I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

*Trauma and Interpersonal Violence* is a clinical course that focuses on the social forces, prevalence, dynamics, types, effects and interventions specific to trauma and interpersonal violence. The course will examine the many faces of trauma including national and community trauma experiences, historical and geographic trauma, witnessing violence or other trauma events, interpersonal violence in both childhood and adulthood, specifically childhood sexual abuse, childhood physical abuse, domestic violence (partner abuse), rape/sexual assault, and adult survivors of child sexual abuse. In addition, the impact of the experience on subsequent development and functioning will be explored.

Students will be provided with an overview of the historical roots of movements that influenced social thought about the many faces of trauma and informed specific response strategies. Students will learn about the short and long term effects of trauma on human lives; they will explore the trauma experience in clients’ lives from an ecosystems perspective, including the psychiatric diagnosis of PTSD, a continuum of trauma response, DESNOS, and a developmental trauma disorder. Students will learn about individual and group intervention strategies, specific to trauma and violence including evidence-based models, crisis intervention, cognitive behavioral therapy, and mutual aid group work models, among others.

Through a unit on Secondary Traumatic Stress/Vicarious Trauma, students will learn about the personal effects of trauma work and will be exposed self-care strategies. This course will incorporate lectures, case presentations, discussion, small group exercises, possibly guest speakers, films, and student presentations and weekly student journaling.

II. COURSE COMPETENCY OUTCOMES

By the conclusion of this course, students will be able to

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the complex phenomena of trauma, including adult domestic violence, adult rape/sexual assault and child victimization and interpersonal
violence, war and natural disaster and the complex effects on human lives. (Core competencies

2. Demonstrate an understanding of the historical roots of movements and social/political forces influencing the field of trauma.

3. Critically articulate orally and in writing the effects of interpersonal violence on children and adults and communities, including theories such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, development of healing environments and related concepts. (Core competencies

4. Demonstrate mastery of knowledge and application of current intervention approaches including emergency care, forensic intervention, group work, casework modalities as well as policy development.

5. Demonstrate critical development of self-awareness such that there is an understanding of the possible effect of trauma work on social workers, and an understanding of particular strategies to develop self care and foster agency responsiveness.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Course Requirements

15% Assigned readings in preparation for and participation in class discussions.
25% Quizzes
25% Written assignment I-Midterm: ”Understanding Trauma”.
25% Written assignment II-Final: “Intervention Strategies in Practice with Trauma”.
10% class attendance and participation: This refers to punctual attendance in all classes and active, informed participation in class discussions and exercises.

A. Required Texts:


B. Supplemental Texts:


C. **Additional articles**

Additional articles will be available on e-res. You can access the full text articles from your home or from a university computer at no charge.

D. **Assignments**

1. **Class Participation:** Class participation is an important part of the learning process and ALL students are expected to participate in all assigned exercises and discussions. Students are expected to complete assigned readings and to be prepared for related class discussion. You will be graded on the depth of your contributions and preparedness for class.

2. **Quizzes:** There will be a quiz every other week focused on the content of assigned readings. This means there will be 6 or 7 quizzes during the semester. Quiz scores will be summed so that there is one score (grade) equaling a percentage of the total number of points allowed.

3. **Written assignment: Midterm –Understanding Trauma**  
   (Core competencies 2.1.7; 2.1.4; 2.1.1; 2.1.10d; 2.1.9; 2.1.3)

The purpose of this assignment is for students to examine a particular population affected by trauma and write a paper addressing these areas:

1) Select to write about one of the following cohorts: child survivors of abuse, adult survivors of partner abuse, sexual assault victims, adult survivor of child sexual abuse, victims of war or natural disasters, victims of terrorism, victims of trafficking, and victims of chronic trauma. Please think globally about these issues.

2) Describe (using the literature generously) the dynamics, effects, social forces contributing to this problem.
3) What are examples of myths and misconceptions surrounding this issue?
4) Write a one-page case illustration of a person who has experienced this type of trauma. (This can be culled from your field work--disguise names--or created from your reading and thinking carefully about the issue).
5) Identify the person’s social supports, strengths, needs, and unique cultural background.
6) Provide a one-page discussion of your reactions to this case and your experiences in supervision if this is a field work case; if a created case, develop a discussion that would need to be processed in supervision.

Instructions: (1.) Spend time thinking about the above issues. (2) Read with breadth and depth. (3) Write clearly using ample references from relevant literature. Do not use internet sites except to download scholarly, professional articles. All literature used should be taken from professional journals or texts. (4) All papers must be typed and use of APA 6th Edition is required. (5) Proofread papers before submitting them. (6) All papers must be submitted in class on the due date. Any paper not submitted in class is considered late. Due Date: 7th class session.

Additional details may be distributed separately.

4. Written assignment: Final Paper- Intervention Strategies

The purpose of this assignment is for students to build on their learning in the first paper and to research and reflect on intervention strategies and approaches with survivors of trauma. Students are asked to write a paper responding to these areas:

1) Building on what you learned in your first paper, identify and use the cohort from the first paper who was affected by trauma
2) Briefly outline the dynamics of this type of abuse (for example child sexual abuse)
3) Explore the social work literature and/or other interdisciplinary literature for intervention approaches or techniques for assisting this person/family/community. It is important to think in terms of integration of micro and macro level skills and theories for each cohort.
4) What is the theoretical base for use of these integrated interventions?
5) Identify one or two intervention strategies that are of particular interest and relevance for this identified client.
6) Include a detailed discussion in which you illustrate use of social work skills, dynamics of case, client strengths, issues of transference and counter-transference. If this is a client from your field work practice, use process recordings to provide illustrated examples. If this is not an example from field, create illustrated examples.

Instructions: (1) Read extensively before making a decision about the most effective intervention strategies. (2) Be sure to validate whether the strategy chosen has been studied and is considered evidence based and/or best practice. Your literature should validate this. (3). Write clearly using ample references. Do
not use internet sites except to download scholarly professional articles. All literature used should be taken from professional journals and texts. (4) All papers must be typed and use of APA 6th Edition is required. (5) Proofread papers before submitting them. (6) **All papers must be submitted in class on the due date. Any paper not submitted in class is considered late. Late papers are not accepted.** (7) Due Date: 13th class session.

**PLAGIARISM:**

Students should remember that the School will not condone plagiarism in any form and will sanction acts of plagiarism. A student who presents someone else's work as his or her own work is stealing from the authors or persons who did the original thinking and writing. Plagiarism occurs when a student directly copies another's work without citation; when a student paraphrases major aspects of another's work without citation; and when a student combines the work of different authors into a new statement without reference to those authors. It is also plagiarism to use the ideas and/or work of another student and present them as your own. It is not plagiarism to formulate your own presentation of an idea or concept as a reaction to someone else's work; however, the work to which you are reacting should be discussed and appropriately cited. Any student who can be shown to have plagiarized any part of any assignment in this course will automatically **FAIL** the course and will be referred to the Associate Dean for disciplinary action, which may include expulsion.

**HIPAA ALERT:**

In line with the new HIPAA regulations concerning protected health information, it is important that you understand that any case information you present from your work, will need to be de-identified. What this means is that any information that would allow another to identify the person needs to be changed or eliminated. This includes obvious things like names and birth dates but may also contain other information that is so unique to the person that it will allow for identification, including diagnosis, race/ethnicity, or gender. If diagnosis, race/ethnicity, or gender is directly related to the case presentation it can be included if it will not allow for identification.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with disabilities who are enrolled in this course and who will be requesting **documented disability-related accommodations** must make an appointment with the Office of Disability Services, Abby Kelsen, Wilf Campus, 646-685-0118, akelsen@yu.edu during the first week of class. All documentations for possible accommodation must be submitted to the professor by the third class. **All possible accommodations must be discussed and negotiated with the individual professor, specific accommodations are not automatic.**
COURSE OUTLINE

Unit I. Introduction to the Field of Trauma & Interpersonal Violence (Sessions 1, 2)

Content Covered:

a. Overview of the course
b. Trauma Theories
c. Trauma Types - faces of trauma
d. Historical roots of movements in the development of knowledge about trauma including the feminist, anti-rape and domestic violence movements
e. Social/Political Forces and Beliefs influencing the field of trauma
f. National, global and community trauma.
g. Shared trauma

Required Readings:

Herman, Introduction, pp. 1-6, Chapter 1, pp. 8-32


*Saxe, Part 1, Chapters 1-5

Schechter, Part 1, Chapters 1-3, 1-53.

*Zakour, M. J.(1997). Disaster research in social work. Journal of Social Service Research,
Unit II: Emotional and Psychological Trauma (Session 3) Lecture

a. Definition of emotional and psychological trauma
b. Causes of emotional and psychological trauma
c. Risk factors
d. Symptoms
e. Grief in traumatic recovery

Unit III: Childhood Trauma (Sessions 4-5)

Content Covered:

a. Overview of Types & Dynamics
   i. Child Physical Abuse
   ii. Child Sexual Abuse, non-incest
   iii. Incest
   iv. Teen Relationship Abuse
   v. Kidnapping/hostage/child soldier
b. Effects on Survivors
c. Intervention Strategies
d. Traumatic Interventions-child welfare placements, medical treatments

Required Readings:


*Herman, Chapt. 5, Child Abuse*


**Suggested Readings:**


**Unit IV: Adult Trauma & Interpersonal Violence (Sessions 6-8)**

**Content Covered:**

a. Overview of Types & Dynamics
   i. Domestic Violence (Partner Abuse)
ii. Rape and Sexual Violence
b. Effects on Survivors
   i. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
   ii. Effects on Physical Health
   iii. Interpersonal Effects
c. Intervention Strategies
   i. Crisis Intervention for Immediate Victims
      --Role of Hospitals
      --Shelters
      --Legal Interventions
   ii. Short and Long-term methods
      --Casework
      --Group Work
      --Community

**Required Readings:**


Herman, Chapt. 2, *Terror*

Herman, Part II, *Stages of Recovery*


**Suggested Readings:**


**Unit V: Adult Survivors of Childhood Abuses, Terror, Hostage &Military (Session 9-12)**
Content Covered

a. Overview of Types and Dynamics
   i. Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse

b. Effects on Survivors
   i. Dissociation and Memory Loss
   ii. Trust and the formation of relationships

c. Intervention Strategies
   i. Individual
   ii. Group
   iii. Community

Required Readings:


Herman, Chapter 3, *Disconnection*

Herman, Part II, *Stages of Recovery* (review)


**Recommended Readings:**


**Unit VI. Implications of Trauma Work on Workers (Session 12-14)**

**Content Covered:**

a. Vicarious Traumatization framework, history, current research, and applicability
   i. Compassion Fatigue
   ii. Burnout
   iii. Countertransference
b. Shared trauma
c. Self-assessment
d. Self-care strategies
e. Organizational responsiveness

**Required Readings:**

Saakvitne & Pearlman, Introduction and Chapters 1-3

Raine, Part 2


**Recommended Readings:**

Campbell, Chapter 1 & 2


**Bibliography**


