



School of Health Education and Human Services
Bachelor of Social Work
SW 200
Introduction to Social Work
Term: Winter 2023
Number of Credits: 3 Credit Course

Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR: Jordan Aslett, MSW
LOCATION: Zoom
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OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays 3pm – 4pm (Zoom)
METHOD: Online - Blended Synchronous/Asynchronous
TIME: Wednesday 4pm – 5:50pm
DATES: January 11th – April 6th

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the profession of social work, its theory and practice. Students examine the philosophy and practice of social work in Canada, both in First Nations and non-First Nations communities.

DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will be provided with an overview of the historical, ideological, and theoretical perspectives that have shaped and continue to inform the models and means of contemporary Canadian social work practice.

Specific values and principles are at the very core of what social workers do and why we do it; these are expressed through professional conduct that is guided by the Social Work Code of Ethics. Throughout this course students will be asked to critically reflect upon and to compare their own values and perspectives with those of the social work profession, within the context of enhancing social welfare for diverse populations. Students will also learn about the specific issues and challenges for social workers practicing in Yukon. This course focuses on the contributions of research to effective social work practice and policy. Emphasis is placed on understanding and critically assessing social work research, and on how to employ a variety of quantitative, qualitative, and community-based research methodologies to advance social work knowledge and practice.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite(s): ENGL 100 (3 credits) and 6 credits of university studies

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course students will have acquired the following knowledge and skills:

- Ability to discuss the major influences in the development of social work and the social welfare system in Canadian Society.
- Understanding of the values, knowledge, and skills that distinguish social work from other professions.
- Familiarity with the more common social work theories and models of practice, and an increased capacity to think critically about the current practice of social work.
- Cognizance of the broad scope of practice with diverse populations. Students will be able to recognize and discuss the three levels or “targets” of social work intervention: large-scale systems, including whole communities, nations (macro); neighborhoods, organizations, other small groups (mezzo); and, individuals and/or families (micro).
- Familiarity with Yukon First Nations’ initiatives through self-government to assume responsibility for the planning and delivery of social welfare programs and services.
- Greater awareness of their personal suitability and/or readiness for choosing social work as a profession.

COURSE FORMAT

Delivery Format

This course blends synchronous and asynchronous delivery of content. Each week students will first be required to prepare for class by watching pre-recorded video lectures that have been uploaded to Moodle by the instructor. Next, students will attend weekly class meetings via Zoom that will focus on discussion of content and learning activities.

Weekly Breakdown of Hours

Activity	Estimated Time
Synchronous Class Activities & Discussion via Zoom	110 minutes
Asynchronous Video Instruction via Moodle	45 minutes
Weekly Readings (2 to 3 per week)	100 minutes
Assignments (varies week to week)	120 minutes
Total	375 minutes (approx. 6.5 hours)

It is important to note that the time required will vary by individual.

EVALUATION

Assignments	95%
Participation Assessment	5%
Total	100%

All Assignments (except Assignment 2) are to be uploaded to Moodle at 11:59am on the Friday of the week that they are due

Assignment 1 – WARM-UP - Diverse Perspectives on Social Issues (35%)

For this assignment students will select a social issue relevant to the local context (Yukon/Community). Using their own perspectives, the perspectives of community members and the academic literature students will be asked to explain why they feel that this particular issue qualifies as a social problem.

Assignment 2 – PRACTICE PRESENTATION – Social Work in the Yukon (20%)

In small groups students will select an area of social work practice in the Yukon and produce a 15–20-minute video describing how those services are delivered, the policy frameworks governing those services, the social issues service users are impacted by, and the ethical issues related to that area of practice.

Assignment 3 – TERM PAPER - Diverse Perspectives on Social Issues (40%)

Students will select a social issue relevant to the local context (Yukon). In the first part of the paper, students will use their own perspectives, the perspectives of community members and the academic literature to describe the causes and effects of the social issue. In the second part of the assignment, students will describe how social workers have responded to the social issue, and which practice approach they feel might be best suited to addressing it.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

Last date of withdrawal for this course without academic penalty is Friday March, 9th.

TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

Textbook

Ives, N., Denov, M., & Sussman, T. (2020). Introduction to social work in Canada: Histories contexts and practices (2nd edition). Oxford University Press.

This text is available in the campus bookstore. An e-text is available online through the publisher. Copies of the text will be made available for short (1 hour) loans at the Yukon University library. There are likely multiple used copies of this text available from previous students.

Moodle

Alternative readings will be available on Moodle

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by others as one's own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

ATTENDANCE

While this class is online, it is not self-directed or 'go at your own pace'. You are expected to attend class through Zoom each week, as this is where we will apply our learnings into real-life scenarios. After 3 missed classes, each missed class will result in a 5% reduction in your mark, or the submission of an additional assignment based on that week's content.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Plagiarism occurs when a student submits work for credit that includes the words, ideas, or data of others, without citing the source from which the material is taken. Plagiarism can be the deliberate use of a whole piece of work, but more frequently it occurs when students fail to acknowledge and document sources from which they have taken material according to an accepted manuscript style (e.g., APA, CSE, MLA, etc.). Students may use sources which are public domain or licensed under Creative Commons; however, academic documentation standards must still be followed. Except with explicit permission of the instructor, resubmitting work which has previously received credit is also considered plagiarism. Students who plagiarize material for assignments will receive a mark of zero (F) on the assignment and may fail the course. Plagiarism may also result in dismissal from a program of study or the University.

Please refer to Academic Regulations & Procedures for further details about academic standing and student rights and responsibilities.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable accommodation is available for students requiring academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. This accommodation is available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in section 8.0 of the Yukon University Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon University website). It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations by contacting the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC): LearningAssistanceCentre@yukonu.ca.

TOPIC OUTLINE

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS

The following outline contains a description of the main topics the weeks in which they will be discussed. A full outline containing descriptions, readings, and assignment due dates will be provided to students two weeks prior to the start of class.

Weeks 1 – 5

Foundations of Social Work, Social Welfare and Social Justice

Week 1

January 4th, 2023

Perspectives on Social Work History of Social Work in Canada and the Yukon

In this first week Students will be provided with an overview of the course, assignments, and desired learning outcomes. Students will be introduced to the profession of social work - the values, knowledge, and standards which inform and shape practice. Particular attention will be paid to the influence of indigenous perspectives on social work practice as well as the historical impacts of social policy and social work on diverse groups in Canada.

Week 2

January 11th, 2023

Social Work Practice Theories

A selection of more common social work theories will be highlighted. Class activities and discussion are designed to foster critical thinking in the application of these theories within the current practice of social work.

Week 3

January 18th, 2023

Social Work Ethics and Values

This week will examine social work values and ethics in research, policy and practice. Group activities and discussion will explore the intersection of personal values with those of the social work profession, within the context of the Social Work Code of Ethics.

Week 4

January 25th, 2023

Social Work Perspectives on Issues of Social Justice

Theories of Oppression & Marginalization

The concepts of oppression and marginalization are central to modern social work. This class will be used to discuss and investigate current theories of oppression and how oppression manifests itself in Canada and the world. Students will also examine how the concept of social justice informs the practice of social work and how social problems are defined in Canadian society. Specific attention will be given to how students can engage constructively in concepts that may challenge their own personal beliefs and values.

Week 5

February 1st, 2023

Indigenous Perspectives on Social Work and Social Welfare

The lecture and assigned readings for this class examine the historical foundations of Canada's "Indian Policy" that has fueled the emergence of self-government initiatives amongst many Yukon First Nations. Students will consider the role of social work in colonization and explicate the current challenges and opportunities for social work practice with and by Indigenous peoples.

Weeks 6-10

Social Work Practice – Skills, Interventions & Sites of Practice

Week 6

February 8th, 2023

Generalist Social Work Practice with Individuals and Groups

Social Work practice takes place primarily at three levels: micro, mezzo and macro. Students will learn about the different approaches to practice and interventions at the three different levels as well as an overview of the fundamental skills involved in generalist social work practice.

Week 7

February 15th, 2023

Generalist Social Work Practice with Communities

Social Work practice takes place primarily at three levels: micro, mezzo and macro. Students will learn about the different approaches to practice and interventions at the three different levels as well as an overview of the fundamental skills involved in generalist social work practice.

February 22nd, 2023

Reading Week: No Class

Week 8

March 1st, 2023

Assignment 2 Videos and Discussion

****Asynchronous Class Only This Week***

During Week 9 students will work independently to review and provide feedback on the group presentation videos required for Assignment 2.

Week 9

March 8th, 2023

Social Work Practice in Healthcare Contexts

The profession of social work encompasses a broad scope of practice with diverse populations. This scope is greatly influenced by the nature and direction of social policy, and the implementation of policy through the provision of social welfare services. For this class, students will be introduced to the stages of social welfare policy development and the role intersection between social policy and social work practice.

Week 10

March 15th, 2023

Generalist Social Work Practice with Children and Families

Social Work practice takes place primarily at three levels: micro, mezzo and macro. Students will learn about the different approaches to practice and interventions at the three different levels as well as an overview of the fundamental skills involved in generalist social work practice.

Weeks 11-13

Diverse Perspectives on Social Work and Social Welfare

Week 11

March 22nd, 2023

Feminist Social Work

LGBTQueer Perspectives on Social Work

Feminism has greatly contributed to the development of social work practice and theory as well as social welfare policy analysis. In the first part of this class students will learn about the historical development and evolving practice of feminist social work using interventions around inter-partner violence as a practice example. The second part of this class is concerned with how concepts of gender and sexual diversity and the LGBTQueer communities have impacted the pursuit of social justice and the practice of social work.

Week 12

March 29th, 2023

Disability Perspectives on Social Work

Disability communities have been pioneers in debates around self-determination and self-advocacy. These concepts and political positions have gradually been incorporated into modern social work practice. The first part of this class traces the historical importance of Disability perspectives to social work theory and practice and also discusses the role of social workers in helping to further the cause of self-determination and emancipation.

Week 13

April 5th, 2023

Anti-Racism & Social Work

As a largely colonial venture used as a method of social control, Social Work has a long history of adding to, rather than providing relief to, social problems. This has been especially true for poor, working class and racialized people around the world. In recent years social work has begun to take up an explicitly anti-racist stance with respect as an attempt to reconcile with this history, and create new, emancipatory paths forward. In this final week we will look at the history of 'race' and social work, and examine some of the new models that are pushing the profession forward.