

DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences

COURSE OUTLINE - Winter 2026

SW1910: Field Experience Preparation - 1 (3-0-0) 15 Hours 5 weeks Room E302

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:	Kari Robertson, MSW, RSW		
OFFICE:	A203-4	E-MAIL:	krobertson@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	By appt		

INSTRUCTOR:	Ako Ngu, MSW, RSW		
OFFICE:	A203-3	E-MAIL:	angu@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	By appt		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: The field experience preparation course is intended to provide students with a chance to review, integrate, and consolidate their social work learning before joining a professional practice environment. Students will have a chance to discuss professional conduct and social work practice in example scenarios. Methods of reflection and identifying and implementing learning within the field experience will also be examined.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:

SW 1000 and SW1010 with a minimum grade of C

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

- Practicum Field Manual
- CASW Code of Ethics, Values and Guiding Principles 2024 | Canadian Association of Social Workers
- Code of Ethics - ACSW Website
- Standards of Practice - ACSW Website
- The BEST Social Work Theories | | LCSWVIBES. <https://youtu.be/VIgayQc78ik>
- The Integration of Theory and Practice: Boggs, M & Vayda, E., (1998). The practice of field instruction in Social Work: Theory and Process 2nd ed. Toronto: University of Toronto.
- Theory and Practice in Social Work: Bridging the Gap. Faculty Adda Team. June 11, 2025.
- Social Workers, Burnout, and Self-Care: A Public Health Issue - PMC

- Problems Social Workers Face and How To Overcome Them - TOGETHER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
- Navigating Dual Relationships: Ethics, Boundaries, and Responsible Social Work Practice — CYOP Inc.

Week	Topic	Readings	Assignments
Week 1	Introduction to Field Experience	• Field Practicum Manual • CASW Code of Ethics • ACSW Code of Ethics • ACSW Standards of Practice	Readiness reflection paper.
Week 2	Integrating theory into practice	• The Best Social Work Theories https://youtu.be/VIgayQc78ik • <u>The Integration of Theory and Practice</u>: Bogo, M & Vayda, E., (1998) The practice of field instruction in Social Work: Theory and Process 2nd ed. Toronto: University of Toronto • Theory and Practice in Social Work: Bridging the Gap	Skill based application paper.
Week 3	Managing challenges in the field	• Social Workers, Burnout, and Self-Care: A Public Health Issue - PMC • Problems Social Workers Face and How to Overcome Them - TOGETHER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE. • Navigating Dual Relationships: Ethics, Boundaries, and Responsible Social Work Practice — CYOP Inc.	Skill based application paper.
Week 4	Professional Conduct and Ethics	• ACSW Code of Ethics • Standards of practice	Critical thinking paper
Week 5	Setting Learning Goals	• Field Practicum Manual • CASWE Competency Framework • ACSW Code of Ethics	Developing your learning plan.

DELIVERY MODE(S): On-Campus

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Demonstrate an understanding of professional social work values, ethics, and conduct.
- Apply critical thinking and problem-solving skills to social work practice scenarios.
- Identify and articulate personal learning goals for the field experience.
- Utilize reflective practices to assess and improve professional competencies.
- Develop strategies for managing challenges and maintaining self-care in the field.

ASSIGNMENTS-Submit through myClass.

Week 1-Preparing for Field Work-Readiness Reflection Paper - Am I ready? (2-3 pages-APA format-min. 3 references)-Due Mar.22

1. What strengths do you bring to the field?
2. What personal values or biases might impact your practice?
3. What fears or concerns do you have about your practicum?
4. What learning goals are you striving for in your placement?
5. Identify 2 ethical principles that will guide you in your placement.

Week 2-Skill-based Application: Reflection Paper (2-3 pages- APA Format-min. 3 references)-Due Mar 29

1. Explain one theory you have learned and reflect on how that theory guides your practice.
2. Connect this directly to your placement.

Week 3- Skill-based Application-Reflection Paper (2-3 pages-APA Format-min. 3 references)-Due April.5

1. Consider the challenges social workers face in practice, reflect on what challenges you may encounter and explain the strategies you will use to manage those challenges and how you will maintain self-care.

Week 4- Critical Thinking Reflection Paper (2-3 pages-APA Format-min. 3 references)-Due April.12

Case example:

While working in your field placement, a client that you met there adds you on social media. Identify the relevant CASW principles, explain the risks, propose an ethical response, and reflect on boundaries as a student and as a professional.

Week 5-Develop your Individual Learning Plan (ILP) (2 pages APA Format-min. 3 references)-Due April.19

1. Use the learning agreement in the manual to guide the development of your individual learning plan. Include goals that will connect the learning outcomes/topics in this course.
2. Ensure your goals are SMART (specific, measurable, applicable to practice, include timelines and identify how you will demonstrate success and/or skill development.

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	Description	Grade	Due Date
Assignment 1	Introduction to field experience	20	Week 1
Assignment 2	Integrating Theory into Practice	20	Week 2
Assignment 3	Reflective Journal	20	Week 3
Assignment 4	Professional Conduct and Ethics	20	Week 4
Assignment 5	Individual Learning Plan	20	Week 5

GRADING CRITERIA:

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

Grading Chart

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

Note: A minimum grade of C in SW1910 is required as a prerequisite for SW1900 and SW2900. The Social Work Diploma program requires a minimum grade of C in all SW courses to successfully complete the program.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Introduction to Field Experience

This activity introduces students to the requirements and expectations of their field experience. It highlights the importance of professionalism in social work practice and ensures students understand the role of the field supervisor in their learning and development. Activities include a group discussion focused on professional boundaries and ethics, as well as a review of the Field Experience Handbook.

Integrating Theory into Practice

This activity emphasizes the connection between classroom learning and field applications. Students will explore how to apply social work theories to diverse practice settings and analyze case studies as an introduction to scenario-based learning. Activities include small group analysis of case studies to deepen understanding and collaboration.

Managing Challenges in the Field

Students will learn about common challenges encountered during field placements, such as stress, conflict, and workload management. They will develop strategies to foster self-care and resilience and gain practical skills for navigating supervision and feedback effectively. Activities include a workshop on self-care planning and a group discussion on strategies for resolving conflict.

Professional Conduct and Ethics

This module focuses on the social work code of ethics and ethical decision-making in professional practice. Students will learn how to address ethical dilemmas, maintain confidentiality, and implement informed consent in client interactions. Activities include role-playing scenarios to explore ethical challenges and maintaining a reflection journal to examine personal values in the context of professional ethics.

Setting Learning Goals

Students will identify their personal and professional learning objectives and align them with opportunities in their field placement. They will also create an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) to guide their growth throughout the field experience. Activities include drafting and presenting ILPs to their peers and receiving constructive feedback.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Familiarity with Course Content: It is the student's responsibility to review the course outline, learning outcomes, and evaluation methods.

Attendance and Participation: The student is responsible for attending all classes and is expected to participate fully.

Conduct and Respect: The student is expected to behave respectfully toward instructors and peers, fostering a positive learning environment.

Assignment Management: The student is responsible for completing required readings and assignments on time as outlined to obtain credit.

Communication: The student is responsible for checking resources like myClass for updates and announcements.

Academic Integrity: The student must uphold high standards of honesty, avoid plagiarism or misrepresentation, and adhere to institutional policies.

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>