



CURRICULUM GUIDE: OFFICIAL COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code	SOWK 202	Course Title	Introduction to Social Work			
Credit Value	3	Department	Social Sciences			
No. of weeks	14	Hrs. per week	<i>Lecture</i>	<i>Tutorial</i>	<i>Laboratory</i>	<i>Total</i>
			3	0	0	3
Course Description	<p>This course examines social work from historical, philosophical, and theoretical perspectives. The knowledge, skills, and values of social workers are discussed in the context of relevant codes of ethics and practice standards. Students will explore the diverse roles of social workers in relation to the basic structures and functions of social service agencies. The development of self-awareness is a key component of this course. This course alone does not qualify a student to work in the field. In preparation for further study, students will be invited to consider how their own values, attitudes, and beliefs align with discipline.</p>					
Prerequisite(s)	ENGL 100, 3 credits of PSYC, and 3 credits of SOCI.					
Initial Articulation Targets	<i>UBC</i>	<i>SFU</i>	<i>UVic</i>	<i>UNBC</i>	<i>TRU</i>	
	SOWK 201 (3)	SOSC 2XX (3)	SOCW 200A (1.5)	SOCW 200 (3)	SOCW 2060 (3)	
	For updated information on the transferability of this course, please consult the BC Transfer Guide, www.bctransferguide.ca					
Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain social work from historical, philosophical, and theoretical perspectives. • Demonstrate an understanding of the knowledge, skills, and values of social workers by reporting on relevant codes of ethics and practice standards. • Demonstrate awareness of various roles of social workers as advocates, policy analysts, administrators, activists, educators, counsellors, mediators, and researchers in an oral presentation or written work. • Recognize and describe the three levels of social work intervention including macro (structural/systems/communities); mezzo (neighbourhoods, organizations, and small groups); and micro (individuals and/or families). • Critically analyze the intersecting social structures in Canadian society and how this context and other factors influence people through marginalization, oppression, and privilege. • Explain how social work assists people in managing their daily lives by conceptualizing clients as consumers and partners, and by describing the role of self-help groups. • Analyze how particular contexts and environments shape people's lives and behaviours. • Examine the implications of personal development in emotional, cognitive, behavioural, and social domains. 					



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply the Canadian Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics and Ethical Practice Guidelines to conduct and communication in this course. • Develop essential skills that social workers would use to function in a decolonizing and anti-oppressive framework, including self-knowledge and communication.
Content	<p>Core topics – all of the following will be covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The historical, philosophical, and theoretical foundations of social work. • The knowledge, skills, and values of social workers. • Codes of ethics and practice standards. • The roles of social workers as advocates, policy analysts, administrators, activists, educators, counsellors, mediators, and researchers amid social service functions and agencies. • Context and environment as influences on human behaviour. • Clients as consumers, partners, and the role of self-help groups. • The alignment of personal and professional identities. • Addressing systemic racism in social work practice to support marginalized people, including racial and ethnic minorities and Indigenous people, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve equal opportunity and justice • Promote racial and social justice in elections processes by facilitating voter registration and participation in community activism • Identify unjust norms and work to dismantle racist practices and policies <p>Additional topics may also be covered, at the discretion of the instructor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding and applying decolonizing anti-oppression principles and approaches to a range of social work settings. • Trauma-informed praxis. • Using technology and internet-based platforms to increase access to applications of care.
Methods of Instruction	<p>Lectures with an emphasis on creative, interactive, and experiential learning using Indigenous principles of learning where possible. Contact time will include demonstrations, small group discussions and activities such as role playing, case study analyses, concept mapping, and discipline-specific research.</p>
Required Textbook(s)	<p>The following textbook(s) is/are required, or approved equivalent(s).</p> <p>Ives, N., Denov, M. & Sussman, T. (2020). Introduction to Social Work in Canada: Histories, Contexts, and Practices (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Supplemental Text(s):</p> <p>Allison, K. and Nightbird, M. (2020). Toolkit for Teaching Communication Skills in Social Work*University of British Columbia. (Open Educational Resource)</p> <p>Hick, S. & Stokes, J. (2016). Social work in Canada: An introduction (4th Ed.). Toronto. Thompson Educational Publishing.</p>



Required Equipment and Technology	<p>Students are required to have a computer with internet access.</p> <p>The following resources are provided by the College:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office 365 • Student email 		
Homework Hours	At minimum, students can expect one hour of homework for every hour of instructional time.		
Evaluation	<i>Component</i>	<i>% Value</i>	
	Quizzes and assignments	10-20%	
	Group work	10-20%	
	Midterm examination	15-25%	
	Reflective term paper	20-30%	
Final examination	20-30%		
Completion Requirements	The minimum grade to pass this course is D (50%). Unless otherwise stated, a minimum grade of C- (55%) is required for this course to fulfil a prerequisite.		
Course Designer(s)	Chris Rahim, M.A., Sociology instructor, Alexander College	Consultant(s), if applicable	Kevin Hamilton, Ph.D., (Chair) Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Dean's Approval	Steven Roe, Ph.D., Dean of Arts and Sciences, Alexander College	Dean's Approval Date	February 7, 2023
Curriculum Committee Approval Date	February 7, 2023	First Term Offered	Spring 2024
Last Review Date	February 7, 2023	Next Review Date	February 7, 2028
Revision History			