

**DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences**

**COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2024**

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

**Tuesdays: 6 PM – 8:50 PM**

**ROOM E 303**

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.

|                      |                        |                |                      |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| <b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>   | Trish Smith, MSW, RCSW | <b>PHONE:</b>  | Contact by email     |
| <b>OFFICE:</b>       | virtual                | <b>E-MAIL:</b> | TSmith@nwpolytech.ca |
| <b>OFFICE HOURS:</b> | 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:**

Ives, N., Denov, M., & Sussman, T. (2020). Introduction to social work in Canada: Histories, contexts, and practices (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.

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 the MyClass site

## **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 <https://transferalberta.alberta.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. Content quizzes 10% x 3 (30%)
2. APA online quiz – 5%
3. First person values analysis - written paper 25%
4. Social Work and Indigenous Peoples - reflection paper or PowerPoint Presentation 10%
5. Application of a social work theory to a Field of Practice Case Study and Discussion Forum – 30%

**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.**

**Assignment 1 – APA online quiz – 5%** - Due September 17, 2024 by 6 PM Students will review a brief online module explaining use of APA format for writing academic papers and complete the online quiz.

**Assignment 2 –Content quizzes-** 10% x 3 (30%)- students will complete 3 open book quizzes based on assigned readings for the week and content presented in class. Quizzes will be posted to the MyClass site and must be submitted by 6 PM on the due date. Quiz 1 due September 28<sup>th</sup>, Quiz 2 due October 19<sup>th</sup>, Quiz 3 due November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Assignment 3 Values Analysis Written Paper** 25% - October 1, 2024 by 6 PM , 2 – 4 pages. 1<sup>st</sup> person, APA format (headings are strongly encouraged)

Instructions:

**Rank order** your top four values, explain why these are your core values AND what purpose/function they serve in your life.

**Critical Analysis:** Consider the class values exercises you completed; did you hear contradictions to your positions? Agreement? Describe how this impacted your reflections about your core values?

**Diverse Perspectives:** What was it like to hear other perspectives? What are the challenges and possibilities to multiple value perspectives?

**Conclusion.** Explain what awareness you would take forward into social work practice.

Grading: Please see MyClass site for grading rubric.

**Assignment 4 – Reflection Paper ( 1-2 pages) or PowerPoint presentation ( 4-8 slides) –10% - Social Work and Indigenous Peoples – November 5, 2024 by 6 PM**

Following the class on Social Work Indigenous and Indigenous Peoples, students will complete a brief reflection paper or PowerPoint presentation based on the classroom experience. Students must attend the class to be able to complete the assignment. Reflection questions to guide assignment will be provided as part of the class presentation.

**Assignment 5 – Application of theory to a Field of Practice Case Study and Discussion Forum – 30%** - Case Study to be submitted to Dropbox due December 1 , 2024, by 6 PM , Summary of Findings to be Posted to Discussion Forum December 1 by 11:59 PM, Responses to two students posted Summary of Findings due by December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM.

Students will choose one social work theory that was presented as part of the course content and apply it to a case study representing one of the fields of social work practice presented in class. Case studies will be provided on MyClass. Students will choose one Case Study and provide thorough answers to the Case Study questions. Students will create a summary of findings and create a Discussion Forum Post. Students

will respond to two other students' posted summary of findings. Students are expected to demonstrate academic writing skills in all answers and cite sources using APA format 7<sup>th</sup> ed.

## 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 AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

### September 3: Course Orientation/Introduction to Social Work

### September 10: History of Social Work and Social Welfare in in Canada/Values – personal and professional/Ethics in Social Work

- In Class Values Activity – Attendance and Participation necessary to complete Assignment 3
- Required Reading - Chapter 2

### September 17: Evolution of Social Work and Social Welfare in Canada

- Social work pioneers: The Tommy Douglas story
- Required Reading – Chapter 1

ASSIGNMENT 1 – APA ONLINE QUIZ DUE SEPTEMBER 17<sup>th</sup> BY 6 PM - 5%

### September 24: Social Work and Health

- Required Reading – Chapter 6

QUIZ 1 – CHAPTERS 1, 2 AND 6 – DUE SEPTEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup> BY 6 PM – 10%

### October 1: Theories and Practice Frameworks

- Required Reading: - Chapter 3

ASSIGNMENT 3 VALUES ANALYSIS WRITTEN PAPER DUE OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup> BY 6 PM - 20%

**October 8: Social Work with Individuals and Families**

- Required Reading – Chapter 4

**October 15: Social Work with Children**

- Required Reading – Chapter 7

**QUIZ 2 - CHAPTERS 3, 4 AND 7 – DUE OCTOBER 19<sup>TH</sup> BY 6 PM – 10%**

**October 22 : Social Work with Groups and Communities**

- Required Reading – Chapter 5

**October 29 : Indigenous Peoples and Social Work**

- Required Reading Chapter 8

**November 5: Immigrants and Refugees and Social Work**

- Required Reading – Chapter 9

**ASSIGNMENT 4 – REFLECTION PAPER OR POWERPOINT PRESENTATION – SOCIAL WORK AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DUE NOVEMBER 5 BY 6 PM – 10%**

**Fall Break – No Class November 12**

**November 19: Social Work and Sexual and Gender Diversity**

- Required Reading – Chapter 10

**QUIZ 3 – CHAPTERS 5, 9, 10 – DUE NOVEMBER 23 BY 6 PM**

**November 26 : Social Work with People with Disabilities and with Aging**

- Required Reading – Chapter 11 and 12

**ASSIGNMENT 5 – APPLICATION OF A THEORY TO A FIELD OF PRACTICE CASE STUDY AND DISCUSSION FORUM 30 % – CASE STUDY DUE TO DROPBOX DECEMBER 1st BY 6 PM - 20%, SUMMARY OF FINDINGS DISCUSSION FORUM POST DUE DECEMBER 1st BY 11:59 PM – 5 %, RESPONSES TO TWO OTHER STUDENT’S POSTED SUMMARIES DUE DECEMBER 13th BY 6 PM – 5%**

**December 3: International Social Work**

- Required Reading – Chapter 13

**December 10: Class wrap up**

**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.