WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY Course Syllabus

COURSE NUMBER:

TERM:

COURSE TITLE: Child Abuse Recognition & Investigation

SOC 425

FACULTY MEMBER:

OFFICE HOURS/METHOD OF CONTACT:

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is the introductory course into child advocacy. This course covers the history, comparative perspectives, the legal framework, responses to child maltreatment, the skills necessary to do the work, other pertinent issues pertaining to child maltreatment and child advocacy, and the future. The field of child maltreatment is fraught with controversy. Much of the class focuses on these controversies. The approach of the course will be from a variety of diverse, professional perspectives including the perspectives of prosecution versus defense work. The course is designed for students majoring in criminal justice, education, social work, sociology, psychology, nursing, paralegal, or other areas where knowledge of child maltreatment and advocating for children might be necessary. Much of the work will be hands-on.

II. RATIONALE:

Professionals working in fields of education, nursing, criminal justice and human services routinely interact with children and families. Increasingly, professionals are expected to recognize and to effectively intervene into suspected child abuse and neglect situations. But such intervention requires understanding and critical analysis. This course will assist students to evaluate the critical elements of suspected abuse and neglect and prepare them to be competent practitioners.

V. INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

GOAL A: Understand the historical trends in child maltreatment and child advocacy. Learning Outcomes: