Administrative Unit: Criminal Justice Administration & Human Services Department

Course Prefix and Number: HUMS 390

Course Title: Child Welfare

Number of Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: This course will begin with a historical overview of child welfare services in American society, establish a framework for both policy and practice, and examine current trends in the field of child welfare. Special emphasis will be placed on evaluating the needs of high risk populations of children/youth and families.

Prerequisites: HUMS 105 or instructor’s permission. Offered odd Fall.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): HUMS 105 or instructor’s permission.

Text(s): Many suitable textbooks are available from various publishers. The following is a list of possible choices, but it is certainly not comprehensive. Other texts may be judged b individual instructors to be more suitable. The textbook(s) chosen should include theory and practice technique appropriate for baccalaureate level practice.

Most current editions of the following:


Course Objectives:

• To explore the history and current trends of child welfare services in American society.
• To explore the structure of policies, programs, and services in the field of child welfare.
• To understand the process of intake, investigation, and risk assessment in child welfare.
• To understand family-centered services and various treatment options.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:

• Describe historical and contemporary trends in child welfare services.
• Identify major federal legislation that shapes child welfare policy.
• Discuss the roles, responsibilities and expectations of family.
• Define and discuss various types of child maltreatment and neglect.
• Identify and discuss factors related to the causes of child maltreatment and neglect.
• Discuss the effects of abuse and neglect.
• Assess risk of child maltreatment and neglect.
• Explain developmental and familial considerations in assessing children-at-risk.
• Explain the conceptual framework for family-centered services.
• Describe and evaluate community social service systems providing services to children in need of protective services.
• Explain the role and functions of juvenile and family court systems.

Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):

Note: This class will emphasize writing in the APA format and students are expected to improve their research and writing skills.

• Child welfare defined
• Historical overview of family and child welfare services
• The changing family
• Current social problems and their impacts on children, poverty, violence, addiction, and homelessness
• Human and economic costs of child poverty
• Teen pregnancy
• Child maltreatment and neglect
• Sexual abuse of children
• Emotional abuse of children
• Child fatalities
• Family-centered services
• Family preservation
• Foster care
• Adoption
• Residential care
• Permanency planning
• The child and the court
• History of the juvenile court
• Court procedures
• Juvenile delinquency
• Rights and responsibilities of children, parents, and guardians
• Child advocacy

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 35

Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.
NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

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