



COURSE OUTLINE: SSW203 - SSW PRACTICE SKILLS

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Approved: Martha Irwin, Chair, Community Services and Interdisciplinary Studies

Course Code: Title	SSW203: STRENGTHS-BASED SSW PRACTICE SKILLS
Program Number: Name	1203: SOCIAL SERV WORKER
Department:	SOCIAL SERVICES WORKER
Semesters/Terms:	19W
Course Description:	Students in this course will be introduced to resiliency research and evidence based helping models that will further develop their knowledge and ability to intervene from a person-centred approach with marginalized people. Students will learn to adopt a philosophical and value stance within an anti-oppressive and empowerment framework. Students will develop and apply strengths-based engagement, assessment, and intervention skills relevant to the helping field. This course will provide opportunities to integrate theory and application of concepts and skills through experiential exercises and role-plays.
Total Credits:	3
Hours/Week:	3
Total Hours:	45
Prerequisites:	SSW101
Corequisites:	There are no co-requisites for this course.
This course is a pre-requisite for:	SSW217, SSW222
Vocational Learning Outcomes (VLO's) addressed in this course:	<p>1203 - SOCIAL SERV WORKER</p> <p>VLO 1 Develop and maintain professional relationships which adhere to professional, legal, and ethical standards aligned to social service work.</p> <p>VLO 2 Identify strengths, resources, and challenges of individuals, families, groups, and communities to assist them in achieving their goals.</p> <p>VLO 3 Recognize diverse needs and experiences of individuals, groups, families, and communities to promote accessible and responsive programs and services.</p> <p>VLO 5 Advocate for appropriate access to resources to assist individuals, families, groups, and communities.</p> <p>VLO 6 Develop and maintain positive working relationships with colleagues, supervisors, and community partners.</p> <p>VLO 7 Develop strategies and plans that lead to the promotion of self-care, improved job performance, and enhanced work relationships.</p> <p>VLO 8 Integrate social group work and group facilitation skills across a wide range of environments, supporting growth and development of individuals, families, and communities.</p> <p>VLO 9 Work in communities to advocate for change strategies that promote social and economic justice and challenge patterns of oppression and discrimination.</p>
Essential Employability	EES 1 Communicate clearly, concisely and correctly in the written, spoken, and visual form



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Skills (EES) addressed in this course:

- 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:

Passing Grade: 50%, D

Other Course Evaluation & Assessment Requirements:

Students are to review, understand and adhere with the SSW Course Addendum & Class Guidelines and the SSW Program Policies & Procedures Manual. Professor reserves right to adjust final grade based on the criteria as outlined.

Books and Required Resources:

Choices Interviewing and Counselling Skills for Canadians by Shebib, B. (2017)
 Publisher: Toronto: Pearson Canada Inc Edition: 6th Ed
 Professor will provide additional resources (websites, journal articles)

Course Outcomes and Learning Objectives:

Course Outcome 1	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1
1. Express understanding and knowledge of empowerment oriented practice approaches.	1.1 Describe key elements of empowerment at a personal, interpersonal and sociopolitical dimensions 1.2 Identify key resiliency and protective factors that influence well-being at an individual, family and community level 1.3 Recognize, define and apply the core assumptions, values of strengths perspective 1.4 Understand and integrate an anti-oppressive social service work approach when working with individuals and families 1.5 Apply interventions and skills in accordance with practice models studied 1.6 Maintain professional helping relationships, which adhere to ethical and legal standards.
Course Outcome 2	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 2
2. Employ empowering and strengths-based helping skills effectively to promote the needs of clientele served.	2.1 Understand the impact of oppression and incorporate this context in helping diverse people 2.2 Identify and assess client needs and strengths utilizing a holistic and strengths based approach 2.3 Accurately collect, organize, assess and document client strengths, risks and challenges incorporating a bio-psycho-social-spiritual framework 2.4 Utilize and accurately apply the strengths perspective in working with others 2.5 Demonstrate increased skills in foundational



	relationship/helping skills inclusive of empathy, authenticity, strengths-based strategies/questioning, active and reflective listening.
Course Outcome 3	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 3
3. Engage in effective interventions and strategies throughout the helping process.	3.1 Identify the dynamics, tasks and function of each of the phases of the helping relationship 3.2 Demonstrated increased proficiency in the process/steps of engagement, intake, assessment, referral, contracting, referral, goal setting and service planning (client management/coordination) 3.3 Produce written documentation consistent with the SSW standards and community service organizational practice 3.4 Demonstrate knowledge of natural and major helping systems that support clients in the achievement of their goals
Course Outcome 4	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 4
4. Develop a helping style that reflects multi-cultural safe practice.	4.1 Gain sufficient self awareness to address the influence of personal values and biases in working with diverse people 4.2 Understand & analyze the impact of oppression, incorporate this framework in practice 4.3 Explain key elements of cross-cultural understanding, diverse Canadian context and core multi-cultural competences related to helping 4.4 Commit to multicultural awareness and competency development in practice
Course Outcome 5	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 5
5. Develop and maintain positive working relationships with others.	5.1 Work collaboratively as a member of a team, recognize and respect diverse views and show ability to work effectively with others 5.2 Use effective problem-solving strategies 5.3 Seek and use support and feedback as related to one performance 5.4 Employ effective self-care strategies 5.5 Develop awareness of self and recognize how this impacts the development of effective relationships with others 5.6 Identify and use tools for engaging in reflective practice 5.7 Utilize interpersonal communication skills in dialogue with classmates and professor that are reflective of the essential SSW practice skills learned

Evaluation Process and Grading System:

Evaluation Type	Evaluation Weight	Course Outcome Assessed
Assessment Report	20%	1,2
Exams	30%	1,2,3,4
Self Reflection Assignment	10%	1,4,5
Skill Development	10%	2,3,4,5
Strengths Based Interview Assignment	30%	1,2,3,4,5

Date:

July 9, 2018



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

