

# Bemidji State University

## CRJS 3344: Criminal Justice and Domestic Violence

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: \*.\*

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

The historical roots of domestic and sexual violence, and the continuing prevalence and magnitude of the problem. This course focuses on coordinated community efforts in the United States to keep families and others safe from relationship violence; thoroughly examines methods used by the criminal justice system to prevent and treat domestic violence; emphasizes the changing response of police, social agencies, the courts, and our lawmakers to domestic violence cases; and investigates ways in which the legal system treats victims of abuse who fight back and sometimes kill abusers.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 06/02/2008 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Dynamics of domestic violence relationships
2. Psychological and sociological theories of relationship violence
3. Society (and the criminal justice system) may respond more productively (safely) in prevention tactics and in treatment of domestic and sexual offenders

#### **D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)**

1. write papers and react to assigned text materials by comparing/contrasting psychological/sociological theories and practices related to domestic/sexual violence crimes
2. describe in group interaction and in writing the human impacts of criminal justice policies related to domestic/sexual violence crimes including depictions of intergenerational cycles of family violence
3. recognize their own and society's misunderstandings and the many sources of bias toward victims of domestic/sexual violence built into the criminal justice system. Students will realize effects on safety and health of families in the U.S. when widespread mythology is left in place
4. research and write about recent efforts by police, prosecutors, judges, and others to better protect families from violence in the home (coordinated community response approaches)
5. discuss in groups the impact of discrimination based on race/ethnicity, social class, age, and gender in victim treatment and within domestic violence offender programs and will formulate ideas for reform of the current systems
6. calculate the tremendous costs of domestic violence in the workplace
7. research the effects of domestic violence on children, whether or not these victims are direct or indirect recipients of such violence
8. consider and critique case studies in domestic/sexual violence including police response scenarios, and will analyze the effectiveness of various domestic/sexual violence offender programs.
9. design a class project which includes presenting information about domestic/sexual violence programs, policies or practices. Students will interpret research data and present their findings in class
10. will appraise methods used by the criminal justice system to provide for victim safety. Students will also evaluate the ways that same system responds when victims defend themselves/others against attack

#### **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

None

#### **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

#### **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted