COURSE OUTLINE: SSW125 - INTRO TO SSW THEORY

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Course Code: Title	SSW125: INTRODUCTION TO SSW THEORY AND PRACTICE
Program Number: Name	1203: SOCIAL SERV WORKER
Department:	SOCIAL SERVICE WORKER
Academic Year:	2025-2026
Course Description:	This course introduces students to foundational social work knowledge and theories that guide the SSW profession. Students are introduced to the history, values, roles, SSW scope of practice, fields of practice and theories that inform social service work. Attention is given to ecological, anti-oppressive, indigenous and empowerment perspectives that guide our understanding with individuals, families, groups, and communities.
Total Credits:	3
Hours/Week:	3
Total Hours:	42
Prerequisites:	There are no pre-requisites for this course.
Corequisites:	There are no co-requisites for this course.
Substitutes:	NSW101
This course is a pre-requisite for:	SSW207, SSW306
Vocational Learning Outcomes (VLO's) addressed in this course: **Please refer to program web page for a complete listing of program outcomes where applicable.**	**1203 - SOCIAL SERV WORKER** VLO 1 Develop respectful and collaborative professional and interpersonal relationships that adhere to professional, legal, and ethical standards aligned to social service work. VLO 2 Record information accurately and communicate effectively in written, digital, verbal and non-verbal ways, in adherence to privacy and freedom of information legislation, in accordance with professional and workplace standards. VLO 3 Integrate a practice framework within a service delivery continuum, addressing the needs of individuals, families and communities at micro, mezzo, macro and global levels, and work with them in achieving their goals. VLO 4 Plan and implement accessible and responsive programs and services, recognizing the diverse needs and experiences of individuals, groups, families and communities, and meeting these needs. VLO 5 Examine current social policy, relevant legislation, and political, social, historical, and/or economic systems and their impacts for individuals and communities when delivering services to the user/client. VLO 6 Develop strategies and approaches that support individual clients, groups, families and communities in building the capacity for self-advocacy, while affirming their dignity and self-worth.

	VLO 7 Work from an anti-oppressive, strengths-based practice, recognizing the capacity for resilience and growth of individuals and communities when responding to the diverse needs of marginalized or vulnerable populations to act as allies and advocates.
	VLO 9 Work with individuals, groups, families and their communities to ensure that service provider strategies promote social and economic justice, and challenge patterns of oppression, discrimination and harassment, and sexual violence with clients, coworkers and communities.
	VLO 10 Develop the capacity to work with the Indigenous individual, families, groups and communities while respecting their inherent rights to self-determine, and to identify and address systemic barriers that produce ill-effects, developing appropriate responses using approaches such as trauma informed care practice.
Essential Employability Skills (EES) addressed in this course:	**EES 1** Communicate clearly, concisely and correctly in the written, spoken, and visual form that fulfills the purpose and meets the needs of the audience.
	EES 2 Respond to written, spoken, or visual messages in a manner that ensures effective communication.
	EES 4 Apply a systematic approach to solve problems.
	EES 5 Use a variety of thinking skills to anticipate and solve problems.
	EES 6 Locate, select, organize, and document information using appropriate technology and information systems.
	EES 8 Show respect for the diverse opinions, values, belief systems, and contributions of others.
	EES 9 Interact with others in groups or teams that contribute to effective working relationships and the achievement of goals.
	EES 10 Manage the use of time and other resources to complete projects.
	EES 11 Take responsibility for ones own actions, decisions, and consequences.
Course Evaluation:	Passing Grade: 50%, D A minimum program GPA of 2.0 or higher where program specific standards exist is required for graduation.
Other Course Evaluation & Assessment Requirements:	Students are to refer to the Course Syllabus/Learning Plan for links to required readings. Students are to review, understand and adhere to the SSW Skill Acquisition, Contribution/Participation & Professional Development Guidelines and Sault College Course Addendum. *Note: This course introduces SSW Vocational Outcomes & Elements of Performance: 1.a,b,c,e,k.l.o,2.f,3.d, 4.a,b,d,5.a,b,c,e,6.b,7.a,f,h,9.c,10.b,d,e,h

Course Outcomes and Learning Objectives:

Course Outcome 1	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1
1. Express understanding and knowledge of the social work and social service work profession and the roles and scope of practice of the Social Service Worker.	1.1 Describe the purpose of the social work and social service work profession 1.2 Define the scope of practice of SSW 1.3 Identify and define the core values and ethics of the profession 1.4 Describe legislative framework and body governing social service work in Ontario 1.5 Identify the origins of historical foundational concepts and

Course Outcome 2	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 2
2. Develop professional skills required for beginning level SSW practice.	2.1 Accept and use feedback related to strengths and limitation showing personal and professional responsibility for one`s learning and development. 2.2 Use effective writing skills to produce written work that is clear, concise, organized and edited. 2.3 Identify and apply organizational and time management strategies (i.e., use of an appointment/agenda book/electronic calendar to track academic commitments, ability to meet deadlines, etc.) 2.4 Employ technology as required by the program and profession (i.e., computer, word-processing, internet, college learning management system (D2L), email, photocopy machine, etc.) 2.5 Participate and apply SSW academic, professional, interpersonal and theoretical skills in class 2.6 Show ability to listen and respect diverse thoughts, values and opinions of others. 2.7 Adhere to established class guidelines and contribute to effective team work in class
Course Outcome 3	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 3
3. Demonstrate beginning ability to explain, identify and apply key social work theoretical models and practice approaches with individuals, families, groups and communities.	3.1 Examine and explain the role of theory in social service work practice 3.2 Describe the process of selecting particular theoretical perspectives 3.3 Define what is meant by evidence based practice models 3.4 Explain the strengths and limitations of theoretical models studied 3.5 Practice theory application to social service work practice through case studies/course activities. 3.6 Define and describe principles of Indigenous worldview in social service work practice. 3.7 Affirm the unique stories of people and situations to direct choice of theory in a culturally safe manner
Course Outcome 4	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 4
4. Demonstrate beginning understanding of	4.1 Define and describe the core principles of Anti-oppressive social work approach

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issues of social work practice
1.6 Explain SSW fields of practice at the individual, family, group and community level
1.7 Define and describe the various SSW roles and functions within the human services field

	anti-oppressive social work theory.	4.2 Define and describe oppression at the personal, cultural and structural inter-related levels. 4.3 Explain the interlocking nature of oppression and the concept of intersectionality. 4.4 Apply through case studies anti-oppressive/anti-racist practice on micro, mezzo and macro levels of social service work practice 4.5 Describe the relationship between human rights, social justice and anti-oppressive and anti-racist theory
	Course Outcome 5	**Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 5**
	5. Demonstrate beginning understanding of empowerment based theories and approaches.	5.1 Identify and define empowerment based theories, perspectives and approaches 5.2 Define and describe the core principles of resiliency and strengths based approach 5.3 Describe how strengths based approach supports self determination and well-being of clients 5.4 Describe and identify SSW strategies and skills that empower individuals and families 5.5 Differentiate deficit-based and strengths-based approach
	Course Outcome 6	**Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 6**
	6. Demonstrate beginning understanding of ecological/systems perspective as core to generalist social service practice.	6.1 Define and describe core features of ecological perspective 6.2 Define and describe systems theory 6.3 Recognize that a holistic and person in environment distinguishes our profession from other helping disciplines 6.4 Explain the multiple roles of a SSW on micro, mezzo and macro levels 6.5 Apply through case studies an ecological perspective

Evaluation Process and Grading System:	Evaluation Type	Evaluation Weight
	Application of Theory to Case Study(ies)	30%
	SSW Skill Acquisition, Professional Development and Participation	10%
	Tests/Knowledge Checks	40%
	Theory Assignment	20%

Date:	June 17, 2025
Addendum:	Please refer to the course outline addendum on the Learning Management System for further information.