Syllabus for EPSY 6302: Primary Prevention and Intervention in Schools and Education

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University of Connecticut

Meets: Tuesday – 12:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.
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**Course Description:**

Team taught, survey course on the theory, practice, and science of primary prevention of human problems. Prevention concepts and case studies are presented by the faculty. Students give analysis and critique of course content and develop personal and professional perspectives on prevention practice and possible social policy initiatives.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To know the history of prevention over the last 40 years.
2. To define primary prevention and social justice
3. To enumerate critical areas where prevention interventions are needed.
4. To define prevention science.
5. To enumerate some principles of prevention science.
6. To know the different models of prevention.
7. To know the preventive problem solving process.
8. To enumerate the essential skills of a preventionist.
9. To know how consultation relates to prevention.
10. To know the different models of consultation.
11. To know the different phases of the consultation and prevention process.
12. To know the different evaluation designs of prevention science.
13. To review and critique multiple prevention cases studies described in Albee and Gullota (1996).
14. To critique the concepts and case studies presented by the team teaching faculty.
15. To know the ethical, diversity, and social justice issues in developing and implementing preventive interventions.
16. To discuss how public policy initiatives can occur through prevention interventions.
17. To create a prevention proposal that could be implemented in the future.
18. To personalize the prevention course concepts and answer the question: Will prevention be a part of my personal and professional identity?
19. To evaluate the course.
20. To create additional goals as the course evolves.
21. To enjoy each other and the learning process.

**Class Process and Structure**

There is a premeditated structure to the class that invites students to personalize the course concepts. This invitation is in the form of a question: Will prevention be part of my personal professional identity? Students should leave the course with sufficient knowledge to create and implement a prevention intervention on their own, although supervision may be warranted in some cases. Students’ attitudes toward prevention and the course will be assessed through a needs assessment questionnaire. The needs assessment data will be used to structure the course. Furthermore, these data will be summarized for the students and faculty during the first class. The overall design of the course is to first establish the theoretical, scientific, and applied foundations of the course. **Seven core domains** of learning represent this foundation including: 1) Definitions of prevention and social justice, 2) Theoretical models to understand prevention, 3) Prevention science, 4) Consultative processes and skills employed in prevention, 5) Ethical issues and questions related to diversity and prevention, 6) Assessment and evaluation of prevention interventions, 7)
Student personalizing the course concepts. During the first five weeks, these domains of learning will be studied. Class time will be used for brief lectures, dialogue, discussion, and answering questions. The theoretical and applied foundation will be followed by seven lecturers who will either add more prevention concepts and/or describe their own prevention interventions. Students will use their emerging prevention knowledge in the seven domains to analyze the lecturer’s ideas and prevention case studies. Students will demonstrate their knowledge of prevention through completing a take home exam/units and critiquing one prevention case study from Albee and Gullotta (1997). Finally, the students will create their own prevention intervention proposal, where they apply the course concepts to a problem they want to prevent (make a difference with). Students will present their prevention case studies during the last two weeks of class. Ideally, the learning would continue after the course is finished. Students could implement their prevention proposals, in a subsequent semester, by themselves or through a prevention practicum, under the supervision of a School of Family Studies faculty member.

Texts and Readings


Readings are found on Electronic Reserve in Husky CT for EPSY 6302 (See reading list for each week on pages 4 - 9 and alphabetical listing on pages 13 - 15 of this syllabus).

How To Obtain the Readings

There are four ways to obtain the readings:

1. Go to: HuckyCT.edu to log into EPSY 6302. If you have problems call the Learning Resource Center (486-1187).

CLASS SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic, Readings, and Lecturer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 19</td>
<td>Students Introductions, Course Contexts, Expectancies, Syllabus, Needs Assessment Data, What is prevention? Lecturer: Dr. Jim O’Neil</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 26</td>
<td>Social Justice, Prevention Training, Definition and History of Prevention Lecturer: Dr. Jim O’Neil, Professor of Educational Psychology and Family Studies</td>
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Required Readings:

Training


History

Foreword, Primary Prevention Works (Albee & Gullotta, 1997)

Introduction, Primary Prevention Works (Albee & Gullotta, 1997)


Social Justice


Recommended Readings:

Governor John Rowland’s Prevention Initiative for Youth
http://www.dmhas.state.ct.us/sig/initiative.htm

Prevention Newsletter, Division 17 of American Psychological Association (Counseling Psychology), Prevention Section , #6, Summer, 2001.


Feb 2: Bloom’s Frame of Reference for Primary Prevention, Albee’s Incidence Formula, and Conyne’s Prevention Model

Readings:


Feb. 9: Best Practice Guidelines, Culturally Relevant Prevention, Ethics & Prevention Science, Consultation as a Vehicle for Prevention,

Lecturer: Dr. Jim O’Neil, Professor of Family Studies & Educational Psychology

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


Past Issues of the Journal of Primary Prevention

Feb 16: Overview of Prevention in School Settings

Lecturer: Dr. Lisa Sanetti, Assistant Professor, School Psychology Program, Department of Educational Psychology

Readings:


**Feb. 23: Examples of Prevention and Consultation: Case Studies on Reducing Racism and Sexism in a University Setting**

**TAKE HOME EXAM-UNITS TURNED IN**

Lecturer: Dr. Jim O’Neil, Professor of Educational Psychology & Family Studies

**Reading(s):**


**March 2 : Striving to Achieve Nothing: Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect Through Parent Education & Home Visitation**

Lecturer: Dr. Preston Britner, Associate Professor of Human Development & Family Studies, Educational Psychology, and Public Health

**Readings:**


**Youth Mentoring as a Prevention Strategy**

**Reading:**

March 9:  **SPRING BREAK**

March 16: **Prevention and Positive Behavioral Supports In Schools**

**Lecturer:** Dr. Brandi Simonsen, Assistant Professor, Special Education Program, Department of Educational Psychology, University of Connecticut


March 23 **Discussion of Emerging Prevention Proposals: Preparation in Class**

Students will come to class and present their initial ideas about their case studies and the questions and issues that are unresolved.

**Assignment:** Draft up an outline of your proposal using the outline on page 11 of the syllabus. Prepare a 10-15 minute summary for student reaction, critiques, and support. The class time will be devoted to help you develop and write these prevention proposals that are due five weeks later.

**CASE STUDY ANALYSIS/CRITIQUES DUE**

March 30:  **To Be Determined As Semester Progresses**

April 6: **Prevention Evaluation**

**Lecturer:** Dr. Stephen Anderson, Professor of Human Development & Family Studies


April 13: **Prevention and the Husky Sports Program**

**Lecturer:** Carrie Graham, UCONN’s Husky Sport Program, Program Coordinator, ISS-First Year Programs, Ryan Refectory, Unit 1109.

**Readings:** To be determined
April 20: Student Presentations of their Prevention Case Study

April 27: Student Presentations of their Prevention Case Study

Primary Prevention Case Studies Proposals Due

ASSIGNMENTS

There are four assignments beyond the weekly readings and active class participation. They are described below:

1. **Take Home Exam/Units:** Students will answer questions related to the readings for the first five weeks of the class. This assignment insures that all students have an active prevention vocabulary and theoretical context to understand primary prevention. This assignment prepares the student to analyze and evaluate the individual lectures of the faculty from February 16 to April 13. Take Home Exam/Units will be dispersed during the first class and due on **February 23, 2010**. These papers are to be typed, double spaced, with readable font, using APA style of writing.

2. **Case Study Analysis/Critiques:** Students will analyze one case study from Albee & Gullotta’s (1997) *Primary Prevention Works*. Students will select any of the case studies and critique it using the outline found on page 12 of this syllabus. This assignment is due March 23, 2010. These case studies are to be typed, double spaced, with readable font, using APA style of writing. Case studies should be no longer than 15 pages excluding references.

3. **Prevention Case Study Proposal:** The goal of the prevention case study proposal is to help students apply the conceptual information about prevention in a real or hypothetical prevention intervention. The generation of a prevention proposal is designed to be an opportunity for an integration and synthesis of the course content around a prevention topic that you have special interest. Students will create a preventive intervention using the course concepts that have been studied throughout the semester. Creative thinking and knowledge of the course concepts are required to complete a proposal that has depth and comprehensiveness. The outline for this case study is found on page 13 of the syllabus. Proposal should be typed, double-spaced, with readable font, using APA style of writing. Case studies are due **April 27, 2010**.

4. **Class Presentations:** The prevention case studies will be presented in class by each student on April 20 and 27. In addition to the written case study proposal, this case presentation is one of the major products of the course. These presentations provide students with additional examples of primary prevention and further application of the course concepts. The presentations should follow the 18 parts of the prevention proposal outline. Students will have 10 minutes (or more time depending on the class size) to present their prevention case studies. The number of minutes may be altered, contingent on the number of students in the class. This is both a formal and informal presentation. This means that you are expected to present your case study like a professional convention presentation but also to personalize your presentation, so that the listeners understand how the topic matters to you personally, professionally, or politically. Using visual aids (transparencies, slides) and printed handouts are recommended to communicate your ideas.

Class Preparation and Participation

The success of this course depends on both faculty and student preparation each week. To fully participate, students must read and study the assigned material and come to class ready to discuss the material and react to other people’s ideas. There is really no substitute or short cut for not preparing each week. In small
seminars like this one, unprepared students are very transparent and discernible. If you have a legitimate reason for not being prepared (sickness, death in the family), let the instructor know your situation before class. Class participation also means your active/positive support of other student’s ideas and respectful disagreement when your ideas are different from others. Disrespectful, overly competitive, and unprofessional exchanges are unacceptable in this class and will be publicly addressed when and if they happen.

**Assignment Weights Related to Grading:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive, Constructive, Relevant and Intelligent Class Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take Home Exam/Units</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Study Analysis/Critique</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention Case Study Proposal</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Presentations</td>
<td>10%</td>
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**Criteria for Assignment of Grades:**

Final grades will be earned, determined, and assigned from the four assignments and class participation described above using the following criteria:

1. Clarity of writing, thought, and speech.
2. Factual accuracy of writing, thought, speech.
3. Validation of ideas using theory, professional literature and empirical research.
4. Creativity of thought.
5. Capacity to generate new knowledge.
6. Synthetic and analytical nature of thought and writing.
7. Completion of assignments on due date.
8. Personalization of the course content.
9. Class preparation weekly
10. Constructive participation and involvement in the course
11. Contribution to other class members’ learning, knowledge, and growth.
13. Critical thinking about the course concepts.

**Class Norms, Climate, and Process: Interpersonal Respect, Professionalism & Collegiality, Role Fulfillment**

How we interact with each other during our class is of critical importance in creating a cohesive and stimulating learning environment. Personal and intellectual differences, disagreements, and debates do not have to mean distance and dislike of any other person. I would offer the positive and negative correlates of student-faculty interaction as active behavioral norms for our class interaction. These correlates are attached on the next page. Three positive correlates are interpersonal respect, professionalism/collegiality, and role fulfillment. Three potential negative correlates are power, control, and competition. There are over 75 behavioral descriptors of student-faculty interaction in this table. Some of these behavioral descriptors can also be used to describe student-student interaction. Please study these behaviors and work with me to create a learning environment that is respectful, collegial, and something that we all can take pride in. If you have any serious conflicts/problems with the instructor/lecturers or any classmates, bring these issues to the instructor’s attention, so we can constructively problem solve.
CASE STUDY ANALYSIS/CRITIQUE OUTLINE FOR CHAPTER(S) IN ALBEE AND GULLOTTA (1997)

Below is an outline of what the case studies should cover. I am still working on the conceptualization of this outline and will let all students know if there are any changes made.

1. Author, Title of chapter in APA reference form.
2. Does this case study meet the definition of primary prevention (See Conyne, 1994, pp. 3-4) If so, why?
3. Does this intervention meet the criteria of a science based prevention program? (See class notes)
5. Summarize the justification for this preventive intervention from previous 1) theory, and 2) research.
6. Describe the “at risk” population or target group who received the intervention.
7. Describe the causal, structural, theoretical model or framework used to justify this intervention (if one exists).
8. What causal/structural model, stages, steps, phases, or sequential processes did this intervention follow?
9. Briefly describe the content of the intervention. What was done to the at risk target or populations?
10. Describe the process and method of the intervention. Who did what, to whom, under what circumstances?
11. What roles did the interventionist function in? (See chapter in Lippitt & Lippitt, 1986)
12. List and describe the skills employed in this intervention (See Conyne, 1997).
13. Describe the evaluation, research, and scientific design of this intervention to assess the intervention’s outcome, impact, effectiveness, and results.
14. Were there any problems, resistances, or barriers to implementing the intervention discussed in the chapter or that are apparent to you.
15. Summarize the results of this intervention.
16. Describe any ethical issues that were part of this intervention (see Pope, 1990 or any professional Ethical Standards).
17. Were there any exiting, termination, or closure issues addressed in the chapter?
18. Enumerate and discuss any public policy issues that emanate from this case study.
19. State any unresolved questions you have about this case study.
20. Provide a summary of what it was like to do this critiques/analysis of this case study.
PREVENTION PROPOSAL OUTLINE

Below is an outline of the prevention proposal. I am still working on the conceptualization of this proposal outline and will let all students know if any further changes are made.

1. Title of the prevention proposal.
2. Describe the specific problem that you want to prevent
3. Justify this preventive intervention, using past theory, research, and professional literature.
4. Using Bloom’s Preorienting phase of awareness, provide a summary of the: 1) positive and negative issues with this prevention problem, 2) the contextual issues to be considered, 3) any ethical issues that are relevant to the intervention.
5. Briefly describe the overall problem you want to present. Describe the “at risk” population or target group who will receive the intervention. Describe this problem using: 1) Albee and Gullota’s (1997) categories or dimensions of prevention, 2) Bloom’s (1996) configual (service oriented) model.
6. Summarize the previous theoretical and empirical literature that justifies expenditure of resources to implement this prevention intervention.
7. Create a causal, structural, theoretical model or framework to justify your preventive intervention. Diagram your model or framework.
8. Describe the content of the intervention. What was done to the “at risk” target or population. Include any materials to be used in your intervention as an appendix.
9. Describe the methodology and process of the intervention. Who did what, to who, under what circumstances? Include all measures and materials used in an appendix.
10. Describe the expected roles you will assume with the intervention (See Lippitt & Lippitt, 1986)
11. Describe the skill needed to implement this intervention. Discuss these skills in the context of your conceptual model described in number 7.
12. Describe the evaluation, research, or scientific design of your intervention and ways to assess outcomes, impact, effectiveness, and results.
13. Describe what outcomes you are hoping for in the most positive sense.
14. Estimate any problems, barriers, and resistance that you expect from implementing your intervention.
15. Describe any ethical or professional issues to consider as you exit, terminate, and bring closure to your intervention. Describe any post project responsibilities.
16. Discuss any likely public policy statements that could come from your prevention intervention.
17. Discuss how likely it is that you will implement this prevention proposal.
18. Provide a summary of what it was like for you to write this proposal.
Alphabetical Listing of Readings on HUSKY CT and Paper Reserve


Journal of Primary Prevention, copies to be handed out in class


Prevention Newsletter, Division 17 of American Psychological Association (Counseling Psychology), Prevention Section, #6, Summer, 2001.


Walker, G. Stoner (Eds.) Interventions for academic and behavior problems II: Preventive and remedial approaches, Bethesda, MD: NASP Publications.


**A Short But Emerging Bibliography on Prevention and Consultation**


Relevant Journals Related to Prevention:

Journal of Primary Prevention
http://www.wkap.nl/journalhome.htm/0278-095X

American Journal of Community Psychology

Prevention in Human Services

Applied & Preventive Psychology

Journal of Prevention and Intervention in the Community

Journal of HIV/AIDS Prevention & Education in the Community
Relevant Web Pages:

University of Wisconsin Prevention Program
http://PREVENTIONSCIENCE.WISC.EDU/INDEX.HTM

Prevention Online (SAMHSA, Substance Abuse)

Division 17 of APA (Counseling Psychology) Prevention Section Listserve
join-prev-counpsy@listserv.uwstout.edu

International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect

Connect for Kids

Resources for Methods in Evaluation and Social Research

American Association of Applied and Preventive Psychology
HYPERLINK http://w3fp.arizona.edu/aaapp http://w3fp.arizona.edu/aaapp

National Institutes of Health Office of Prevention

Preline – A comprehensive collection of preventive programs, resources, statistics, and government and private funding

Application of Prevention Technologies – Resources and technical assistance for alcohol, drug, and violence prevention.

U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)

Center for Disease Control (CDC) - CDC Prevention Guidelines Data Base – over 400 documents for the prevention and control of public health threats.

Center for AIDS Prevention Studies
HYPERLINK http://www.caps.ucsf.edu http://www.caps.ucsf.edu

Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence
HYPERLINK http://www.colorado.edu/cspv http://www.colorado.edu/cspv
Emerging Glossary of Prevention Terms

Below is our initial set of terms related to prevention. This list of terms will no doubt grow or be redefined as we learn how prevention is conceptualized across the many disciplines in the School of Family Studies. I am hoping that students and faculty will add to this glossary as the course evolves. Many of these initial definitions came from Wallace and Hall’s Psychological Consultation: Perspectives and applications (1996). I took the liberty of changing some definitions to make them directly applicable to the prevention science.

Accountability – The obligation of the preventionist to be answerable and responsible to professional Commitments.

Advocacy – An activity in which one individual supports or speaks on behalf of another. Advocates assume the role of supporters of another. Advocates assume the role of supporters to help those who cannot help themselves.

Assessment – the multilevel process of collecting information specific to the prevention problem.

Collaboration – Cooperation between the preventionist and another party in working toward prevention Goals.

Consultant – An individual who provides consultation to consultees. The consultant is assumed to have the expertise and methodological understanding necessary to help consultees resolve concerns of their client or others.

Consultation – A two way interaction; a process of seeking, giving and receiving help. Consulting is aimed at aiding a person, group, organization, or larger system in mobilizing internal and external resources to deal with problems (Lippitt & Lippitt, 1986).

Consultee – An individual who requests help from a consultant.

Content Expert – Someone who shares expertise or information in the problem solving process.

Contracting – The process through which a preventionist negotiates and agrees on terms for working together.

Entry – The period during which a preventionist comes into the prevention relationship and assumes a formal helping role.

Evaluation- Systematic and coordinated inquiries and processes that attempt to determine the positive and negative worth of activities, variables, procedures, and changes.

Evaluation Design – The nature or structure of the plan for collecting data about prevention processes.

Formative Evaluation - A form of evaluation that examines the ongoing decisions, actions, and processes while they are occurring.

Goal Setting – A stage of prevention where plans are devised. Goal setting presupposes the accurate Assessment and diagnosis of prevention problems.

Intervention – A planned method or strategy of addressing prevention problems.

Negotiation – A practice that entails bargaining where partners that wish to come to an agreement dispute the natures and terms of the agreement.
Power – The ability of one party to influence others to behave in ways that satisfy the individual exerting the power.

Prevention-oriented Consultation – Consultation interventions designed to prevent the recurrence of undesirable conditions.

Prevention Science – Focused primarily on the systematic study of potential precursors of dysfunction or health, called risk factors and protective factors (Coie, et al., 1993).

Protective Factors – Conditions that improve people’s resistance to risk factors and disorder (Coie et al., 1993).

Psychoeducation – Refers to the cumulative processes used to teach individuals psychological skills and knowledge so that they can cope efficiently with existing illness or prevent future illness.

Psychological Education – Cumulative processes that teach curriculum that educates people in emotional development, self-esteem, and psychosocial competence.

Qualitative Data – A type of subjective data that provides important generalizations or estimates of quality.

Quantitative Data – Observable, objective, and measurable information that can be synthesized and expressed numerically.

Resiliency - The ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change; bounce back.

Resilience – Active or passive opposition to the real or anticipated changes accompanying prevention. Anything that impedes problem solving or plan implementation and ultimately problem resolution (Wickstrom & Witt, 1993). An adaptive process by which people attempt to maintain their equilibrium during time of change.

Risk Factors – Conditions that improve people’s resistance to risk factors and disorder.

Science Based Program Criteria – Based on theory; evaluated as a demonstration project and shown to be effective; been replicated with similar results; reported in a peer-reviewed journal.

Social Policy – Government action – in the form of laws and regulations – which is supported through public funds. The study of social policy is the study of what government does, why it does it, and what difference it makes (Wisensale, 2002).

Summative Evaluation – A form of evaluation that focuses on prevention outcomes and goal attainment.

Team Building – A collection of diverse methods that encourage groups to function as teams.

Termination Stage – The end of the prevention process that implies certain roles and functions to effectively exit the prevention intervention.

Training – A structured, planned, instructional process in which learners acquire information or skills intended to enhance their ability to perform their work.