**Course:** CRMJ-4760-40, PSYC-4760-40

**Instructor**: Samuel Choi

**Email**: schoi6@uwyo.edu

**Prerequisites**: 6 credit hours in Psychology

**Virtual Office Hours (via Zoom):** Mondays (3:30pm – 5:00pm) & Wednesdays (3:30pm – 5:00pm)

**Course Description**

**Required Text**: McCoy, M. L., & Keen, S. M. (2014). Child Abuse and Neglect (2nd Ed.) New York, NY: Psychology Press.

**About the instructor:**Hello students! My name is Samuel Choi. I am a Psychology and Law graduate student at UW, and your instructor for this course. I am excited to teach Child Maltreatment because it is a course pertinent to my research and academic interests. For me, the best part of studying psychology is seeing how research and theory could be applied real world problems, such as the maltreatment of a vulnerable/special population—children.

**Course goals**: This course is designed to provide a broad overview and introduction to child maltreatment. Throughout this course, our goals will be to:

* discuss attitudes towards child maltreatment
* explore legal definitions of child maltreatment
* identify the risk factors of child maltreatment
* consider contextual influences surrounding child maltreatment
* understand the developmental consequences of child maltreatment.

This will be accomplished through listening to the lectures, participating in the online discussions, asking questions, and completing the assigned readings, writing tasks, and quizzes. Unfortunately, we will not be able to cover every topic and sub discipline in depth. However, we will talk about a variety of concepts, terms, research findings, and applications related to the understanding of child maltreatment. My ultimate vision for this class is to have students who are applying for jobs associated with this field to be equipped with basic but essential knowledge. For students just interested in this topic or trying to fulfill a course requirement, I wish to show you how the social sciences can help tackle social problems.

**Course Etiquette:**

Due to the nature of the topic of child maltreatment, much of the material presented in this course is emotional. Additionally, some of the material presented is controversial. I do not expect you all to have the same viewpoints on everything we discuss. In fact, I hope you are all comfortable openly disagreeing (or at least creating thoughtful opposing arguments even if you do not feel that way), as this will lead to more in-depth discussions. However, I do expect you to respect your classmates and respond in an appropriate manner. I strongly urge you to view the material we cover in an objective and scientific manner. *Please refrain from sharing personal stories/anecdotes and your religious or political beliefs, as the discussions we will have in this course are meant to be scientific in nature.*This will help ensure that all students are comfortable reading everyone’s discussion posts without being concerned of encountering personal information of other students.

**Course expectations:** Throughout the course, I will communicate with the class through WyoCourses announcements (sent via email) and weekly briefing videos. You are expected to keep up with your emails and watch the weekly briefing videos. In addition, it is your responsibility to keep up with the due dates for assignments.

**Course Assignments**

**Quizzes (400 points or 40% of your grade)**: There will be one **TIMED** quiz due at the end of every week*. Questions will come from the lectures, textbook, reading assignments, videos, and discussions*. There will be no Honor Lock or Lockdown Browser; the quiz is open book. **The quizzes will be available on Monday and will be due on Sunday (@11:59pm) of the same week**.  **Three of your lowest scores will be dropped, which means you have the option to not take three of the quizzes.** This should compensate for you having an off week or for any unexpected life events (e.g.,COVID-19). Because you are allowed to drop three quiz scores, there will be **NO MAKE-UP OR LATE QUIZZES. Also, if complications with COVID-19 affect your ability to take the quizzes, then please email me. With proper documentation, we can work something out, such as extending the deadline for quizzes.**

**Discussions (250 points or 25% of your grade)**: Throughout the course, you will participate in two discussions.  (I will announce when the discussions are open and the procedure to participate in discussions, which will be later in the semester.) All discussions are set up so you will not see your classmates’ postings before you post your own. I have done this to encourage you to generate your own thoughtful responses, as well as to allow for people to post similar ideas without feeling like they are copying someone else. After posting, read through your peer’s post and respond with thoughtful comments or questions. These comments and questions must be *respectful*and directed towards what someone *said*. Any insulting comments/questions about someone’s *character* (e.g., race, sexual orientation, religion, age, and etc.) and other offensive comments will not be tolerated. The offending comment/question will be immediately removed, resulting in a zero for that discussion assignment. Finally, there will be **NO LATE OR MAKE UP POSTS. However, if complications with COVID-19 affect your ability to partake in discussions, then please email me; with proper documentation, we can work something out, such as a due date extension for discussion posts.**

**Writing assignments (300 points or 30% of your grade):**There will be two writing assignments assigned throughout this semester. For each writing assignment, I will pose a few questions. Your job is to answer these questions within two to three, double spaced pages.  Do not write more than three pages (it slows down grading and feedback). The questions may be based on research articles, books, or movies.  So, this is not an assignment you can complete at the last minute. A late paper will incur a**A MINUS 5-POINT PENALTY FOR EVERY 24 HOURS IT IS LATE.** **If complications with COVID-19 affect your ability to complete your writing assignment, then please email me; with proper documentation, we can work something out, such as a due date extension for paper submissions.**

**Question posts (50 points or 5% of your grade):**Since I am not present when you watch the recorded lectures or read course material, you may have unanswered questions. To address this issue, I will require you to submit a question each week for credit via Wyocourses. Of course, you can post more than one question but will not get credit for the extra ones. These are easy points! I will give you full credit no matter what question you ask. Just make sure it is relevant to the module/topic. This is so that students will not shy away from questions they think are “stupid” or unimportant. Sometimes, your fellow student may have the same question! The questions are **due on the Sunday of each week (@11:59pm)**.  There will be **NO** **MAKE UP OR LATE POSTS**. **If complications with COVID-19 affect your ability to post questions, then please email me; with proper documentation, we can work something out, such as a due date for question posts.**

However, there is a caveat. While I would like to address all of the questions you ask, there are many of you. So, I will not have the time to provide the answers to all of your questions. I will pick the top 5 most commonly asked questions and post the answers on Wyocourses. If I did not get to answer your question, but you really want to know the answer, feel free to email me. I will be more than happy to reply to your inquiry. **Also, if you have an urgent question that you think may be essential for the quiz, then please email me.**

**Extra Credit (30 points or 3% points towards final grade)**: Extra credit may be obtained by uploading a brief video introduction of yourself to the course webpage. It will be due at the end of the semester. In this video, you should answer the following questions: What is your name? Where are you from? What is your major?  What do you hope to get out of this class? Will you be pursuing a job associated with this field? What are your aspirations? What are your favorite hobbies?

 Extra credit will also be given to exceptional discussion posts. The amount of points will be determined by me at the time of grading, and there will be no cap on these points (i.e., you can earn as many points as your awesome work deserves).

**Grading summary**

1. Quizzes: 400 points (40%)
2. Discussion: 250 points (25%)
3. Writing assignments: 300 points (30%)
4. Question posts: 50 points (5%)
5. Extra credit: 30 points (3%)

TOTAL (excluding extra credit): 1,000 points (100%)

**Final grades:**

A = 90 - 100% or 900 - 1000 points

B = 80 - 89.9% or 800 to 899 points

C = 70 - 79.9% or 700 to 799 points

D = 60 - 69.9% or 600 to 699 points

F = below 60% or 600 points

**Escape clause:**On a few occasions, I may not be able to cover all the materials in class, or I may decide to add an assignment if I believe that it will beneficial. In an event that this happens, I reserve the right to change the schedule as I see fit. That being said, I will *never* make a deadline for an assignment due earlier when you are not ready. If anything, I will always push *back*an assignment or quiz exam if I ever fall behind. I will notify you in class and by email if I ever make substantial changes to the syllabus and will give you enough time to adjust.

**Contact**

**Email Policy**: Email is the best and easiest way to contact me with your questions. However, please refer to this syllabus and the course webpage before emailing me. I am more than willing to answer your questions, but past experience has shown that the majority of students’ questions can be answered through a quick search of already possessed materials. Typically, I reply to mails the same day. However, from time to time, I do attempt to have a social life 😊. **Monday through Friday, expect a response within 24 hours unless I let you know I am sick or out of town; if I don’t reply within 24-hours, send me another email.** I receive a lot of emails and sometimes they get lost in the shuffle. **Saturday and Sunday, expect a response by the end of Monday (holidays are an exception).** If your question requires a more detailed response than I can provide in a brief email response, we can set up a time to chat about it via Zoom.

**Policy**

**Special Needs**: If you have a physical, learning, sensory, or psychological disability and require accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. You will need to register with and provide documentation of your disability to University Disability Support Services (UDSS) in SEO Knight Hall Room 330 before accommodations can be provided.

**Academic Honesty**: (From the University Handbook) The University of Wyoming is built upon a strong foundation of integrity, respect, and trust. All members of the university community have a responsibility to be honest and the right to expect honesty from others. Any form of academic dishonesty is unacceptable to our community and will not be tolerated. Students and Teachers Working Together: Recently, the College of Arts and Sciences formed a committee of UW students and faculty to discuss how we can successfully work together. The following is the link to the document they created: http://www.uwyo.edu/pols/courses/studentsteachers.pdf

**Disclaimer**: Everything in this syllabus is subject to change at my discretion. However, any changes will be announced on the course website. The syllabus is meant to be an outline of what to expect during the course and may not be followed exactly.

**Course Webpage**: The course webpage can be found at wyocourses.uwyo.edu.

**Title IX**The faculty and staff of the University of Wyoming actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination. Under Title IX, the University has a responsibility to take immediate and effective steps to respond to sexual violence and/or sexual harassment. Title IX mandatory reporters are required to notify Equal Opportunity Report and Response of any allegation of sexual misconduct. Mandatory reporters at the University include every administrative officer, dean, director, department head, supervisor, and all instructional personnel including your instructor.

More information, including access to confidential resources, can be found at [http://www.uwyo.edu/reportit/policies/index.html (Links to an external site.)](http://www.uwyo.edu/reportit/policies/index.html)