Course Title:
Special Topics/Seminar: Divorce and Custody Issues

Course Number:
HR 5970-429

Course Description:
This course is designed to facilitate knowledge development related to the broad range of issues surrounding the circumstances of divorce and child custody. All aspects of divorce will be examined, as well as both formal and informal custody arrangements. There is also a look at family violence and its role in relationship dissolution and parental visitation. Given the subject, the course material will focus on different groups throughout the readings to include families, children, custodial parents, and noncustodial parents.

Course Dates:
January 3 – April 30, 2012
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: January 3, 2012

Site Director:
Please see your local Site Director or e-mail Carolyn Taylor at cataylor@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Ginger Welch, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: Department of Human Relations
PHSC #701
University of Oklahoma
Norman, OK 73019
Telephone Number: (405) 325-1756
Fax Number: (405) 325-4402
E-mail Address: gingerwelch@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Readings will be posted for students online at Desire2Learn in pdf format. All readings are for exclusive classroom use only. Access D2L at http://learn.ou.edu; enter your OU NetID (4+4) and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

OU E-Mail:
All official correspondence from distance learning instructors will be sent only to students’ ou.edu address.

Online Learning Resource Center:
The Online Learning Resource Center of the University of Oklahoma’s College of Arts and Sciences Online Program is here to serve you and assist you with any questions, problems, or concerns you may have. For assistance go to http://casweb.ou.edu/olrc/ or contact us by telephone at: (405) 325-5854 or Email: casonline@ou.edu
Course Objectives:
1. Students will become familiar with the dynamics and impact of divorce.
2. Students will learn about the full range of issues surrounding child custody, its evaluation, and court custody decisions.
3. Students will become familiar with issues relevant to custodial parents.
4. Students will become familiar with issues relevant to noncustodial parents.
5. Students will learn how children are impacted by parental absence.
6. Students will become familiar with various methods of working with individuals experiencing family or individual issues relevant to divorce and/or custody.

Assignments, Grading, and Due Dates:
This course has three written assignments. The first two papers’ topics are selected from the course objectives and the third one synthesizes the readings with student’s experiences and implications for the future.

Paper 1 – Due February 26, 2012

Paper 2 - Due March 25, 2012
Paper Outline – For each paper, select a unique topic from the course objectives on which to focus. Structure the paper according to the following outline:
   a. Topic selected
   b. Description of the topic
   c. Significance of the subject
   d. Literature Review (Include at least 6 new sources not on reading list)
   e. Issues emerging from the literature review
   f. Implications for intervention
   g. Personal experience with subject (If no personal experience then use a professional one.)

Paper 3 – April 30, 2012
This assignment synthesizes the course readings, students’ personal and work experiences, and their projections regarding future application of the course material. Students are to discuss the potential impact of this assignment on their personal and professional development, particularly the challenges they may expect to face and the preparation necessary in order to successfully meet them. This paper is unstructured compared with the first two and is generally 5 to 7 pages in length.

Document Preparation
Please ensure your name, course name and number, and date appear on each one of the assignments you turn in. Use headings to organize your paper and to ensure that each section of the assignment has been addressed. Minimum page limits have not been set as quality is more important than quantity. All assignments are to be word-processed, double spaced, paginated, and saved as either Word (.doc) or Rich Text Format (.rtf) documents. The textbooks are identified and shown in American Psychological Association (APA) citation format below. When used as a reference in an assignment, they must be appropriately cited and listed separately on a reference page. If you have questions, you may contact me for clarification. You can expect to hear from me not later than 72 hours from when you contact me. Incomplete grades are not automatically given. Special arrangements and a written contract must be negotiated with the professor in advance of the paper deadlines.

Grading:
This course is graded Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory (S/U). A grade of S is equivalent to B or better.

NOTICE: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
Incomplete Grade Policy:
A grade of “I” is not automatically assigned, but rather must be requested by the student by submitting to the instructor a “Petition for and Work to Remove an Incompleted Grade” form. An “I” can never be used in lieu of an “F” nor can an “I” be assigned because of excessive failure to participate in class activities.

Technical Support Information:
If you experience technical problems, contact Information Technology by visiting their website at: http://webapps.ou.edu/it/ or contacting them by telephone at: (405) 325-HELP (4357).

Important information you should know about online courses:

- To sign on to Desire2Learn (D2L), go to www.learn.ou.edu and log in using your 4+4 and your OU network password (note that this is the same 4+4 and password that you use to access your OU email). Once you are logged in, please look on the right-hand side for “My Courses,” locate your course and click on it. Remember to check your course site on D2L every day.

- Students enrolled in online courses may be required to take the CAS student orientation in Desire 2 Learn. To take the orientation, sign-on to D2L and then click on “Self Registration” at the top left corner of the page. Information about and instructions for the orientation can be found at http://casweb.ou.edu/olr/public/students/orientation.htm

- If the course is using a course website, you will find a link for the website on the first page of this syllabus. Please click on this link to start your course.

- Course Materials are available at Follett/AP Bookstore. On this syllabus you will find a link to the Follett Bookstore.

- If you need to drop or withdraw from a course, please contact your Site Director. You can drop a course without a penalty up to the add/drop date. Courses dropped after the add/drop date may result in a penalty.

- After the class has started, you can only withdraw from the course with the professor’s permission; you will not receive a refund for your tuition. You can only drop without a penalty after the add/drop date by providing proper documentation and receiving approval from the Advanced Programs Theater Director. Provide this documentation to your Site Director.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Note: Attendance/absences do not apply to online courses. However, participation in all course activities is extremely important to student success in online courses.

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy.

Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the ‘I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism,
- falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at [http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity](http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity)

Accommodation Statement

The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Copyright

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: [http://www.goou.ou.edu/](http://www.goou.ou.edu/)
INSTRUCTOR VITA
Ginger L. Welch, Ph.D.

Education
- Ph.D. Oklahoma State University. Major: Counseling Psychology (APA-accredited). Internship: Missouri Health Sciences Psychology Consortium-Department of Veterans Affairs and Rusk Rehabilitation Center, Columbia, MO
- B.S. Oklahoma State University. Major: Early Childhood Education. Minor: English

Current Positions
- August 2010 – present Assistant Professor, University of Oklahoma, Department of Human Relations
- December 2010 – present Adjunct Professor, Liberal Studies, University of Oklahoma
- May 2011-present Clinical Associate Professor, Pediatrics, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses
- HR 5453 Career Counseling
- HR 5003 Theoretical Foundations of H R
- HR 5463 Counseling Skills
- HR 5453 Ethical Issues in H R Counseling
- HR 5433 Group Counseling
- HR 5483 Diagnosis in HR Counseling

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest
- Prevention of Child Maltreatment
- Educational Issues related to Sickle Cell Disease
- Early Childhood Education
- Fatal Child Neglect

Representative Publications and Presentations

Representative Honors and Awards Received
- 2008-09 Elected President to the Board for the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children
• 2005 Recipient of the Bravo Award for outstanding service to the OUHSC, Department of Pediatrics
• 2001 Recipient of the James Leonard Prince Memorial Scholarship
• 1998 Volunteer of the Year, Stillwater Domestic Violence Services
• Honor Societies: Phi Kappa Phi, Kappa Omicron Nu, Phi Upsilon Omicron

Major Professional Affiliations

• American Psychological Association
  o APA Division 17: Counseling Psychology
  o APA Division 53: Child Clinical and Adolescent Psychology
  o APA Division 54: Pediatric Psychology
• American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children
• National Association for the Education of Young Children