



School of Health Education and Human Services
Bachelor of Social Work
SW200

Introduction to Social Work

Term: Fall 2024

Number of Credits: 3 Credit Course

Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR: Jordan Aslett, MSW

LOCATION: TBD

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OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment – Book Through Moodle

METHOD: In Person – Face to Face

TIME: Wednesdays - 4pm – 7pm

DATES: Sept 3rd to December 3rd

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	70%
Mid Term Exam	N/A
Final Exam	25%
Participation Assessment	5%
Total	100%

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

Assignment 1 – WARM-UP - Diverse Perspectives on Social Issues (20%)

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 – FINAL - Diverse Perspectives on Social Issues (Redux) (30%)

For this assignment students will re-do Assignment 1 using a new social issue and expanded to include context and references. This assignment has two purposes. First it allows students the opportunity to practice integrating instructor feedback into their work, second it helps them to develop a more fulsome understanding of social issues in the Yukon.

Final Exam – 25%

A final exam will be scheduled for the exam period.

Participation Assessment – 5%

Both the student and instructor will evaluate the students participation and assign a mark out of 5. Participation will be assessed on the student's attendance, activity, preparation and their contributions to the class in small groups, the larger classroom and in individual conversations with the instructor. Students are expected to assess their own participation through a participation assessment available on Moodle.

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 accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are 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.