



## Course Syllabus

### Schools that Reclaim Graduate, 3 hrs of credit

Psychology or Special Education

Instructor of Record: Dr. Steve Van Bockern

### Course Description

This workshop will help participants understand what is meant by a strength-based, positive philosophical approach to working with students. This approach embodied in the Circle of Courage® model, moves beyond the limits of traditional control psychologies and classroom environments to a psychology for building courage in all youth. In a strength-based approach modeled on the Circle of Courage®, meeting the needs of children becomes primary. Those needs are defined as belonging, mastery, independence and generosity. Everything that happens in the classroom is reconsidered based on meeting needs. For example, behavior management is designed to foster responsibility instead of obedience; teacher and student interactions are designed to reach adult-wary children and instructional delivery is set up to reach even the most academically challenged students. This workshop evolved out of the book Reclaiming Youth at Risk: Our Hope for the Future, written by Drs. Larry Brendtro, Martin Brokenleg and Steve Van Bockern. The book explains the philosophical approach of the Circle of Courage®.

Participants will examine leading-edge practices and interventions that show promise of enhancing positive outcomes in children and adolescents. Participants will examine current knowledge about a wide range of contemporary problems associated with at-risk youth and education, treatment and youth work. The course takes a strength-based perspective and suggests protective factors such as individual traits and skills, cultural factors, and support from family, peers, school, and others in the social environment effect student outcomes.

### Faculty

The Instructor of Record is Dr. Steve Van Bockern, professor of education at Augustana College.

### Learning Outcomes

1. Participants will examine both positive and problematic characteristics manifested by youth along with appropriate interventions to foster resilience and responsible behavior.
2. Participants will explore essential components or indicators of quality school programs for youth.

3. Participants will be engaged in a wide range of issues facing children and families including the impact by the stresses and inequities of modern society.
4. Participants will have an awareness of the cultural dimensions of problems and unique cultural strengths of youth and children.
5. Participants will gain new insight into youth problems.
6. The course will examine concepts and skills and how those skills and concepts can be applied including the following:
  - a. Skills in counseling and discipline management based on building student responsibility
  - b. Developing skills at transforming negative school cultures and creating positive learning environments.
  - c. Utilizing research on youth development as a method of fostering pro-social, altruistic behavior.
  - d. Employing "brain friendly" teaching alternatives and new paradigm learning environments.
  - e. Discovering ways of capitalizing on diversity.
  - f. Examining new paradigms and alternatives in education including the Circle of Courage<sup>®</sup> model.

### **Course Requirements**

Participants who successfully complete the following requirements earn three (3) semester hours of graduate workshop credit, graded with an A-F letter grade. Participants should understand that Augustana's expectation is that a minimum of 135 hours will be spent completing this course. Students may choose to be graded satisfactory or unsatisfactory but must request this in writing. The criteria for S/U grades are as follows: graduate students must earn a grade of B- or better to receive an S; undergraduate students must earn a C- or better to receive an S.

The student has until the middle of the semester that follows the semester of registration. For example, if the student registers in the spring, that student has until the middle of the following fall semester to submit the work. If the work is not submitted, a grade of F is automatically given. Paperwork should be sent to: Steve Van Bockern, Augustana College, 2001 S. Summit, Sioux Falls, SD. Please, no email submissions. Contact Steve at [vanbock@augie.edu](mailto:vanbock@augie.edu) with questions.

1. Read the book Reclaiming Youth at Risk: Our Hope for the Future by Brendtro, Brokenleg and Van Bockern. Complete the Reclaiming Study Guide.
2. View the PowerPoint presentation that supplements the book. Complete the questions that accompany the PowerPoint presentation.
3. Complete the multiple choice check-out exam on key concepts and competencies.
4. View the Indicators PowerPoint presentation. Select three of the indicators and do a library paper that presents research that supports those three indicators (3-5 pages total).
5. Read three articles from the *Reclaiming Children and Youth Journal*. Write a 200-500 word personal response to each.

6. Determine a final project in consultation with the Instructor of Records (contact Steve Van Bockern at [vanbock@augie.edu](mailto:vanbock@augie.edu)). As possibilities, the project may consist of a PowerPoint presentation on some of the ideas you wish to share with other teachers, parents or your students. It may be a library paper on some topic you wish to explore in greater detail. It may be a service project that allows you to participate in making your school a Circle of Courage® School.

### **Registration**

Registration happens at any time but workshop completion must happen by the middle of the following semester. Students complete a registration form that follows this page indicating a desire for graduate in either psychology or special education. Payment is due at the time of registration.

### **Cost**

Payment is due at the time of registration. Three hours of credit is \$300.00 (US dollars). Cash is not accepted. Checks, money orders and credit cards are accepted (except American Express) payable to ***Reclaiming Youth International***.

### **Grading and Transcripts**

After final grades are submitted, the students receive a grade report from Augustana. Official transcripts must be requested in writing by the student to Augustana College Office of the Registrar, 2001 S. Summit Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57197, or Fax to 605-274-4450.

For questions or concerns, please contact Reclaiming Youth International at [bookstore@reclaiming.com](mailto:bookstore@reclaiming.com) or call 605-647-2532.