



COURSE OUTLINE: SSW303 - SSW PRACT W FAMILIES

Prepared: Nicole Falldien, MSW, RSW

Approved: Karen Hudson - Dean

Course Code: Title	SSW303: SSW PRACTICE WITH FAMILIES
Program Number: Name	1203: SOCIAL SERV WORKER
Department:	SOCIAL SERVICE WORKER
Academic Year:	2025-2026
Course Description:	Currently and historically, the social work profession has been instrumental in providing support and interventions to families in need. This course will provide students the necessary knowledge and skills to assess and intervene with diverse families in the community. Specifically, the course will promote students` ability to foster family resilience through a variety of best practice interventions.
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:	NSW125, SSW217
Vocational Learning Outcomes (VLO's) addressed in this course:	1203 - SOCIAL SERV WORKER
Please refer to program web page for a complete listing of program outcomes where applicable.	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 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 8 Develop strategies and approaches to implement and maintain holistic self-care as a member of a human service profession.



Essential Employability Skills (EES) addressed in this course:	<p>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.</p> <p>EES 2 Respond to written, spoken, or visual messages in a manner that ensures effective communication.</p> <p>EES 4 Apply a systematic approach to solve problems.</p> <p>EES 5 Use a variety of thinking skills to anticipate and solve problems.</p> <p>EES 6 Locate, select, organize, and document information using appropriate technology and information systems.</p> <p>EES 7 Analyze, evaluate, and apply relevant information from a variety of sources.</p> <p>EES 8 Show respect for the diverse opinions, values, belief systems, and contributions of others.</p> <p>EES 9 Interact with others in groups or teams that contribute to effective working relationships and the achievement of goals.</p> <p>EES 10 Manage the use of time and other resources to complete projects.</p> <p>EES 11 Take responsibility for ones own actions, decisions, and consequences.</p>
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Course Evaluation:	<p>Passing Grade: 50%, D</p> <p>A minimum program GPA of 2.0 or higher where program specific standards exist is required for graduation.</p>
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Other Course Evaluation & Assessment Requirements:	<p>Students are to be familiar with the SSW Skill Acquisition, Professional Development and Participation Guidelines/Rubric, Sault College Addendum, and Student Rights and Responsibilities to facilitate success in the course.</p> <p>*Note: This course meets SSW Vocational Learning Outcomes and Elements of Performance: 1.b,c,d,f,g,i,2.a,b,c,f,3.a,b,c,d,f,4.a,b,c,e,6.a,b,c,d,e,f,g,7.a,b,c,f,h,8.d,e,10.b,c,d,f</p>
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Books and Required Resources:	<p>An Introduction to Family Social Work by Collins, D., Jordan, C., Coleman, H., Collins, T. & Corey, D. Publisher: Cengage Learning Edition: 4th Ed. ISBN: 9781133312628</p>
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Course Outcomes and Learning Objectives:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Course Outcome 1</th> <th>Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.Demonstrate understanding of the diversity of Canadian families and the systemic complexities of family challenges.</td> <td> 1.1 Define family and identify the demographics of families in Canada/Ontario 1.2 Discuss the diverse nature and needs of contemporary Canadian families related to factors such as race, culture, ethnicity, social and economic class, gender and sexual orientation 1.3 Identify how these factors may impact interactions within the family and between the family and community systems 1.4 Acknowledge the impact of trauma, oppression and colonization on families and assist in development of holistic healing plans and/or goal plans in collaborative manner 1.5 Apply culturally safe and competent practice with families </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Course Outcome 1	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1	1.Demonstrate understanding of the diversity of Canadian families and the systemic complexities of family challenges.	1.1 Define family and identify the demographics of families in Canada/Ontario 1.2 Discuss the diverse nature and needs of contemporary Canadian families related to factors such as race, culture, ethnicity, social and economic class, gender and sexual orientation 1.3 Identify how these factors may impact interactions within the family and between the family and community systems 1.4 Acknowledge the impact of trauma, oppression and colonization on families and assist in development of holistic healing plans and/or goal plans in collaborative manner 1.5 Apply culturally safe and competent practice with families
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Course Outcome 2	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 2
2. Demonstrate understanding of the role, ethics and scope of practice of the SSW in family work.	<p>2.1 Explain the role of SSW and scope of practice in working with families</p> <p>2.3 Explain the difference between family social work and family therapy</p> <p>2.2 Describe the agency and community context for family practice</p> <p>2.3 Demonstrate knowledge and application of assessment and intervention approaches within the context of social service work scope of practice</p> <p>2.4 Engage in self-reflection of one`s own beliefs, values, biases, world view about families to develop culturally safe practices with diverse families</p> <p>2.5 Gain self-awareness to understand one`s own family and implications with family work by completing course assignments</p>
Course Outcome 3	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 3
3. Demonstrate understanding of the family life cycle model and developmental stages of family life .	<p>3.1 Describe and explain the family developmental stages and the critical roles and tasks related to each stage</p> <p>3.2 Apply knowledge or family resiliency and protective factors that assist families with various challenges impacting their family life cycle</p> <p>3.3 Identify cultural variations in family development stages</p> <p>3.4 Identify the different phases and apply the related practice skills and tasks with families</p>
Course Outcome 4	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 4
4. Demonstrate professional practice skills for working with families based on a strengths-based model rather than one of disorder and deficit.	<p>4.1 Identify and adopt family social work principles, values and beliefs that respect inclusivity and a non-judgmental approach</p> <p>4.2 Discuss, describe and apply family systems theory, family resiliency and other family social work theories/findings to social service work interventions/approaches with families</p> <p>4.3 Demonstrate knowledge of community agencies and organizations that would benefit and support families and their referral processes</p> <p>4.4 Demonstrate the ability to assess and document both strengths and vulnerabilities of families</p> <p>4.5 Utilize anti-oppressive, trauma-informed and strengths-based interview questions, methods and interventions with families</p> <p>4.6 Develop and document assessment and intervention approaches that build on the families` formal and informal sources of support</p> <p>4.7 Demonstrate ability to establish and document clear and measurable goals developed collaboratively with families</p> <p>4.8 Describe family centered practice principles and successful engagement skills with families</p>

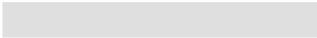
	4.9 Identify and use techniques and tools specific to working with families such as yet not limited to genograms and eco-maps
Course Outcome 5	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 5
5. Demonstrate understanding of the complex challenges that contribute to at-risk families, and formulate effective, culturally informed, strengths-based interventions that address these challenges.	5.1 Demonstrate ability to deliver evidence and strengths-based interventions based on mutually determined family needs, protective factors and family-centered goals 5.2 Demonstrate ability to identify and advocate for access to services for families 5.3 Promote and support family self advocacy and self determination that challenges patterns of oppression and discrimination 5.4 Identify the presenting challenges of families in the context of larger structural and systemic issues and best practice approaches 5.5 Utilize assessment tools and techniques useful in effectively supporting families and their own resilience and self-determination
Course Outcome 6	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 6
6. Record and communicate effectively in written, digital, verbal and non-verbal ways in accordance with professional SSW standards and essential employability skills.	6.1 Complete objective, concise, clear documentation related to SSW family practice 6.2 Apply and integrate effective counseling/SSW helping skills to engage and collaborate with families, inter-disciplinary teams/groups and Indigenous helpers, Elders or other relevant cultural helpers as appropriate 6.3 Use and apply various forms of communication, technological tools, data collection and research skills in SSW work with families and inter-disciplinary teams 6.4 Use effective communication skills with classmates, professors, colleagues that enable accountability, self awareness, profession growth and competent individual, team and family practice skills

Evaluation Process and Grading System:

Evaluation Type	Evaluation Weight
Eco Map Assignment	10%
Family Assessment & Goal Plan Assignment	20%
Genogram Assignment	20%
Reading Reflection Questions & Case Studies	40%
SSW Skill Acquisition, Professional Development and Participation	10%

Date: June 17, 2025

Addendum: Please refer to the course outline addendum on the Learning Management System for further

 information.

