



COURSE OUTLINE: SSW305 - SOCIAL WELFARE P&P

Prepared: Nicole Falldien, MSW, RSW

Approved: Karen Hudson - Dean

Course Code: Title	SSW305: SOCIAL WELFARE - POLICY AND PRACTICE
Program Number: Name	1203: SOCIAL SERV WORKER
Department:	SOCIAL SERVICE WORKER
Academic Year:	2025-2026
Course Description:	This course introduces social policy and social welfare in Canada. Social service workers are involved directly in the provision of services impacted or under social policies or legislation. Students will examine the history of social welfare, the development and implications of social policies and the profession of social service work practice in various fields. Students examine their own values relative to current social policies and practices. Using an anti-oppressive lens, students will critically analyze social welfare and social policies with diverse populations.
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:	SSW121
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 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



	<p>provider strategies promote social and economic justice, and challenge patterns of oppression, discrimination and harassment, and sexual violence with clients, coworkers and communities.</p> <p>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.</p>				
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>				
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>				
Other Course Evaluation & Assessment Requirements:	<p>*Note: This course meets SSW Vocational Learning Outcomes and Elements of Performance: 1.a,m,2.d,4.b,c,d,5.a,b,c,d,e,6.d,7.a,b,9.b,c,d,f,10.a,b</p>				
Books and Required Resources:	<p>Social Welfare in Canada: Inclusion, Equity, and Social Justice by Hick, S. & J. Stokes. (2021) Publisher: Thompson Education Publishing Edition: 4th ISBN: 978-1-55077-281-4 (book) Students may choose digital copy (Digital): 978-1-55077-282-1</p>				
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 Canadian social welfare.</td> <td> 1.1 Define Social Welfare and it's primary functions & importance to social well-being 1.2 Explain and describe different types of social welfare programs available to people in Canada 1.3 Describe how social welfare policy is relevant to the helping profession 1.4 Define welfare state and key components/concepts 1.5 Identify how programs/services are accessed, eligibility criteria, what provisions are, how they are delivered and financed </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Course Outcome 1	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1	1. Demonstrate understanding of Canadian social welfare.	1.1 Define Social Welfare and it's primary functions & importance to social well-being 1.2 Explain and describe different types of social welfare programs available to people in Canada 1.3 Describe how social welfare policy is relevant to the helping profession 1.4 Define welfare state and key components/concepts 1.5 Identify how programs/services are accessed, eligibility criteria, what provisions are, how they are delivered and financed
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Course Outcome 2	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 2
2. Explore and review the history and current delivery of social welfare system/programs.	<p>2.1 Understand the origins of social welfare and describe the historical periods of social welfare development in Canada</p> <p>2.2 Explain historical socio-political factors that have influenced the major phases of social welfare provision in Canada</p> <p>2.3 Examine the current social conditions, social policy development, trends in social welfare ideology and policies of Canada</p> <p>2.4 Identify and describe the impact of relevant legislation, mandated policies and regulation on service delivery and client experiences</p> <p>2.5 Explore the range and organization of social service and income security programs</p> <p>2.6 Explain the relationship between marginalized/oppressed groups and policy structures which limits access to services and inequities</p> <p>2.7 Assess the strengths and limits of the social welfare programs/policies</p>
Course Outcome 3	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 3
3. Demonstrate understanding of social welfare approaches and theories.	<p>3.1 Describe main frameworks through which SSW can assess social welfare policies</p> <p>3.2 Use a structural analysis and anti-oppressive lens to understand social issues impacting clientele served</p> <p>3.3 Explain the ideological foundations of the residual, institutional and social investment approaches to social welfare</p> <p>3.4 Identify and describe the presenting problems of individuals and families in the context of larger social, political, historical, cultural and economic context</p> <p>3.5 Identify societal attitudes, student & SSW professional values/beliefs relative to current social welfare policies</p> <p>3.6 Recognize SSW profession promotes universality, equity and human rights approach to social welfare</p> <p>3.7 Demonstrate a beginning level of critical thinking about social welfare approaches</p>
Course Outcome 4	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 4
4. Demonstrate knowledge of Canadian social problems from a social welfare and social justice framework.	<p>4.1 Recognize individual problems are related to larger socio-economic, political and societal context</p> <p>4.2 Describe the social and economic impact of poverty, income insecurity, food insecurity and homelessness</p> <p>4.3 Explain social welfare programs, income assistance and anti-poverty strategies</p>



	<p>4.4 Familiarize with benefits, programs, policies related to children, youth and families</p> <p>4.5 Describe the mental health and substance use policy initiatives and recognize the gaps and inequalities</p> <p>4.6 Describe the historical and current colonialist legislation and impacts Indigenous peoples</p> <p>4.7 Explain the historical and current immigration system and settlement challenges faced by new immigrants</p> <p>4.8 Describe the main components of income security system and service delivery for older adults</p> <p>4.9 Identify various federal and provincial income security, services and supports for people with disabilities</p>				
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Evaluation Process and Grading System:

Evaluation Type	Evaluation Weight
Case Study	10%
Social Policy Analysis Assignment	25%
Social Welfare Assignment	25%
Tests/ Quizzes	40%

Date: June 17, 2025

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