

SAULT COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO



Sault College

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE TITLE: FAMILY STRUCTURE

CODE NO. : NSA 111 **SEMESTER:** Three

PROGRAM: NATIVE COMMUNITY WORKER/SOCIAL SERVICES
WORKER PROGRAM

AUTHOR: NATIVE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

DATE: Sept/04 **PREVIOUS OUTLINE DATED:** Sept/03

APPROVED:

DEAN

DATE

TOTAL CREDITS: 3

PREREQUISITE(S): N/A

**LENGTH OF
COURSE:** 15 WEEKS

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS:

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For additional information, please contact the Dean
School of Health and Human Services
(705) 759-2554, Ext. 603/689

Course Name

Code No.**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

There is an undeniable link between healthy family structure and a healthy community life. To work effectively in the community, we must be aware of both healthy and unhealthy family dynamics and situations. This course will explore changes in the Native family structure and issues challenging all families, including family violence. Additionally, relevant social work theory and fields of practice with families will be introduced. Students will learn beginning assessment and intervention skills for working with families.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE:

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

1. Identify challenges that Native families experience when attempting to adapt “pre-contact” child-rearing techniques in today’s society.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Understand common “pre-contact” family and community roles and lifestyles
- Differentiate between individual First Nation peoples (i.e. Ojibwe, Iroquois, Cree)
- Connect concept of community as caretaker to idea of family

2. Uncover the roots of current Native family issues in the North American Native experience

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Identify various catalysts which changed First Nations family structures and community
- Begin to comprehend the role of Residential Schools in the breakdown of First Nations family structure
- Connect First Nations historical experience with “contact” to current First Nations issues related to family and community

3. Anticipate the needs of individuals/families who exhibit characteristics/situational clues of the dynamics of family violence.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Understand concepts of Family of Origin, dealing with change and role of family
- Construct a personal and professional understanding of the dynamics of spousal violence, child abuse and elder abuse
- Integrate knowledge of all types of family violence with Canadian First Nations experience

4. Chart a genogram, which includes complete family information available.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Gain knowledge of concept of genogram and its uses in the social services field
- Apply concepts of genogram to a variety of family types and circumstances
- Recognize the genogram as an assessment & intervention tool

5. Demonstrate beginning understanding of social work skills with families

- Identify and describe social work theoretical approaches with families
- Apply relevant assessment skills with a variety of family situations
- Develop culturally appropriate interventions with a variety of family situations
- Understand and apply empowerment when working with families
- Identify ethical and legal issues relevant to working with families

III. TOPICS:

Due to overlap in subject areas, these topics will not always be dealt with in isolated learning units.

1. Native Family Link to Community
 - 1.1 Pre-contact Family Structure
 - 1.2 Community as Care-Taker

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2. Effects on Native Family Structure of "Contact"
 - 2.1 Influence on Language, Spirituality, and Family Roles
 - 2.2 Influence of Residential Schools
 - 2.3 Influence of the "Welfare" system on Northern Ojibwe
3. Current Issues Challenging Native & Non-Native Families
4. Family Violence
 - 4.1 Main Issues
 - 4.2 Spousal Violence
 - 4.3 Child Sexual Abuse
 - 4.4 Child Physical Abuse
 - 4.5 Child Neglect
 - 4.6 Elder Abuse (if time allows)
5. Social Work With Families: Knowledge, Theory and Skills
 - 5.1 The Context of Helping Families
 - 5.2 The field of family social work
 - 5.3 Family Assessment & Intervention
6. Application of Genograms in Family Work

IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES/TEXTS/MATERIALS:

Thomlison, Barbara (2002). *Family Assessment Handbook An Introductory Practice Guide to Family Assessment and Intervention*. Scarborough: Thomson Nelson

V. EVALUATION PROCESS/GRADING SYSTEM:

One Case Study	20%
Genogram Assignment	15%
Report on Social Work/Social Services Work with families (i.e. elder abuse, families Violence, families raising special needs Children,)	25%
Final Exam	25%
Attendance & Participation	15%
Total	100 %

Due Dates to be determined by the instructor.

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1. One case study will be completed for this course. The completed papers will be worked on individually and handed in. Specifics on process and format will be provided in class.

2. One exam will be given in this course. Exam **CANNOT** be rewritten in order to obtain a higher grade. Exam may be rescheduled, at the discretion of the instructor, for substantiated reasons for absence on exam day. Students **MUST** make rescheduling arrangements direct and **IMMEDIATELY** with the instructor.

3. The Genogram Genograms are used in the social service field to chart family history. Specifics on process and format will be provided in class.

4. Report on Social Work/Social Services Work with families. Instructor must approve topics. Report will be 3 – 5 typewritten pages and utilize a minimum of 3 current professional resources. Specifics on format and content to be given in class by instructor.

The following semester grades will be assigned to students in post-secondary courses:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Grade Point Equivalent</u>
A+	90 – 100%	4.00
A	80 – 89%	
B	70 - 79%	3.00
C	60 - 69%	2.00
D	50 – 59%	1.00
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.	

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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:

Significant learning takes place in the classroom through an interactive learning approach; therefore, **ALL students must attend 60% of the classes to obtain a passing grade.**

ALL assignments are to be handed in on the due date and are to be typewritten. Any late assignments will be penalized 1% per day late.

Special Needs:

If you are a student with special needs (e.g. physical limitations, visual impairments, hearing impairments, or learning disabilities), you are encouraged to discuss required accommodations with your instructor and/or the Special Needs office. Visit the Special Needs office (Room E1101, ext. 703) so that support services can be arranged for you.

Retention of course outlines:

It is the responsibility of the student to retain all course outlines for possible future use in acquiring advanced standing at other postsecondary institutions.

Plagiarism:

Students should refer to the definition of “academic dishonesty” in *Student Rights and Responsibilities*. Students who engage in “academic dishonesty” will receive an automatic failure for that submission and/or such other penalty, up to and including expulsion from the course/program, as may be decided by the professor/dean. In order to protect students from inadvertent plagiarism, to protect the copyright of the material referenced, and to credit the author of the material, it is the policy of the department to employ a documentation format for referencing source material.

Course outline amendments:

The Professor reserves the right to change the information contained in this course outline depending on the needs of the learner and the availability of resources.

Substitute course information is available in the Registrar's office.

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VII. PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT:

Students who wish to apply for advanced credit in the course should consult the professor. Credit for prior learning will be given upon successful completion of a challenge exam or portfolio.

VIII. DIRECT CREDIT TRANSFERS:

Students who wish to apply for direct credit transfer (advanced standing) should obtain a direct credit transfer form from the Dean's secretary. Students will be required to provide a transcript and course outline related to the course in question.