

## **Field Study in Applied Child and Family Research**

Interession 2003 and Summer 2003

### **Instructor:**

Ruth A. Huebner, PhD.

Director of Performance Improvement: Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children.

Graduate Faculty: Eastern Kentucky University.

Associate Graduate Faculty: University of Kentucky.

Dale Smith, PhD

Western Kentucky University

### **Course Numbers:**

SW 455 – Selected Topics - EKU

SW 580 – University of Kentucky

SWRK 490 - Western Kentucky University

SW 698 - Children in Out-of-Home Care II (U of L students only)

### **Credits:**

3 credit course. Students may take the course for up to two semesters, earning 3 credits each semester.

**Enrollment Limit:** 50 students for summer interession; 50 students for summer session. Open to graduate and undergraduate students in social work especially PCWCP students. Students are encouraged to enroll in both the inter-session and summer course for 6 total credits. Exceptions to this expectation are possible; speak with Ruth Huebner.

### **Location for Summer 2003:**

Students will be recruited from all state and private universities. Classes will be held on these campuses. Class times will be determined between faculty and students.

Eastern Kentucky University

Western Kentucky University

Northern Kentucky University

Morehead State University

University of Kentucky

University of Louisville.

### **General Course Description:**

Includes concepts of interviewing, active listening, data recording, protection of human subjects in the field, data integrity and data entry. Students will read literature specific to the topic of the field research. Students will engage in data collection within ongoing research; projects will change each semester. Student will be expected to travel. Students will collect data for the Kentucky Foster Care Census and receive a student stipend for their work.

### **Additional Explanation:**

Students will collect data for the Kentucky Foster Care Census. They will visit private residential centers and conduct foster parent interviews in foster homes and relative

homes. Students may collect data in the region near their university and/or near their home. They will be expected to check in weekly with the instructor either by phone or on-site as specified times at each university. Students must commit to seeing at least 30 children during intersession and 30 children during the summer session.

### **Course Schedule:**

Training will occur on Friday May 9 and Saturday May 10. Students meet weekly or have phone contact at least weekly – face to face contact is required every other week.

**Undergraduate Student Course Objectives:** At the conclusion of this course, undergraduate students will be able to:

1. Understand the needs of children in out of home placement.
2. Value the work of foster parents and private childcare providers.
3. Understand the work of social workers serving children in out of home care.
4. Understand the research design of this study.
5. Value applied program evaluation.

**Graduate Student Course Objectives:** At the conclusion of this course, graduate students will be able to:

1. Evaluate the needs of children in out of home placement.
2. Value the work of foster parents and private childcare providers.
3. Evaluate the work of social workers serving children in out of home care.
4. Evaluate the research design of this study.
5. Understand the design of applied program evaluation.
6. Participate in the qualitative analysis of the experience.

### **Readings and Text:**

Harrison, K. (2003- Note coming out in April – not available yet). Another place at the table: A story of ravaged childhood and the redemption of love. J. P. Tarcher. ISBN: 1585422002.

### **Graded Learning Opportunities:**

- Students will be graded on data integrity; that is how accurately and completely they enter data.
- Students will be graded on the quality of the visits; spot checks will be made to foster homes to assess the quality of the visits and foster and residential staff will complete a slip to verify the visit and note quality.
- Students will generate field notes and a journal about their experiences. They will write one paper that summarizes the story of a foster home they visited.
- Students will be graded on their professionalism and their investment in the course as demonstrated by a willingness to conduct a variety of census visits.