

DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2023

SW2010(A2): Introduction to Social Work – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land, and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:	Trish Smith, MSW, RCSW	PHONE:	Contact by email
OFFICE:	virtual	E-MAIL:	TSmith@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	By appointment		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to create an environment in which students can begin to critically examine social work in its broadest terms. The purpose of the course is to enable students to reflect and examine their values, beliefs and feelings in relation to society of which they are members and to explore their present and potential roles and responsibilities as a social work practitioner. Students will examine dominant influences that affect decision-making and communication in society. The course will provide an opportunity for students to relate and integrate these ideas with the philosophies and values of social welfare with a structural social work perspective.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: None

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Hick, Steven & Stokes, Jackie. (2016). Social Work in Canada: An Introduction. 4th Edition. Ontario: Thomson Publishing.

APA Style Guide (7th Edition). It is recommended students purchase this text or become familiar with helpful websites to learn how to write and structure academic papers.

* Additional readings may be distributed in class or be posted onto myClass *Desire to Learn

DELIVERY MODE(S): On-Campus

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Examine wellbeing and justice as experienced by diverse community members in their interactions with peoples, social structures, social policies, and legislation;
2. Identify social work theories, practice frameworks and practice methods;
3. Describe attributes and perspectives that are integral to being a professional social worker;
4. Demonstrate an ability to reflect on their own identities and social locations and consider their implications for human interactions and professional social work practice;
5. Demonstrate social work knowledge and skills and describe their application in working with individuals, families, groups and communities of diverse backgrounds in the various fields of practice;
6. Describe issues facing Indigenous peoples and communities, the role of social work in perpetuating colonialism, and contemporary efforts to decolonize social work practice and to honor Indigenous ways of knowing and being; and
7. Identify, analyze and apply social work values, ethics and responsibilities across various professional roles, activities and institutional contexts.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca>.

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

EVALUATIONS:

ASSIGNMENT SPECIFICATION:

The evaluative components consist of:

1. First person values analysis written paper (20%)
2. Ethical Dilemma in Class exercise (10%)
3. Theory analysis worksheet with academic references (30%)
4. Asynchronous Activity – 10%
5. Creation and Review of Final Exam question (10%)
6. Final Examination (take home) (20%)

Assignments submitted late may receive a late penalty of 5% for each day beyond the due date

Note: Assignments are to be submitted via the Course myClass Dropbox. No assignments will be accepted by email.

1. Sept 26, 2023: **Values Analysis 20%**

Reflection paper: 2 – 4 pages. 1st person, formal, APA format (headings are strongly encouraged)

Instructions:

- a) *Rank order* your top four values
- b) *Explain* why these are your core values AND what purpose/function they serve in your life.
- c) *Critical Analysis*: Thinking about the class values exercises you completed, were there contradictions to your positions? Congruence? Emergent themes in relation to your core values?
- d) *Diverse Perspectives*: What was it like to hear other perspectives- the challenges and possibilities in this?
- d) *Conclude* your paper by stating what awareness you are taking forward with you into your chosen profession.

Grading: Please check myClass for grading rubric.

2. October 10, 2023 – **In Class Ethical Dilemma Activity – 10%**

Students will participate in a class activity working through an ethical dilemma in a social work scenario with discussion and debrief following.

3. Oct 17, 2023: **Theory Analysis worksheet paper 30%**

The purpose of this structured theory worksheet paper is for students to critical appraise and determine what factors shape the theories that will guide their social work practice. **APA format (7thEd) MUST be used with referencing of text and three additional current, ACADEMIC references.** Formal academic writing is required.

Instructions: Using Chapters 3 and 4 in Hicks & Stokes as well as myClass readings, academic peer reviewed articles (min. of three NOT including textbook) and class discussions, **COMPLETE EACH ELEMENT OF THE THEORY WORKSHEET IN myClass.**

4. October 30 – November 3 – **Asynchronous Activity – 10%**

In lieu of in person class for this week, students will complete the assignment activity on myClass, create a discussion Board post and respond to 2 other student's posts.

5. December 12- **Creation and review of one final exam question.10 %**

Students will choose an area of particular interest from the course content. Create an exam question in any format. Share your question with the class and provide a max 5-minute review session to review the

answer, referencing class resources and content. Submit question to instructor. 5% for question and 5% for conducting review with class. Questions presented may or may not be incorporated in final exam.

7. **Final Exam – 20%.** Final exam (take home format) The take home final exam will be posted to myClass four days before our scheduled exam submission date. You will have four days to complete the exam before submitting it within the exam window

GRADING CRITERIA

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Grading Chart for courses with Alpha Grading:

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

September 5: Course Orientation/Introduction to Social Work

Required Reading: Hick and Stokes Chapter 1.

Sept.12: History of Social Work and Social Welfare in in Canada/Values – personal and professional

Required Reading Hick & Stokes Chapters 2

- *In Class Values Activity – Attendance and Participation necessary to complete Assignment 1*

Sept. 19: Evolution of Social Work and Social Welfare in Canada

- Social work pioneers: The Tommy Douglas story

Sept 26: Theories and Practice Frameworks

Required Reading Hick and Stokes Chapters 3, 4 and 5

- (***)informs assignment 2 theory worksheet)

[Assignment 1 Due by 5 PM via Dropbox: VALUES REFLECTION PAPER – 20%]

October 3: Theories and Practice Frameworks

- Peer Consultation - Collaborative Class activity to develop and refine Assignment 2 – Theory Worksheet

October 10: The social work profession

Required Reading Hick and Stokes Chapter 14, CASW Code of Ethics, ACSW Standards for Practice

Assignment 2: ETHICAL DILEMMA IN CLASS EXERCISE 10%]

October 17: Social Work and Child Welfare/ Social Work and Health

Required Reading Hick and Stokes, Chapters 5 and 6, The Social Determinants of Health

Assignment 3: THEORY WORKSHEET DUE TO DIGITAL DROPBOX BY 5:00P.M – 30%

Oct 24: Mental Health and Social Work Practice

Required Reading Hick and Stokes Chapter 7

Oct 31 – Asynchronous activity in lieu of class Social Work with Women – A Feminist Approach

- Assignment 4: October 30 – November 3- Complete activity, make Discussion Forum Post, 2 Responses – 10%

November 7: Indigenous People in Social Work

Required Reading Hick and Stokes Chapter 9

November 14 – Fall Break – no class

November 21 : Anti-Racist Social Work Practice

Required Reading Hick and Stokes Chapter 10

November 28: Social Work with Older Canadians and Persons with Disabilities

Required Reading Hick and Stokes Chapter 11 and 13

December 5: Social Work and Sexual and Gender Diversity

Required Reading Hick and Stokes Chapter 12

December 12: COURSE REVIEW AND FINAL EXAM PREPARATION

Assignment 4: 10 % Creation and Review one Exam question based on course content.

Assignment 5 - Final Exam Due December 18th by 11:59 PM– 20%

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Students are expected to attend and participate in classes. Students are also expected to come to class prepared, meaning with assigned readings and tasks completed, and able to engage in meaningful dialogue embracing diverse ideas and perspectives.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.