



## I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce students to the profession of Social Work and Social Service Work and to provide an environment to enhance student's academic, field, and professional success. The fundamental goal of the course is to prepare students for Social Service Work practice by introducing the profession of Social Service Work, the guiding ethics, values and roles of the profession, and the practice frameworks (theories and models) used to create change. Students will be introduced to the theoretical knowledge and practice models required within the profession.

## II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Express understanding and knowledge of the history and current status of the Social Work profession

### Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Describe key historical influences in the development of the profession of social work
- Describe the mission, purpose and functions of the Social Work profession
- Describe and demonstrate a basic understanding of the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (OCSWSSW) Code of Ethics
- Demonstrate ability to locate and utilize the website and contents of the OCSWSSW

2. Engage in self-reflection and skill development that promotes understanding of the "SSW role" and consistency with the SSW professional standards.

### Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Demonstrate a beginning understanding of the scope of practice and range of SSW roles
- Identify personal values/beliefs/attitudes about helping & "help-seeking behaviours"
- Describe the basic values and ethics of the profession
- Demonstrate ability to "model" SSW values/ethics in the classroom
- Demonstrate willingness to "risk" and learn in order to demonstrate integration of theories studied
- Model respectful, non-judgmental verbal/non-verbal communication strategies

3. Identify and utilize learning success strategies for the College SSW experience.

### Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Demonstrate knowledge of College learning and support resources (location, how to access, resources available)
- Demonstrate effective writing skills required for the profession and ability to seek assistance in developing written skills, as required

- Demonstrate effective organizational and time management strategies (i.e., use of an appointment/agenda book/electronic calendar/palm to track academic commitments, ability to meet deadlines, etc.)
  - Identify and utilize stress management and personal success strategies
  - Demonstrate ability to learn and use technology as required by the program and profession (i.e., computer (internet, D2L, email, word processing, etc.) photocopy machine, etc.)
  - Demonstrate organizational skills
- 4 Demonstrate ability to understand and apply key social work theories, concepts and models

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Identify, describe and compare key theories, models and perspectives used in the Social Service Work profession (i.e. Anti-oppressive, structural, generalist, strengths-based, aboriginal, feminist)
  - Demonstrate understanding of the basic concepts of power, values, social justice, oppression, equality and diversity from an anti-oppressive social work stance
  - Demonstrate understanding of how to apply theories/models from an evidence-based approach
  - Describe generalist practice principles and demonstrate understanding of the levels of generalist practice: micro, mezzo and macro
  - Show beginning level critical thinking skills regarding theories studied
5. Demonstrate ability to successfully participate within a team approach

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Demonstrate effective interpersonal, team work and collaborative learning skills in class
- Demonstrate reliability as required in a team approach
- Demonstrate ability to constructively and clearly communicate with team members
- Demonstrate ability to problem-solve and proactively address differences within the team
- Demonstrate ability to seek consultation as appropriate/required
- Actively participate in class activities, discussions, and role-play situations
- Assess, reflect and act upon constructive feedback from others
- Plan and present (as relevant) both verbal and written reports

This course addresses the SSW vocational outcomes (#1, 2, 3, and 7) related to development of professional and ethical relationships, identification of micro, mezzo and macro level challenges and interventions, recognizing diversity and effective community responses, and strategies for developing self awareness and self care plans. Additionally, the essential skills outcomes (#1 3, 5 and 6) regarding effective communication, critical thinking, interpersonal skill development and personal management are addressed.

Students are to refer to the Course Outline posted on the portal in addition to this course outline.

### III. TOPICS

- Understanding the profession of social work/social service work and the scope of practice,
- Understanding the social work/social service work profession
- History of the profession
- Social Service Worker roles and practice and functioning at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels
- Social work theories and models of practice
- Developing a healthy professional and personal self
- Guidelines for succeeding in the profession and the SSW program

### IV. RESOURCES/TEXTS/MATERIALS: (Note: the textbook will be used in other courses in the SSW program)

1. Heinonen, T. & Spearman, L. (2010). *Social Work Practice*

*Problem-Solving and Beyond*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. Toronto: Nelson Education. This text is a required text in SSW 121.

Other resources will be assigned.

### V. EVALUATION PROCESS/GRADING SYSTEM

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|---|-----|
| 1. Student Success/Learning Plan and calendar                                   | 15% |
| 2. Theory assignment  | 20% |
| 3. Tests/Exams  | 40% |
| 4. Social issue folder and presentations  | 15% |
| 5. Attendance/Participation & Professional Skill Development                    | 10% |
| (must maintain 70% attendance rate) See page 7 of course outline for guidelines |     |

**Note: the SSW 105 course requires a minimum of 60% to be successful in this course. Grades below this will be considered a failure of this course.**

The following semester grades will be assigned to students:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Grade Point Equivalent</u>
A+	90 – 100%	4.00
A	80 – 89%	3.00
B	70 - 79%	2.00
C	60 - 69%	1.00
D	50 – 59%	0.00
F (Fail)	49% and below	0.00
CR (Credit)	Credit for diploma requirements has been awarded.	

S	Satisfactory achievement in field /clinical placement or non-graded subject area.
U	Unsatisfactory achievement in field/clinical placement or non-graded subject area.
X	A temporary grade limited to situations with extenuating circumstances giving a student additional time to complete the requirements for a course.
NR	Grade not reported to Registrar's office.
W	Student has withdrawn from the course without academic penalty.

**Note:** For such reasons as program certification or program articulation, certain courses require minimums of greater than 50% and/or have mandatory components to achieve a passing grade. It is also important to note, that the minimum overall GPA required in order to graduate from a Sault College program remains 2.0.

## VI. SPECIAL NOTES:

### Attendance:

Sault College is committed to student success. There is a direct correlation between academic performance and class attendance; therefore, for the benefit of all its constituents, all students are encouraged to attend all of their scheduled learning and evaluation sessions. This implies arriving on time and remaining for the duration of the scheduled session. *It is the SSW program policy that once the classroom door has been closed, the learning process has begun. Late arrivers may not be granted admission to the room.*

### **Students must maintain a 70% attendance rate to be successful in the course.**

Students who fall below the expected rate of attendance will be subject to academic penalty (full grade deduction) and/or failure of the course. In exceptional circumstances, students with substantiated and substantial reasons for absences beyond the attendance requirement, the student must meet with professor and be prepared to complete additional assignment to demonstrate core vocational skills related to the course outcomes.

### **Other Notes:**

1. Students must be prepared for each class (readings completed) and be willing to be actively involved in classroom discussion to promote the application of theories studied.
2. Electronic devices must be used appropriately and for class purposes. Cell phones or other devices must be put on silent mode. Students may respond to a call or may check text messages outside of class. Violations of this may lead to the student being asked to leave the classroom and appropriate sanctions implemented as per Student Code of Conduct. Other types of disruptions will be treated similarly.

3. Laptops are permitted for note-taking purposes only and/or professor directed learning activities. Students are expected to adhere to Sault College Code of Conduct with respect to use of technology in classroom.
4. Assignments are expected to be submitted, stapled, at the beginning of class on the established due dates. Late assignments will be subject to a 10% per day late penalty (including weekends).
5. Students who are absent for substantial reason when an assignment is due may email the assignment to the professor through D2L. A hard copy is expected upon return to College in a timely manner (usually within one week of the due date).
6. Students may negotiate extensions for assignments one week in advance of due date for substantial reasons. Approval is at the professor's discretion.
7. Assignments cannot be re-submitted to achieve a higher grade. Students may forward draft work one week in advance of due dates to seek feedback.
8. Students are responsible to contact the professor directly and immediately when substantial and substantiated reasons create the need for missing an exam. Students must email the professor immediately and prior to the beginning of scheduled exam requesting a make-up test and state the reasons why this is needed. Consideration and determination of the opportunity to make up a missed exam is at the professor's discretion. Generally, this is granted only for exceptional circumstances. The student must book a time with the testing centre within the time span that the professor requires.
9. Students are to view the classroom as opportunity to "model" and "practice" SSW values and ethics of professionalism, thus classroom behavior is to reflect respect, ability to effectively work with others, communicate and problem-solve.
10. Students are reminded of the need to be familiar with the SSW program policies and the Sault College Student Code of Conduct.
11. D2L is the Sault College primary learning management system and it is expected that students familiarize with and use D2L to encourage success/regular communication with professor/review course materials/announcements.

## **VII. COURSE OUTLINE ADDENDUM:**

The provisions contained in the addendum located on the portal form part of this course outline.