

**In-Service Education
COURSE SYLLABUS**

SOCS 5410.02
COURSE NUMBER AND SECTION

Howard & Patti Rosenthal
INSTRUCTOR

Issues for Teachers: Suicide, Divorce, Child Abuse
COURSE TITLE

Spring 2004
TERM

WEBG
SITE

1
CREDIT HOURS

1. Course Description:

(Provide details of student focus, rationale, scope, and prerequisites)

Today's teachers face challenges that take them far beyond reading, writing, and arithmetic. Students in the classroom are faced with a multitude of social problems that can have a negative impact on their ability to learn. This course will detail three of the most prevalent problems that can have far reaching effects: suicide, divorce, and child abuse. Participants will learn the warning signs of suicide, as well as a specific plan of crisis intervention. The impact of divorce on children both within and outside of the classroom will be addressed. Strategies for helping children cope with family change will be explored. Teachers will learn the dynamics of child abuse and indicators of abuse, as well as methods for dealing with these children. Community resources that address suicide, divorce, and child abuse will be explored. There are no prerequisites for this course.

2. Learning Outcomes:

(Goals, objectives, course outcomes, etc.)

1. Students will become aware of the magnitude of the teen suicide problem locally and nationally
2. Students will be able to recognize the warning signs and risk factors associated with teen suicide.
3. Students will be able to provide crisis intervention to suicidal and self-destructive students.
4. Students will be knowledgeable of postvention policies for schools if a suicide does occur.
5. Students will become familiar with the grief process experienced by children of divorce
6. Students will be able to identify behavioral reactions associated with divorce.
7. Students will be prepared to provide specific interventions to children in the classroom experiencing family change.
8. Students will become knowledgeable about the dynamics of child abuse.
9. Students will learn the specific risk factors and indicators of child abuse.
10. Students will become aware of their legal responsibilities with respect to child abuse.
11. Students will become knowledgeable about community resources available in cases of suicide, child abuse, and divorce.

3. Schedule of required readings, class preparations and assignments, lectures, discussions, student presentations, out-of-class assignments and exams:

MEETING 1:

Suicide lecture addressing:

- a. magnitude of the problem
- b. risk factors and warning signs
- c. copy cat effect
- d. intervention paradigm
- e. analysis of grief reactions

Videos: - "Tribute to Tim"

"Inner Voice in Suicide"

Discussion of key issues in Not With My Life I Don't

MEETING 2:

Divorce Lecture addressing:

- a. incidence of divorce
- b. grief process
- c. behavioral reactions to divorce
- d. school performance and divorce
- e. intervention strategies for teachers
- f. school based programs for children of divorce

Video "Don't Divorce the Children"

Child Abuse lecture addressing:

- a. incidence
- b. risk factors associated with physical, sexual, emotional abuse
- c. indicators of physical, sexual and emotional abuse
- d. legal responsibilities and child abuse
- e. crisis intervention strategies for dealing with abuse situations

Wrap Up & EXAM

4. Resources: (list and indicate how they are to be used)

Text(s): Recommended, not required, available at first class

Not With My Life I Don't: Preventing Your Suicide and That of Others, Howard Rosenthal, Ed.D., Accelerated Development, Muncie, Indiana, 1988

Supplemental Readings:

Optional - How to Cope When Families Change: A Curriculum for the Classroom, published by Kids in the Middle, 1989

Audio-visual/other: "Tribute to Tim", "Inner Voice of Suicide", "Don't Divorce the Children"

5. EVALUATION: (basis of evaluation with explanation regarding the nature of the assignment and the percentage of the grade assigned to each item below)

- a) Examinations - 80% of grade
- b) Participation (Participation is not sufficient to determine a large percentage of the grade) 20% of grade

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Therefore, regular attendance is required.