



School of Health, Education & Human Services

**Social Work 414**

**Child Welfare Practice**

**Term: Winter 2024**

**Number of Credits: 3**

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## Course Outline

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**INSTRUCTOR:** Nicole Yurkoski

**E-MAIL:** [nyurkoski@yukonu.ca](mailto:nyurkoski@yukonu.ca)

**Classroom:** A2101

**Office hours:** by appointment

**Class Beginning/End Dates:** Mondays, January 8 to April 10, 2024. Note: April 1 there is no class. There is a class on Wednesday, April 10. Class is scheduled from 4:00 – 7:00 PM.

**Final exam:** April 19, 2024, 1:00 – 4:00

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an overview of historical and current child welfare legislation, policies, and services. Regional perspectives are highlighted. Child maltreatment is defined and identified. The effects of child abuse and neglect on the child, family, and society will be explored. Prevention, investigation, and intervention approaches are covered.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite(s): Social Work 200 and admission to the Bachelor of Social Work Program.

### EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

Receiving institutions determine course transferability. Find further information at:

<https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit>

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will gain:

1. A greater understanding of how their personal perspectives and social positionality influence their views on child welfare.
2. Critical perspectives about child welfare and an increased ability to think analytically.
3. Knowledge of legislation and policy related to child welfare practice and children's rights.

4. Knowledge of anti-oppressive, anti-racist and strengths-based approaches to child welfare with a specific emphasis on Indigenous families and communities.
5. A beginning understanding of ethical issues related to child welfare.
6. Understanding of the dynamics of child abuse and neglect and the impact on the child, family and community.
7. Skills in responding to child maltreatment concerns.
8. Knowledge about child welfare services and intervention approaches from prevention, investigation and support.

## **COURSE FORMAT**

This course is offered once weekly for a three-hour block in-person.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

Acceptable academic, ethical and professional behaviour is expected of all BSW students. This section on evaluation highlights each of these three areas.

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

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and conduct themselves in a responsible manner reflective of someone who wants to be a part of the social work profession. This means abiding by the CASW Code of Ethics and the requirements set out in this course outline.

### **Attendance & Participation**

Being well-prepared for a social work education involves reading and understanding the course outline, syllabus, assignment descriptions and required readings. This allows you to effectively contribute to class discussions, activities and complete your assignments. Being unprepared hampers your own and other student's learning.

Social work education involves engaging in experiential learning in an ethical and open manner during class. There are many cooperative and group efforts that require your presence and *active* engagement. Please be conscious of how you can positively contribute to class learning and be supportive of other students.

Attendance involves arriving on time, returning promptly from breaks, and participating in the closing circle and debrief for each class. Arriving late or leaving early is detrimental to class learning.

**If you miss more than two classes (6 hours), deductions of 5% will be applied for *each* additional class missed, or portion thereof.**

If you miss more than two classes, you can speak with the instructor about completing an additional assignment or assignments to complete in lieu of the missed class (es). If more than three classes are missed, it is unlikely that I will agree to the additional assignment option. It is at the instructor's discretion whether to a) grant this request and b) determine the content and format of the assignment. A due date for this additional assignment will be provided and the work *must* be completed satisfactorily prior to the end of term.

### **Professional Conduct**

The subject matter in this course can be difficult. Respectful and open communication (appropriate tone of voice, body language, expression of opinions in keeping with social work values) is required. If disputes and differences arise, they are to be resolved in a respectful, ethical and timely manner.

Ensure you have reviewed and understand the following student and professional conduct documents listed below.

- CASW Code of Ethics  
[https://www.casw-acts.ca/files/attachements/casw\\_code\\_of\\_ethics.pdf](https://www.casw-acts.ca/files/attachements/casw_code_of_ethics.pdf)
- CASW Guidelines for Ethical Practice  
[https://www.casw-acts.ca/files/attachements/casw\\_guidelines\\_for\\_ethical\\_practice.pdf](https://www.casw-acts.ca/files/attachements/casw_guidelines_for_ethical_practice.pdf)
- University of Regina's policies on Student Professional Suitability and Ethics  
<https://www.uregina.ca/socialwork/BSW/Professional-Suitability/Professional-Ethics.html>
- Yukon University policies on Student Conduct and Ethics  
<https://www.yukonu.ca/policies/student-non-academic-misconduct>

### **EVALUATION**

For all assignments, the following criteria apply:

#### **Writing Competence:**

University of Regina policy states, "Competence in writing is expected. Wherever possible, instructors are expected to conduct their courses in such a way as to obtain evidence of student writing skills, in term papers, essays, reports, or other written work, and to demand competence in writing for a passing grade."

If remedial assistance is required, please follow through with Academic Support Centre. There is a wide-range of help available both in-person and online. <https://www.yukonu.ca/student-life/learning-matters/academic-support-centre>

#### **APA format:**

Assignments must follow APA guidelines, use appropriate professional social work language and be edited.

**Late submission penalties:**

Five (5) % of the assignment's value will be deducted for each day it is late. An assignment that is more than 5 days late will not be accepted.

**Extensions:**

Extensions are solely at the discretion of the instructor. If you *are* granted an extension but do not submit your assignment on the date/time agreed to, then penalties for late submission will apply. Extensions need to be made prior to the original due date and the request, including the following, needs to be made in writing:

- a. an explanation for why you are making the extension request;
- b. the number of additional hours or days you are requesting, and;
- c. a copy of your incomplete assignment.

**Rewrites:**

If you are given an opportunity to re-submit an assignment once it has been graded, the highest grade that would be granted is 70%. Permission to re-write an assignment that has already been marked is solely at the discretion of the instructor.

**University of Regina Grading Descriptions:**

University of Regina grading criteria will apply to all assignments in this course.

**90-99 An outstanding performance with very strong evidence of:**

- an insightful and comprehensive grasp of the subject matter;
- a clear ability to make sound and original critical evaluation of the material given;
- outstanding capacity for original creative and/or logical thought;
- an excellent ability to organize, to analyze, to synthesize, to integrate ideas, and to express thoughts both in speech and in writing.

**80-89 Very good performance with strong evidence of:**

- a comprehensive grasp of the subject matter;
- an ability to make sound critical evaluation of the material given;
- a good capacity for original, creative, and/or logical thinking;
- a very good ability to organize, to analyze, to synthesize, to integrate ideas, and to express thoughts both in speech and in writing.

**70-79 Above average performance with evidence of:**

- a substantial knowledge of the subject matter;
- a good understanding of the relevant issues and a good familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques;
- some capacity for original, creative, and/or logical thinking;
- an above-average ability to organize, to analyze and to examine the subject material in a critical and constructive manner, and to express thoughts both in speech and in writing.

**60-69 A generally satisfactory and intellectually adequate performance with evidence of:**

- an acceptable basic grasp of the subject material;
- a fair understanding of the relevant issues;
- a general familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques;
- an ability to develop solutions to moderately difficult problems related to the subject material;

- a moderate ability to examine the material in a critical and analytical manner, and to express thoughts in writing.

**50-59 A barely acceptable performance with evidence of:**

- a familiarity with the subject material;
- some evidence that analytical skills have been developed;
- some understanding of relevant issues;
- some familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques;
- partially successful attempts to solve moderately difficult problems related to the subject material and to examine the material in a critical and analytical manner;
- basic competence in writing.

**0-49 An unacceptable performance.**

**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 Accessibility Services. <https://www.yukonu.ca/student-life/learning-matters/accessibility-services>

**ASSIGNMENTS**

Assignments (3)	85%
Final Exam	15%
Total	100%

Detailed assignment descriptions will be posted to the course Moodle site.

**COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION**

Refer to the Yukon University website for important dates.

Please remember that the University of Regina and Yukon University withdrawal deadlines are not the same. You must withdraw from both institutions.

**TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS**

Esqauo, S. and Strega, S. (2015) *Walking this Path Together. Anti-Racist and Anti-Oppressive Child Welfare Practice. (Second Edition)* Halifax and Winnipeg: Fernwood Publishing.

Oliver, C. (2017) *Strengths-Based Child Protection. Firm, Fair and Friendly.* Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Required and recommended readings and videos are listed within the syllabus. Additional required readings may be added throughout the term and will be noted on the Moodle class website.

**TOPIC OUTLINE**

A detailed syllabus will be posted to the course Moodle site.