

SOWK 201E – Introduction to Social Welfare and Social Work*3 credits, 3 hours*

This course will provide an opportunity for students to gain an understanding of social welfare in its broadest terms and the profession of social work within this realm. This course will introduce students to the professional values, ethics, knowledge bases, roles, responsibilities, fields of practice, and practice settings of social work; encourage students to critically examine their beliefs, values, and attitudes in relation to society of which they are members; and enable students to explore their individual interests within the profession of social work. The complexity of social issues and the concepts of diversity, empowerment, and advocacy will also be emphasized.

Instructor Name: Alexis Laird
Office location: CC205K
Phone number: 780.790.4976
alexis.laird@keyano.ca

Office Hours

Monday: 1:00 – 2:00 PM
Tuesday: 10:00 – 11:00 AM
Wednesday: 9:00 – 10:00 AM
Thursday: 5:00 – 6:00 PM
Friday: 2:00 – 3:00

Hours of Instruction

Thursday: 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM
Room: CC224

Required Resources

Textbook title, Required Resources Hick, S., & Stokes, J. (2017). *Social Work in Canada: An Introduction*. (4th ed). Ontario, Canada: Thompson Educational Publishing Inc.

Course Outcomes

This course is designed to facilitate critical thinking and provide a broad general knowledge base of social work practice. It will provide opportunities for collaboration and peer learning in order to facilitate a student orientated learning process. Activities will include class discussions, small group work, peer discussions and consultations, and student small group presentations. Students will be expected to complete the weekly assigned background readings as class time will be focused on these activities to enhance the reading materials and conceptual learning.

Upon successful completion of this course, the student shall be able to:

- Understand the historical development, values, ethics, theories, foundations, and approaches to social work practices. Particular attention will be paid to the Strengths Perspective, Indigenous Perspective, Feminist Perspective, and Structural Perspective.
- Understand Generalist Social Work Practice
- Demonstrate an application of Ecosystems Theory, Person-in-Environment Perspective, and Problem Solving Approaches to social work practice.
- Analyze how social welfare policies have shaped the fabric of society.
- Critically examine and reflect on their own beliefs and values about social welfare and how it has impacted the social work profession.
- Develop critical thinking skills required to understand the complexity of the social work profession and its contribution to social justice, anti-oppressive practices, advocacy, and activism.
- Learn collaboratively with peers and instructors.

Evaluation

Test 1	25%
Test 2	25%
Group Presentation	20%
Final Exam during Exam Period	30%
TOTAL	100%

Tests – Tests will consist of multiple choice, true or false and short answer questions. Content will include handouts, readings and lectures. Each in class test will be one hour in duration and will begin at the start of class. If you are late, you will still have to finish at the same time as the rest of the class that started their exams on time.

Group Presentations – Your group will select a social issue that you mutually agree is important. Your group will research the issue and educate the class on why it is an important issue in society. The presentation will be 45 minutes long and must include time for questions from your peers and instructor. You may be creative as you like and use music, videos, power point slides, handouts, poems, etc. to facilitate learning. You must discuss your social issue with your instructor to prevent duplication. You need to answer the following questions:

1. *Why is it a problem?*
2. *How many people does it affect?*
3. *How does it affect them?*
4. *What causes the problem? (you may have multiple causes or theories)*
5. *What can be done to fix it?*
6. *Why is this an important issue for Social Workers?*

In class participation and group Work

Adult learners are self-directed. However, there are certain mandatory expectations of you as a student in this course and this includes attendance in all classes. Participation will optimize your learning experience. Your presence serves as an additional resource in the classroom, which lends itself to greater experiential learning for everyone. As well, consistent attendance and participation increases individual growth, group dynamics, develops professionalism and good personal work ethic. However, if you are unable to attend due to illness, it is the expectation that you will telephone or email at the earliest possible time to advise your instructor. You are also expected to keep current with the course material and get copies of any missed assignments or lectures. Individual participation includes:

- Participation and contributions to in-class group work
- Engaging positively in class discussions
- Participation in all class activities individually, in pairs, or in groups
- Demonstrating active listening skills
- Demonstrating respect for others by listening and accepting each person's contribution to class discussion in a positive and supportive manner.
- Attending class prepared to participate in discussions of the assigned readings

Grading System

Descriptor	Alpha Grade	4.0 Scale	Percent	Rubric for Letter Grades
Excellent	A+	4.0	> 92.9	Work shows in-depth and critical analysis, well developed ideas, creativity, excellent writing, clarity and proper format.
	A	4.0	85 – 92.9	
	A-	3.7	80 – 84.9	
Good	B+	3.3	77 – 79.9	Work is generally of high quality, well developed, well written, has clarity, and uses proper format.
	B	3.0	74 – 76.9	
	B-	2.7	70 – 73.9	
Satisfactory Progression	C+	2.3	67 – 69.9	Work has some developed ideas but needs more attention to clarity, style and formatting.
	C	2.0	64 – 66.9	
	C-	1.7	60 – 63.9	
Poor Minimum Pass	D+	1.3	55 – 59.9	Work is completed in a general way with minimal support, or is poorly written or did not use proper format.
	D	1.0	50 – 54.9	
Failure	F	0.0	< 50	Responses fail to demonstrate appropriate understanding or are fundamentally incomplete.

A grade of C- is required for progression or transfer.

Proposed Schedule of Topics

Week	Activity
Sept 6	Review of course outline and introduction: Social Work & Social Welfare (Chapter1)
Sept 13	History of Social Work (Chapter2)
Sept 20	Theories and Practice Models (Chapter3), Individuals, Groups, and Communities (Chapter4)
Sept 27	Test 1 – 25% covers Chapters 1-4
Oct 4	Child Welfare (Chapter 5), Health Care (Chapter 6)
Oct 11	Mental Health (Chapter 7), Social Work with Women (Chapter 8)
Oct 18	Test 2- 25% covers Chapters 5-8
Oct 25	Social Work and Indigenous Peoples (Chapter 9), Racialized Canadians and Immigrants (Chapter 10)
Nov 1	Social Work with Older Canadians (Chapter 11), Social Work and Sexual and Gender Diversity (Chapter 12)
Nov 8	Reading Week – No Class
Nov 15	Social Work and Persons with Disabilities (Chapter 13), International Social Work (Chapter 14)
Nov 22	Group Presentations in class 20%
Nov 29	Group Presentations in class 20%
Dec 6	Final exam review
December 10 - 18 (Final Exam Period)	Final Exam 30%

Please Note:

Date and time allotted to each topic is subject to change.

Performance Requirements

Student Responsibilities

It is your responsibility as a student to contact the Office of the Registrar to complete the forms for Withdrawal or Change of Registration, and any other forms. Please refer to the list of important dates as noted in the Academic Schedule in the Keyano College credit calendar.

More specific details are found in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct Policies.

Student Attendance

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a students' learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating to the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course.

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and / or notes that may be due.

Academic Misconduct

Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person's work as one's own
- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating)
- Collusion or the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work
- The deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications
- The willful distortion of results or data
- Substitution in an examination by another person
- Handing in the same unchanged work as submitted for another assignment
- Breach of confidentiality.

The consequences for academic misconduct range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from the College. More specific descriptions and details are found in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct Policies.

In order to ensure your understanding of the concept of plagiarism, you must successfully complete the online tutorial found on ilearn.keyano.ca. Then print the certificate, sign it, and show it to each of your instructors. Your course work will not be graded until you show this signed certificate.

Specialized Supports

The Student Academic Support Services (SASS) department: Accessibility Services, Skill Centre and Wellness Services, work together to support student success at Keyano College.

Accessibility Services (CC167) supports student success through group and individualized instruction of learning, study and test taking strategies, and adaptive technologies. Students with documented disabilities, or who suspect a disability, can meet with the Learning Strategists to discuss accommodation of the learning barriers that they may be experiencing. Students who have accessed accommodations in the past are encouraged to visit our office at their earliest opportunity to discuss the availability of accommodations in their current courses. Individual appointments can be made by calling 780-791-8934

Skill Centre (CC119) provides a learning space where students can gather to share ideas, collaborate on projects and get new perspectives on learning from our tutorial staff. Students visiting the centre have access to one-to-one or group tutoring, facilitated study groups, and assistance in academic writing. The Skill Centre's Peer Tutor program provides paid employment opportunities for students who have demonstrated academic success and want to share what they have learned. Tutoring is available free to any students registered at Keyano College on a drop in basis, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Additional evening hours are subject to tutor availability and are posted in the Skill Centre.

Wellness Services (CC260) offers a caring, inclusive, and respectful environment where students can access free group and individual support to meet academic and life challenges. Mental Health Coordinators offer a safe and confidential environment to seek help with personal concerns. The Mindfulness Room in CC260 is available as a quiet space for students to relax during regular office hours. Wellness Service welcomes students to participate in any of the group sessions offered throughout the academic year addressing such topics as Mindfulness and Text Anxiety. Individual appointments can be made by calling 780-791-8934.

Please watch your Keyano email for workshop announcements from our Student Academic Support Services team.