



**DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION**

**COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2015**

**SW 2010 (A2) INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK – 3(3-0-0) 45 HOURS**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Gail Zuk

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**OFFICE HOURS:** Thursdays 3:30-5:30

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:** None.

**REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:** Hick, Steven. (2010). Social Work in Canada: An Introduction. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Ontario: Thomson Publishing.

APA Style Guide (6<sup>th</sup> 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 Moodle

Supplementary Texts: (available for loan from the instructor)

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** The course is designed to create an environment in which students can begin to critically examine social welfare 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 the society of which they are members and to explore their present and potential roles and responsibilities as engaged citizens in Canada and as future social work practitioners. Readings and content lectures will provide knowledge and information that students can use to examine dominant influences that affect decision-making in relation to social welfare in Canadian society.

**CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS:** 3 credits / 3 hours per week

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** Face-to-Face In class or via video-conference

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. To develop an understanding of the values and ideology relevant to the development of the social welfare system in Canada.
2. To understand the ways in which these values and ideology affect the provision of social services in Canada.
3. To identify students own values and ideas with respect to social welfare and to understand how these have been shaped.
4. To understand the contribution of social welfare to a civil society.
5. To explore social work and impact in the north, rural and Indigenous communities.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Have knowledge of how social work contributes to a social welfare state.
2. Identify social work as a helping profession situated in an ethical framework
3. Evaluate personal suitability to practice social work.
4. Analyze the sociopolitical forces influencing Canada as a social welfare state.

**TRANSFERABILITY:**

Social Work 2010 is a required course for the University of Calgary, Faculty of Social Work's BSW program University of Calgary. For other institutions, Refer to Alberta Transfer guide.

**\*\* 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**

**GRADING CRITERIA:**

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE			
GRADING CONVERSION CHART			
Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A <sup>+</sup>	4.0	90 – 100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	85 – 89	
A <sup>-</sup>	3.7	80 – 84	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B <sup>+</sup>	3.3	77 – 79	
B	3.0	73 – 76	GOOD
B <sup>-</sup>	2.7	70 – 72	
C <sup>+</sup>	2.3	67 – 69	SATISFACTORY

<b>C</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>63 – 66</b>	
<b>C<sup>-</sup></b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>60 – 62</b>	
<b>D<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>55 – 59</b>	<b>MINIMAL PASS</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>50 – 54</b>	
<b>F</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0 – 49</b>	<b>FAIL</b>
<b>WF</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline</b>

**\*\*\*\*Note: Must achieve as a minimum the complete lower percentage of the corresponding letter grade (percentages will NOT be rounded up). There will be a 25% penalty for late submissions of written work. Submissions of assignments beyond one week past original due date will not be graded.**

**EVALUATIONS:** please refer to specification of class assignments section of this document.

**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 PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:**

Refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Admission Guide at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at [www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/\\*\\*](http://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/**)

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

**COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:**

Sept. 3: Introductions

- Instructor and student introductions/expectations
- Review course content
- Review assignments and grading
- Discuss text material

Sept. 10: What is social work and social welfare?

- Major concepts, distinctions and parallels
- Social fabric and social welfare in Canadian society

- (Hick, Chapters 1 – 2)

Sept. 17: What are the values and beliefs informing social work and social welfare?

- Differentiation of social welfare and social work
- Conceptual elements defining connection
- Experiential discussion of social welfare
- Values Exercise

**Sept. 24:** What is the history of social work in Canada?

- Social work pioneers: The Tommy Douglas story
- Social welfare development in Canada
- The emergence of social work as a profession
- (Hick, Chapter 3,5)

**[VALUES PAPER DUE – 10%]**

**Oct 1:** TERM PAPER REVIEW AND APA FORMATTING

- This class will be devoted to working with students on the development of their term paper, including brief outlines and APA formatting.  
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/> please ensure you are familiar with this website PRIOR to class

Oct.8: What are the ideologies and theories informing social work and social welfare?

- Different theories relating to social work
- How approaches and perspectives inform theory and vice versa
- (Hick Chapter 4)

**IN CLASS IDEOLOGY EXERCISE – 10%**

**Oct. 15:** So what is the social work profession?

- The regulation of the social work profession in Canada and Alberta
- The code of ethics and standards of practice
- Adding the northern and rural context  
(Hick, Chapter 5, ACSW code of ethics and standards for practice)

**[CRITICAL REFLECTION DUE: 20%]**

Oct. 22: Social Work Across Systems

- Working with individuals and families
- Working with groups and communities
- Skill sets and contextualized understandings  
(Hick, ch 6-7)

Oct.29 Social Work with Children & Youth

- recognizing the needs of special populations
- Poverty & violence
- Children in Care – AB trends
- (Hick, ch 8)

**Nov. 5:** Social Work with Women

- Family violence
- Feminization of poverty
- Feminist Social Work & Social Justice

(Hick ch 10)  
**[TERM PAPER DUE 30%]**

**Nov.12 – reading break, no class**

Nov.19 : Indigenous People in Social Work

- Development of social welfare programs by and for Indigenous peoples.
  - Success and challenges for Indigenous peoples in social work.
- (Hicks, Chapter 11)

Nov. 26: What is my future in social work in Canada?

- Trends and tensions
- Challenges and opportunities
- Personal SWOT analysis

Dec.3 prepping for final exam – review questions & course summary

**Dec.10: FINAL EXAM (6:00 – 8:00p.m) (30%)**

**SPECIFICATION OF ASSIGNMENTS**

Assignments have been designed to be reflective of the many skills required of a social worker in Canada. The ability to both write and communicate to an audience is important to all social worker roles, as is the ability to work effectively with groups/teams. The assignments therefore reflect this variety. Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments are due by 6:00p.m at the beginning of the corresponding class. **Assignments submitted late will receive a 25% penalty. No assignments will be accepted one week past their due date and therefore will receive a score of “0”.**

**1. Values Analysis (15%, 3-5 pages) September 24**

Note: this is a personal paper, therefore will be written in the first person – still be quite formal, not conversational, follow apa format (12pt font, 1”margins, double spaced, cover page, running head)

- Each student will prepare a three to five page paper of their personal values analysis.

a)Instructions: Rank order your top four values

b)Explain why these are your core values AND what purpose/function they serve in your life.

c) Thinking about the class values exercise you completed, were there contradictions to your positions? Congruence? Themes that emerged? What was it like to hear other perspectives- the challenges and celebrations in this?

d) conclude your paper by stating what awareness you are taking forward with you into your chosen profession.

Grading: papers will be graded upon the following general criteria

- Ability to clearly articulate core values (1)

- Ability to explain both the “why” and the purpose or function of each value (4)
- Analysis of the value statements in relation to social issues addressed in class and how it impacts the personal position of values (4)
- Thoughtful concluding statement of gifts/learning bringing forward (specific and concise) (1)

## **2. In-Class Group Exercise (10%) Oct. 8**

-Students will be divided into groups in class. Each group will be assigned a particular ideological position. The instructor will then raise a number of social issues for each group to prepare a position on; groups will then debate the issue from the basis of their ideological positions.

Group exercise will be evaluated on:

1. 5 Marks: attended and signed the attendance sheet.
2. 5 Marks: contributed ideas to the group members and added to the process.

## **3. Critical Reflection Paper: October 15 (15%, 5 pages)**

- The purpose of this paper is for students to critical appraise and determine what factors shape the theories that will guide their social work practice.

-APA format, will require general referencing of text (referencing format NOT graded in this paper but MUST be applied, may use both third and first person throughout)

Instructions: Using Chapter four in Hicks as a guide as well as our class discussions:

- a) *Theories most suitable to your practice.* Make a determination about which theories you believe will be most suited to your professional practice. Are there particular pieces/tenets of these theories you are particularly drawn to? (5 marks)
- b) *Consideration of Influencing Factors* such as your personal values, the population you would be working with, the code of the profession, your passion that has developed (was there a particular experience(s) that attracted you to the profession that influence what theories you are drawn to? (5 marks)
- c) *Critical Appraisal:* You have considered the theories and factors informing your decision. What do you imagine to be the strengths of this particular perspective/lens for which the theories fall under? What are the challenges or the “blind spots”? Are there particular populations or settings your theories are most applicable to? (10 marks)

## **4. Term Paper: November 5 (30%, 7-10 pages)**

-Students are expected to complete a term paper which describes a particular social issue and a social welfare program designed to address the social issue (ie: universality vs. targeting; Employment

Insurance to deal with poverty, Canada Pension to address well-being of seniors; Head Start Programs to address the unique needs of Aboriginal children)

- Students are required to: critically exam this social issue, using the list of prepared questions and sections that follows:

**\*\*Your paper MUST follow APA format in its referencing, lay-out, and grammar suggestions\*\*\***

**If you are choosing to not purchase the 6<sup>th</sup> edition, there are helpful websites, such as:**

<http://www.writecite.com/students/apa/home.php>. However, be sure to also know how to reference within the body of your paper as well as the required lay-out.

### **TOPIC:**

Select a social issue relevant to social work. This could be things like children in poverty, violence against women, youth crime, elder care, etc. WARNING: you want your topic to be sufficiently detailed to allow for depth in your writing analysis... so children in poverty, not just “poverty” for example or “children in foster care” not just “children in care” which would be too broad. YOU ARE EXPECTED TO USE A MINIMUM OF 7 ACADEMIC REFERENCES IN THIS PAPER (note: websites such as Wikipedia are NOT acceptable)

### **PART A:** (about 3-5 pages)

You are required to critically examine this social issue.

This may include things such as:

- the legislation important to the issue,
- societal values, services, ideologies, theories informing the framing of the issue, etc.

Remember that social welfare programs are designed to address a social issue but they are *not* the social issue.

- Therefore be cautious in how much detail is presented about a particular program, **retaining a focus on the social issue**. Present the information clearly and concisely, using referenced material, and to demonstrate your own understanding (in other words, do *NOT* just cut and paste large amounts of material from other sources – you need to demonstrate understanding of the issue from your own synthesis of referenced ideas) of the social issue.
- In this section you want to: demonstrate a thorough and concise understanding of the social issue, its relevance, and its impact.

### **PART B:** (about 2 pages)

#### **Action Plan:**

- You are then to discuss how you would propose to deal with the social issue, being as specific as possible.
- This may include an innovative social welfare program, differential tax structures, differential community responses, etc. You may elect to add specific contextual information, such as challenges in the North or a specific focus on First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples.
- What theoretical approach would you use in addressing this social issue (see Hick Ch. 4)? Why would this theoretical approach be the “best fit” in addressing the issue?
- in this section you want to: demonstrate an awareness of “solutions” to the problem within the scope of social work practice & social welfare.

**PART C:** (1-2 pages)

**Summary:**

- wrap your paper up by summarizing what you have learned about the social issue – what particularly stands out for you? Why? Any surprises? What was the biggest challenge in considering this social issue? What is social work’s role in addressing this issue? (this section MAY be written in the first person if you choose).
- in this section you want to: demonstrate your learning through engaging in the process of collecting information, synthesizing your ideas, and putting forward your learning.

Grading Criteria for Term Paper:

- Content: organization and flow. Clear presentation of ideas backed up with research (note: students are strongly cautioned about the use of web based resources other than governmental sites or articles in Scholarly journals) Ability to understand concepts and integrate them into a coherent, critical presentation.
- Synthesis and integration: critical and analytic thinking (not just presenting or reporting facts), ability to highlight key areas and make connections. Ability to draw conclusions or make critical argument based on the soundness of what is reviewed. Linkages to class materials and text clear and concise.
- Technical: clarity of writing and expression, non-sexist language, grammar, punctuation, use of APA, citations, and references. Students are strongly encouraged to use headings to organize their paper. Headings may include:
  1. Definitions & why chosen
  2. History of social issue
  3. Development of social programs related to social issue



4. Impact of social issue on different groups of people (students may elect to talk with friends/family to determine how the programs/issue impact others- (reference as “name, verbal communication, and date)
5. Critical analysis of social programs addressing the issue (does it do what intended? What are the faults with the programs? The strengths?)
6. Action Plan

- 7-10 pages, double spaced, APA format, 1”margins, title page, minimum of ten references, 12pt font. Use of headings strongly encouraged.
- To assist in development of clear academic writing, students are encouraged to use both the spelling and grammar tools available through Microsoft word. (click on spelling and grammar, then both, then on next box place checks beside all).

#### 4. **Final Examination (30%) Date: Dec. 11**

- Students will complete a written exam composed of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions compiled from text and article readings as well as in class instruction. Students will be given a selection of questions at the Dec.3 class to assist in preparing for the examination.