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New class to address problem of child abuse in United States

By Kirsten Bolin Of the E

Child abuse in the United States and the politics that surround it will be the major issues of a new class being offered at the University this term.

The political science class, Child Protective Policies, will be taught by John Drew, a visiting assistant professor in the political science department

Drew says there are no technical barriers to ending child abuse in this country. Abusive parents could be quickly detected and controlled if society would allow child protective workers to screen new parents and conduct the same home-

visiting practice common in Western Europe. "I don't think there's something that makes us more abusive than other cultures," Drew says. "But child abuse isn't an issue in other countries."

The child abuse problem in the United States stems from the fact that people trained to recognize and deal with child abuse, such as teachers, do not see potential victims until they begin school at age five or six, Drew says.

In Europe, protective workers screen new parents and visit the homes where parents live with their children.

"Visiting nurses go door-to-door, giving free diapers and baby formula and checking on the children," Drew says.

The difficulty in the United States is that ef-

fective measures such as these are unpopular with both liberals and conservatives, he says. Liberals fear such strong measures would be used to harass the poor, while conservatives fear they would give the state too much power over the family, he says.

"We seem to believe that child abuse is the price we pay for freedom," Drew says. The class will focus on Americans' in-dividualistic styles of child-rearing and investigate the impact of American political institu-tions and political culture on such issues as physical abuse and neglect, emotional abuse, sex abuse, detection, teenage pregnancy and

childhood poverty, Drew says. Guest speakers and class discussion also will be integral parts of the course, he says. People who deal with child abuse on a daily basis, such as juvenile court judges, representatives from Planned Parenthood and the state's Child Protective Services division, are possible speakers, he says

In an effort to increase interest in the course, the political science department has sent information about it to various child-oriented organizations such as community service offices and elementary schools, Drew says.

"We're very much hoping to attract community members to the class," he says.

The course will be offered Monday evenings from 7 to 9:50, and will begin Jan. 13. For more information, contact Drew at 686-4877.

Workshop offered to help plan and define student's education

By Julie Freeman

Of the Emerald The Career Planning and Placement Service is encouraging students to take a closer look at planning their education this term by participating in a two-part workshop designed to identify educational and career goals.

then still are not sure what they want to do. It's better to start defining your goals early rather than taking a retrospective look back your senior year," he says.

The program was first available last year on a self-administered basis. Workshops were started in the spring of 1985, but only a limited number

workshop sessions, which should be accompanied by work done on the student's own time, Smith says.

But while the workshops are meant to help students identify the courses that will most benefit them, Smith says the program is not meant to limit the education students pursue at the University.

"Most students at this University want to know about a variety of things." he says:

'(Students) want a broad liberal arts degree, but they also want a good job when they graduate," Smith says. "The intent of the Focus Your Education program is to accomplish both of these goals."

Two workshops will be offered this month and another will be held in February. A table will be set up in the lower court area of McArthur Court during both days of registration for students to sign up for the sessions.

rather than taking a retrospective look back your senior year.' - Larry Smith

'It's better to start defining your goals early

The Focus Your Education workshops are meant to get freshmen and sophomores to start thinking about their future, says Larry Smith, director of

CPPS. "The new student is our 'I have seen seniors who have majored in something and

of sessions were offered fall term.

Smith says CPPS concentrated on training leaders in areas such as the dormitories. and the Greek system during fall term in order to reach as many students as possible this winter.

The program consists of two

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Lage 27

Page 16