UMKC School of Law Fall Semester 2006

**COURSE NAME:** Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Women and Violence

**COURSE NUMBER:** Law 751P
This is a cross-listed course as it will be jointly-taught with faculty members from the medical, nursing and law schools and cross-listed in all schools.

**PROFESSORS:** Glesner Fines (law); Witt (nursing); Cattaneo (medical)

**ENROLLMENT ELIGIBILITY:** Law student enrollment will require permission of Professor Glesner Fines. Preference will generally be given to law students in the family law emphasis or who have otherwise demonstrated a sustained interest in subject matter related to the course. At the current time, we anticipate space for 2-4 law students. We will not offer the course if we do not have a minimum of two students from two of the three participating disciplines, as the interdisciplinary exchange is essential to the course.

**ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES:** Fourth semester of law school (similar requirements for advanced standing in the other disciplines)

**DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES:** Family Law, Gender and Justice, Seminar in Family Violence

**COURSE BOOKS:** Materials will be prepared by the faculty teaching the course and include a set of discussion problems, the course materials from the Missouri Coalition against Domestic Violence, scholarly articles and multi-media presentations.

**METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:** The Course grade will be based upon a series of writing and discussion assignments. In the law school, the course will be pass/fail. Students will be given reading assignments prior to the first class and will be required to pass an on-line quiz over those materials before attending the class itself.

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:** The current draft of the course agenda/syllabus for the Course is attached. The course will be offered as a weekend course (in order to accommodate medical students, for which the weekend course is a common approach. The key component of this course will be to allow students to interact with other professional students in learning about a discrete aspect of women and violence and developing coordinated responses to that problem. The problem chosen for this course session is domestic violence, though the instructors may vary the actual focus problem from year to year. After attending this course, students should be prepared to:

1. Demonstrate increased awareness of the various biopsychosocial issues in violence against women.
2. Recognize the importance of an interdisciplinary approach to prevention, assessment and comprehensive delivery of services to individuals experiencing family violence.

3. Demonstrate an understanding of the unique roles and perspectives of all of the represented disciplines (Law, Medicine, Nursing and Social Work) in responding to family violence and perceive the importance of coordinated responses.

4. Demonstrate how to appropriately interview/screen/obtain history of violence and/or abuse in women. Compare the approaches to this task depending on the discipline involved.

5. Outline a plan of action (safety plan) for women in violent intimate relationships. Perceive that the task of safety planning is essential and identical regardless of the discipline engaged in the task.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Law XXX. Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Women and Violence

Jointly-taught by Law School, Medical School, Nursing School and Graduate School of Social Work faculty, this interdisciplinary course provides education in interdisciplinary approaches to problems of violence and women, such as domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, women as perpetrators of violence, and others. Using a combination of readings, simulations, skills trainings, team preparations and presentations of case studies and individual reflective papers, the Course is designed to engage professional students in understanding each discipline’s approach to describing the problem, interacting with patients/clients in identifying the problem and sharing perspectives on developing plans to prevent and address the problem with and on behalf of these patients/clients. Through interactive exercises the students from each discipline will learn to effectively collaborate with other professionals to provide coordinated responses to issues of violence.

COURSE CONTENT: See Summary Description above and attached draft Course Syllabus.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES: The Course will be particularly relevant to any student who wishes to work in the family law field or in the specialized criminal field addressing family violence: fields in which interdisciplinary cooperation is critical to success. It is easier for students who are in the midst of assimilating their professional identity to learn to appreciate the attitudes, perspectives, language and values of other professions.

OTHER INFORMATION: The Course would be listed as one of the “electives” for our Family Law emphasis.
AGENDA

PRE-WORKSHOP WORK:

Read course materials on the nature and dynamics of domestic violence (materials will be available on-line for all students)
Read course materials specific to your discipline regarding responses to domestic violence
Take online Quiz and print out score sheet demonstrating mastery (i.e. 80% correct).
Complete “Statement of Expectations”
You must either bring with you to the first class or send electronic copies of both the quiz score sheet and the statement of expectations in order to be admitted to the first class session.

SATURDAY JUNE 10

9-9:15 Introduction, Ground Rules and Road Map for the Day

9:15-11:45 In Her Shoes Exercise (simulation of experience of victims of domestic violence in attempting to leave abusive relationships – discussion following)

11:45-12:00 Break

12:00-12:30 Role of the Profession/Professional in addressing violence against women

12:30-1:45 Lunch – Keynote speaker – Dynamics of Domestic Violence

1:45-2:45 Interviewing and counseling the victim of domestic violence - Active Listening Exercises

2:45-3:00 Break

3:00-4:00 Introduction to Case Studies (identification of discipline-specific issues – groups of same disciplines)

4:00-4:15 Discussion of Homework Assignment

4:15-4:30 Written reaction papers

SUNDAY JUNE 11

12:00 Social Learning Theory (recidivism and reframing goals)

12:30 -2:30 Interdisciplinary Responses: (interdisciplinary teams formulate professional recommendations)
2:30-2:45  Break
2:45-3:30  The “System” – pitfalls – difficulties with coordinated responses
3:30-4:45  Guest Speaker
4:45-5:15  Developing a safety plan
5:15-6:00  Practicing counseling – role play
6:00-6:15  Improving the system – homework assignment.