

DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences

COURSE OUTLINE - Spring 2026

SW1900(A4): Field Experience (15 weeks)

May 4, 2026 – August 20, 2026

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:	C303	E-mail:	krobertson@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	By appointment		

INSTRUCTOR:	Ako Ngu, MSW, RCSW		
OFFICE:	C303	E-mail:	angu@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	By appointment		

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Field experiences afford students an opportunity to apply their learning to direct social work practice. Students will develop practical skills and intervention strategies while working under the supervision of practicing social workers. A seminar component will require students to reflect upon and evaluate their practicum and how they have applied the values, knowledge and skills taught in their core courses.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:

Complete the following:

- SW1000 - Introduction to the Practice of Social Work (3)
- SW1010 - Ethics in Social Work (3)
- SW1910 - Field Experience Preparation (1)

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Field Experience Handbook,

CASW Code of Ethics

ACSW Standards of Practice

No text-book is required for this course but it is recommended you utilize previous textbooks for papers, journals and discussions.

Readings will be assigned throughout the semester

DELIVERY MODE: Remote

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Apply social work theories by utilizing theoretical frameworks to guide assessment and intervention in practice settings.
- Demonstrate developing professional skills through communication, documentation, and advocacy.
- Adhere to ethical standards by practicing within professional ethical guidelines and maintaining confidentiality.
- Analyze personal growth, challenges, and strengths through reflective practice.
- Effectively connect clients with social services and collaborate with teams.
- Apply inclusive, anti-oppressive approaches in diverse settings.

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.transferralberta.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	Field Supervisor Assessment	40	
	Seminar Participation and Engagement	20	
Assignment 2	Reflective Journals	20	
Assignment 3	Final Integration Paper & Presentation	20	

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

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE

Week	Activity	Readings	Topic /Assignments
Week 1 May 4 May 8	Agency placements begin Integrative seminar	Field Practicum Manual Regehr, C., & Glancy, D. (2019). “Workplace Burnout and Self-Care Strategies for Social Workers.” <i>Social Work in Mental Health</i> , 17(1), 75-90.	• Orientation to field practice and timelines • Individual Learning Plan • Burnout and self-care Discussion board Self-care plan
Week 2 May 11 - 15	Field practicum		
Week 3 May 18-22 May 22	Field practicum Integrative seminar	Reamer, F. G. (2018). Ethical dilemmas in social work practice. <i>Social Work</i> , 63(4), 317-326.	Ethical dilemma in social work practice Discussion board Ethical dilemma
Week 4 May 25-29	Field practicum		
Week 5 June 1-5 June 5	Field practicum Integrative seminar	Turner, L. (2020). “Trauma-Informed Social Work: Integrating Theory into Practice.” <i>Journal of Social Work Practice</i> , 34(2), 123-140	Trauma-informed Care Working with Diversity Discussion board Trauma and professional awareness.
Week 6 June 8-12	Field practicum		
Week 7 June 15-19 June 19	Field practicum Integrative seminar	Saleebey, D. (2012). The strengths perspective in social work practice: Extensions and cautions. <i>Social Work</i> , 57(2), 98-108	Mid-term evaluation prep Discussion board Self-assessment of learning, professional growth, challenges, and goals within placement.
Week 8 June 22-26	Field practicum Mid-term Evaluations		
Week 9 June 29-July 3 July 3	Field practicum Integrative seminar	Vital, P. R. C. (2021). Cultural competence and social work practice. <i>Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work</i> , 30(3), 245-260	Cultural Awareness in Social Work
Week 10 July 6-10	Field practicum		

Week	Activity	Readings	Topic /Assignments
Week 11 July 13-17 July 17	Field practicum Integrative seminar		Skills for assessment and intervention in social work. Final evaluation prep Work on final paper and presentation
Week 12 July 20-24	Field practicum		
Week 13 July 27-31 July 31	Field practicum Integrative seminar		Presentations Work on final reflection paper
Week 14 August 3-7	Field Practicum Final Evaluations		
Week 15 August 10-14 August 14	Field placement Integrative Seminar		Presentations Final reflection paper

Field Supervisor Assessment (40%)

Each student will create a learning plan with their supervisor and evaluate their skills on-going through the practicum. There will be a midterm and final evaluation utilizing this learning plan. The evaluation is done by the field supervisor based on professional conduct, skill development, client interactions, assessment of engagement, ethical decision-making, and ability to integrate feedback.

Students who do not have a registered social worker as their supervisor in their practicum will be required to attend group supervision sessions several times throughout the semester. This time may be part of the students' practicum hours if it meets the standards of the ACSW for integrative practice activities.

Seminar Participation & Engagement (20%)

- Active participation in seminar discussions, sharing experiences and reflections.
- Demonstration of critical thinking and integration of theoretical knowledge in discussions.
- Sharing circle and reflection on personal journey of decolonizing your practice.

Reflective Journal (20%)

- Students will use short discussion board entries to reflect on experiences, challenges, and learning moments in practicum, focusing on self-care, ethical practice, cultural awareness, and overall professional development. These will be posted on D2L, and you will be expected to comment on 2 other students' reflections as well.

Final Integration Paper & Presentation (20%)

- Part 1 - A comprehensive paper synthesizing field experiences with theoretical concepts. This paper will follow APA formatting and will be between 2-3 pages.
- Part 2 - Presentation summarizing key learnings, challenges, and professional growth, you can use your paper for this presentation.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

n/a