm of the same week. I expect students to participate in weekly discussions and be responsive to posts by peers. Each student should provide an original post based on materials in the course. Students are encouraged to locate and cite sources and news articles outside of the course on their own. Each student should respond to at least two of their peers' posts in a way which is meaningful, respectful, and expansive of the conversation. "I agree" is not sufficient. For example, if a student cites a news article about child abuse victims being treated at offenders instead of victims, a response might include a discussion of another unique article, or a related article or theory pertinent to the topic. Original posts should cite sources in APA format. Think of your original post to the discussion as a "mini-paper."

Written Assignments: Students will individually write a review of one of several articles in the course article library. Your review should incorporate material from at least two of the other required readings and/or may include additional scholarly literature or government reports. You are expected to summarize the article and **discuss its implications for child abuse intervention/policy**. Students will also conduct guided independent research in certain areas of child abuse throughout the course. The topics may be a particular population, component of the criminal justice system, policy, etc. **All submissions should be 2 or more pages double spaced, APA format.** Due dates and specific assignment parameters will be provided in Canvas.

Course Grades

Points shall be awarded as follows:

Written Assignments	20%
Asynchronous Discussions	20%
Quiz One	20%
Quiz Two	20%
Quiz Three	20%
TOTAL:	100%

Grade Distribution

A+ 97% + **A** 96% and 93% **A-** 92% to 90%
B+ 89% to 87% **B** 86% to 83% **B-** 82% to 80%
C+ 79% to 77% **C** 76% to 73% **C-** 72% to 70%
D+ 69% to 67% **D** 66% to 63% **D-** 62% to 60%
F Less than 60%

Course Policies

Attendance and Make-Up Policy

Opportunities to make-up missed in-class work will only be given in cases of excused absences and official documentation is required. Exams and assignments are considered to be Major Scheduled Graded Events and therefore the new University medical excuse policy which allows one student signed honor statement attesting to illness does not apply to them. Excused absences are: illness with a doctor's note, death in the immediate family, required school activities and required court appearance. If the doctor will not write you a note, you will need to get a copy of your medical record from them to verify your illness. By law, you are entitled to get a copy of this and it is your responsibility to do so. I must be notified in person or by phone or by e-mail PRIOR to missing an in-class assignment for me to consider giving you a makeup. If you know you will not be online for course work by the date an assignment is due for an excused reason, it is your responsibility to turn in the work PRIOR to the due date.

Grade Disputes

All grades will be posted on ELMS. If you have any concerns or issues regarding a grade and would like to discuss it with me or have it reviewed, please contact me **within 48 hours of receiving the grade**. I will not discuss grade disputes after this time.

Life happens and sometimes for various reasons material can be challenging. Should you feel overwhelmed or frustrated and are worried that your grades are suffering, please contact me. It is better to tackle the problem at the earliest possible moment and find a solution that will most benefit you.

Classroom Code of Conduct

You are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.

Absences due to Religious Observances

Students are expected to notify me within the first two weeks of class if they intend to be absent for a class or announced examination due to a religious observance. Reasonable opportunities to make-up any work missed will be provided.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are responsible for registering with Disabilities Services (DSS) in order to receive academic accommodations. Students who intend to receive accommodations during the semester, should provide me with a letter from DSS within the first two weeks of class. Further, you need to remind me of accommodation requests at least five business days prior to needing the accommodation.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic Dishonesty of any form will absolutely NOT be tolerated. Academic dishonesty encompasses the traditional behavior such as cheating on exams and assignments, giving false statements, etc., but also includes activities such as possessing and/or reviewing previous semester's exams and computer assignments. Additionally, students will be asked to write the University approved Honor Pledge on each exam and project. The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit <http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/whatis.html>

Copyright Notice

Legally, course materials such as written or recorded lectures and Power Point presentations are copyright protected and the ability to copy and distribute course materials unless it is for personal use and with instructor's permission is illegal.

The content that I provide and course materials I create are protected by federal copyright law as my original works. My lectures are delivered from written lectures in order to ensure copyright protection. You are permitted to take notes and use course materials but please do not record my lectures, reproduce or distribute notes of lectures or my materials or make any commercial use of them without my express consent. I will provide "shells" of my lectures so you may take notes and fill in gaps during our sessions together. If you have any questions or concerns please let me know.

Course Evaluation

Your feedback about this course is very important to me and therefore we do several forms of evaluations throughout this semester. One important campus-wide evaluation is the online evaluation at the end of the semester. Students can go directly to the website (www.courseevalum.umd.edu) to complete their evaluations.

University Policies

Please see <https://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html> for additional university policies.

Lecture, Exam and Assignment Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading and Due Dates</u>	<u>Comments</u>
8/28	Colloquium	Readings in Canvas	
9/6	Child abuse in historical perspective	Chapter One of the Text	
9/13	Child abuse in developmental perspective	Chapter Three of the Text	
9/20	Child abuse and social policy	Readings in Canvas	
9/27	Family Court and Court Intervention	Chapter Ten of the Text	
10/4		Quiz One will be available WEDNESDAY October 4th from 12:00pm to 11:59pm	
10/11	Child abuse and the criminal justice system	Chapter Eleven of the Text	
10/18	Child physical abuse	Chapter Five of the Text	
10/25	Child neglect	Chapter Four of the Text	
11/1	Child sexual abuse	Chapter Six of the Text	
11/8		Quiz Two will be available WEDNESDAY November 15th from 12:00pm to 11:59pm	
11/15	Child Exploitation	Readings in Canvas	
11/22 - 26		Thanksgiving Break NO CLASS 11/23	
11/29	Child Advocacy and Multidisciplinary Teams	Readings in Canvas	
12/6	Trauma and Recovery	Readings in Canvas	Last meeting face to face
12/13		Quiz Three will be available WEDNESDAY December 13th from 12:00pm to 11:59pm	

***Additional readings may be assigned periodically and will be posted on ELMS with at least one week's notice. I will do my best to remain faithful to the schedule although some changes may be necessary as we move through the semester.