

## **Domestic Violence: Breaking the Cycle Course Syllabus**

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Number: SCWK 203  
Credits: 2  
Prerequisite: None  
Co-requisite: None  
Quarter offered: Fall (on campus) and Spring (online)

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Mary Big Bow, MSW  
Office: Pete Beaverhead Building, Room 122  
Telephone: (406) 275-4888  
Email: mary\_bigbow@skc.edu  
Office hours: As posted

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**Domestic Violence: Breaking the Cycle** provides an overview of domestic violence issues, including the cycle of abuse, myths about abuse, healthy and unhealthy survival skills, the emotional healing process, community resources, intervention planning, and legal and cultural aspects.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of this course students will:

#### General Course Objectives

1. Identify at least three myths about abusive relationships.  
*Measured by: attendance, discussions, and readings.*
2. Identify at least three causes of violence in relationships.  
*Measured by: attendance, discussions, and readings.*
3. Identify six types of abuse.  
*Measured by: discussions and readings.*
4. Identify the three phases of the progression of violence.  
*Measured by: attendance and readings.*

5. Provide a brief description of the emotional healing process.

*Measured by: attendance, discussions, and readings.*

6. Identify at least three supportive community resources.

*Measured by: discussions, readings, and assignment 1.*

### Critical Thinking Objectives

7. Develop a personal protection plan.

*Measured by: attendance discussions, readings, and assignment 2.*

8. Expand Natives' perspective of "Breaking the Cycle".

*Measured by: guest attendance, discussions, readings, and assignments 1 and 2.*

### Cultural Awareness Objectives

9. Compare and contrast how different cultures (e.g. Indian tribes) deal with domestic violence to county or non-profit organizations.

*Measured by: guest attendance, discussions, readings assignment 1.*

10. Examine the aspects of life affected by domestic violence.

*Measured by: attendance, discussions, readings, and assignment 2.*

## **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

- Access to the Internet
- Materials will be available on E-Reserve
- Optional Text: Wilson, K.J. (1997) *When Violence Begins At Home: A Comprehensive Guide to Understanding and Ending Domestic Abuse*. Alameda, CA: Hunter House

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Attendance and Participation. Attend and participate in **all three** classes.
2. Safety Plan Assignment. Complete a safety plan identifying and defining safety measures necessary for victims. This is due at the beginning of the second class. This assignment is on E-reserve.
3. Resources for Domestic Violence Victims Assignment. Contact a minimum of three resources for domestic violence victims. Identify eligibility requirements, process, and protocol for accessing services. Distinguish contact people and ascertain specific services within agency. Example of assignment and questions will be provided during first class period. Due at the beginning of last class.

4. Weekly Quizzes. Two weekly quizzes will cover the previous weeks' reading assignments. These quizzes will be given in second and third class.
5. Course Evaluation. Course evaluation for improving class content and delivery will be provided the last day of class.

**NOTICE:** This class may include personal sharing, thus a commitment to maintain confidentiality is critical.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Because the class consists of combined reading, lecture, guest speakers, and group discussion, class participation and attendance is an absolute requirement.

### **GRADING**

Attendance and participation	50 points possible
Safety Plan Assignment	150 points possible
Resources for Domestic Violence Victims Assignment	50 points possible
Weekly quiz 1	50 points possible
Weekly quiz 2	50 points possible
Course evaluation	50 points possible

A total of 400 points is possible.

Late assignments will receive only half of earned points.

360-400 points = A  
320-360 points = B  
280-319 points = C  
240-279 points = D  
Under 239 points = F

An Incomplete grade ("I") for this course is NOT an option.

### **WEEKLY OUTLINE**

#### **Week 1 (Day 1)**

10:00 Introductions, expectations, and syllabus (Mary Big Bow)  
10:30 Overview: Power and Control  
12:00 Discussion: Power and Control  
12:30 Lunch  
1:30 Discussion: Myths of Violence and Dating Violence  
3:00 Break

3:15 Debriefing, safety plan, and Wilson text reading (pg. 1-87).

**Week 2 (Day 2)**

10:00 Check-in. Weekly Quiz 1. Safety Plan Assignment due.

10:45 Symptoms of a Batterer

11:15 Treatment for Battering

12:30 Lunch

1:30 Discussion: Effects of Violence on Children

3:00 Break

3:15 Debriefing, community resource identification, and Wilson text reading (pg. 101-195)

**Week 3 (Day 3)**

10:00 Check-in. Weekly Quiz 2. Resources for Domestic Violence Victims Assignment due.

10:30 Discussion: Symptoms of Victim/Batterer

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Discussion: Recovery and Wellness

2:30 Break

2:45 Debriefing and Class Evaluation

Additional breaks at instructor's discretion.

**REFERENCES**

Roberts, A. R. (2002) (Ed.), *Handbook of Domestic Violence Intervention Strategies: Policies, Programs, and Legal Remedies*. New York: Oxford University Press

Swanger, K. & Petsky, J. (2003) *Violence in the Home: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*. New York: Oxford University Press

Wilson, K.J. (1997) *When Violence Begins at Home*. Alameda, CA: Hunter House.

## **SKC Syllabus Supplement**

### **Academic Honor Code**

All course work shall follow the guidelines of the Academic Honor Code as set forth by the SKC Student Handbook. Do your own work; allow other students to do their own work. **Plagiarism** involves the taking of someone else's words, ideas, or writings and presenting them as your own. Avoid plagiarism, and always acknowledge the ideas of others and cite your sources of information. Violation of the Academic Honor Code may result in failure of the assignment, the course, or possible expulsion from school.

### **Reasonable Accommodations**

Reasonable accommodations are provided to students with diagnosed or suspected disabilities through the ACCESS Office located in the Social Work Department in the Beaverhead Building. For additional information, contact John Domitrovich, the SKC ACCESS Officer, Beaverhead Building Room 131; 406-275-4889; john\_domitrovich@skc.edu.

### **Appropriate Behavior**

As an enrolled student of Salish Kootenai College, you are expected to display professionalism and responsibility in attitude and behavior. Treat yourself and others with courtesy and respect.

### **Course Transferability**

Transferability of any SKC course to any other academic institution is entirely dependent upon the program requirements of that other institution.

### **Course Responsibilities**

Knowledge of the course content, class lectures, assignments, and syllabus content are the responsibility of the student regardless of absenteeism. Syllabus content and calendars are tentative; instructors will notify you of any changes.

### **Study Time Expectation**

Students are expected to spend one (1) hour in class and a minimum of two (2) hours outside the class per week per every credit hour. For example, if this is a 5-credit course, you are expected to spend 5 hours in class and a minimum of 10 hours outside of class, a total of at least 15 hours each week to earn a C.

### **Attendance**

Good attendance and active participation will help you to achieve success in your academic career. Poor attendance will result in missed information, missed assignments and tests, and possible failure of the course.