



COURSE OUTLINE: SSW306 - HMN BEHAV & SOC ENV

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Course Code: Title	SSW306: HUMAN BEHAVIOUR & SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT
Program Number: Name	1203: SOCIAL SERV WORKER
Department:	SOCIAL SERVICE WORKER
Academic Year:	2025-2026
Course Description:	This course is designed to provide students knowledge of human behaviour and social environment through diverse theoretical lens. Through an anti-oppressive perspective and a variety of social work theories, students will apply their understanding of the person in environment considering the impacts of race gender, orientation, age, and socio-cultural influences. The promotion of social and economic justice is examined in relation to the interaction of societal, biological, political, economic, historical, cultural and psychosocial variables.
Total Credits:	3
Hours/Week:	3
Total Hours:	42
Prerequisites:	SSW125
Corequisites:	There are no co-requisites for this course.
Substitutes:	NSW111
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 8	Develop strategies and approaches to implement and maintain holistic self-care as a member of a human service profession.
	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 7	Analyze, evaluate, and apply relevant information from a variety of sources.
	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:	<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>Students are to review and understand the SSW Skill Acquisition, Professional Development & Participation Class Guidelines, Course Addendum and Student Rights and Responsibilities to promote success in course and meet course evaluation requirements.</p> <p>*Note: This course meets SSW Vocational Learning Outcomes and Elements of Performance: 1.d,2.d,4.b,c,d,5.a,b,c,d,e,6.b,f,7.a,b,d,f,h,8.d,e,9.a,b,d,f,10.b,c,d,g,h</p>	
Books and Required Resources:	<p>Human Behavior and Social Environment II by Payne, Whitney (2020) Publisher: University of Arkansas Libraries: Open Access at https://uark.pressbooks.pub/humanbehaviorandthesocialenvironment2/</p> <p>Human Behaviour and Social Environment I by Payne, Whitney (2020) Publisher: University of Arkansas Libraries: Open Access at https://uark.pressbooks.pub/hbse1/</p>	
Course Outcomes and Learning Objectives:	Course Outcome 1	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1

	<p>1. Demonstrate knowledge of dominant and alternative theoretical perspectives and SSW practice frameworks that further understanding of human behaviour and social environment.</p>	<p>1.1 Describe human behavior and functioning from an ecological /systems theory perspective and explain its usefulness in social service work practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, institutions, and communities 1.2 Explain the unique perspective that social service work has in viewing the reciprocal relationship between the individual person and environment 1.3 Enhance understanding of the historical, cultural, political and social context of social problems/presenting issues of diverse people 1.4 Recognize the importance of risk and resiliency theories and post-modern approaches as applied with diverse populations</p>
	Course Outcome 2	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 2
	<p>2. Demonstrate respect and knowledge of human diversity in SSW practice.</p>	<p>2.1 Apply and communicate understanding of the importance of diversity and difference in shaping life experiences in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels 2.2 Apply information and theories related to human behavior and the social environment to life situations in a manner consistent with social service work values and the promotion of social and economic justice 2.3 Demonstrate an understanding of the social construction of ageism, racism, heterosexism, and ableism and ability to apply effective social work methods to confront and address stigma, oppression and social injustices 2.4 Identify the impact of oppression, discrimination, and economic deprivation upon diverse populations 2.5 Affirm the unique stories of people and situations to direct the choice of theory and interventions used</p>
	Course Outcome 3	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 3
	<p>3. Demonstrate knowledge of engagement, assessment and intervention approaches that appreciate the importance of human diversity.</p>	<p>3.1 Link human behaviour theory to culturally safe/relevant SSW engagement, assessment and intervention practices with diverse populations 3.2 Appreciate how assumptions, social location and frameworks of understanding influence our SSW practice approaches 3.3 Describe and explain how alternative paradigms/theories inform our understanding and knowledge of human behaviour with diverse populations 3.4 Apply through case studies, best practice theories and models (i.e. anti-racist theory, queer theory, feminist, disability- informed theory etc.)</p>
	Course Outcome 4	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 4

	<p>4. Demonstrate enhanced communication, critical, analytical and research skills as applied to the study of human behaviour and social environment.</p>	<p>4.1 Use critical thinking skills to examine the extent to which mainstream theories of human behavior consider the influence of diversity on human behavior 4.2 Evaluate and use relevant research studies to understand human behavior and the social environment within Canadian multi-cultural context 4.3 Develop skills in obtaining, synthesizing, and integrating research and best practices in social service work practice with diverse populations of interest 4.4 Enhance academic and professional communication skills in accordance with required formats 4.5 Demonstrate respectful, non-judgmental interpersonal communication in class and effective team work skills 4.6 Use critically thinking skills to reflect upon practice frameworks that address diverse needs, risks, strengths, protective factors of individuals, families, groups, and communities</p>
	<p>Course Outcome 5</p> <p>5. Demonstrate self and professional awareness applicable to understanding human behaviour and social environment as an emerging SSW professional.</p>	<p>Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 5</p> <p>5.1 Gain sufficient self awareness and reflective practice skills to address the influence of personal values and biases in working with diverse people 5.2 Apply basic social work purposes, ethics and values to the study and analysis of human behavior in the social environment 5.3 Respect and affirm the uniqueness and context of individuals, families, groups and communities served 5.4 Discuss the ethical importance of maintaining an awareness of one`s own worldview, values and beliefs and impacts on work with diverse populations 5.5 Enhance awareness of one`s own background, values, assumptions and potential biases related to diverse group memberships, and how these may affect one`s worldview and professional practice 5.6 Apply culturally safe and sensitive models of SSW practice</p>

Evaluation Process and Grading System:

Evaluation Type	Evaluation Weight
Case Study Assignments	10%
HBSE Theory Research & Application Assignment	25%
Social Location & Identity Self Reflection Report	20%
SSW Skill Acquisition, Professional Development and Participation	15%
Tests	30%

Date: June 23, 2025

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

information.

