



Course Outline

SOCIAL WORK DIPLOMA PROGRAM

**SOWK 120A
RURAL AND NORTHERN PRACTICE**

Winter, 2013

**3 CREDITS
3 HOURS PER WEEK**

INSTRUCTOR: SARAH BULLER BA BSW MSW RSW



INSTRUCTOR: Sarah Buller
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OFFICE NUMBER: S113D

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday	1:00 – 1:50 PM
Tuesday	1:00 – 1:50 PM
Wednesday	12:00 – 12: 50 PM
Thursday	1:00 – 1:50 PM
Friday	1:00 – 1:50 PM

HOURS OF INSTRUCTION:

Wednesday 9:00 –12:00 pm Room 273

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will explore the role of the social worker in Canadian rural, northern and remote communities and how urbanization and industrialization has impacted the development of these areas and its people.

PRE-REQUISITE(S):

There are no pre-requisites for this course.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

This course will assist the student to understand and become aware of the challenges of delivering social work services in northern, rural and remote areas.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Be aware of the characteristics of Rural and Northern communities
- Understand the importance of partnership in the development of Northern communities
- To identify and understand appropriate and effective methods of practice in rural northern and remote communities
- Understand the importance of practicing and developing culturally appropriate and ethical helping relationships
- Develop analytical and critical thinking skills that will deepen the understanding of the complex social issues that face rural, northern and remote communities
- Identify unique northern circumstances that can result in worker stress and the breakdown of helping relationships
- Critically analyze the socio-economic and environment impacts of the Alberta oil sands
- Understand how First Nation research differs to western empirical research

REQUIRED RESOURCES:

Collier, Ken. (2006). *Social work with rural peoples* (3rd edition). Vancouver: New Star Books.

Delaney, R., & Brownlee, K. (Eds.). (2009). *Northern and rural social work practice: A Canadian Perspective*. Thunder Bay: Centre for Northern Studies.

CLASS SCHEDULE		
Scheduled	Readings	and Assignments:
Jan 9	Introduction to course	
Jan 16	Collier Chapter 1, 2	
Jan 23	Collier Chapter 3 & 4	
Jan 30	Collier Chapter 5	
Feb 6	Collier Chapter 6	Exam #1
Feb 13	Collier Chapter 7	Group 1
Feb 20	Delaney Chapter 1	Group 2
Feb 27	Reading Week	
Mar 6	Delaney Chapter 2, 3, 4,	
March 13	Delaney Chapter 5 & 6	Exam # 2
March 20	Delaney Chapter 7	Group 3
March 27	Delaney Chapter 8 & 9	
April 3	Delaney Chapter 10, 11, 16	
April 10	Delaney Chapter 18	Group 4
April 17	Delaney Chapter 23 Oil Sands—material TBD	Assignment Due
Exam Period		Exam # 3

Evaluation

EVALUATION

In class examination (1hr) Feb 6th	20%
In class examination (1 hr) March 13 th	20%
Group presentation Feb 13 th to April 10 th	25%
Written assignment April 17 th	10%
Final Exam	25%
TOTAL	100%

Exams: Multiple choice; true of false; short answer, essay. Content: handouts, lectures and assigned readings. *Jan 29th, March 6th, Exam period TBD*

Group presentations: You will be assigned to small groups by your instructor. You will select a rural or northern community in Canada as well as one possible social work job in that community. You may create your own job or use a real job that exists in that community. You are expected to research this rural or northern community assigned to you by province. *Feb 6th to April 17th*

Your group must assume that you have just been hired for that SWK position. Your group will explain and demonstrate how you would go about preparing yourself for the move to this new community as a newly recruited social worker.

The following questions should be covered in your presentation:

1. What is the setting and what is the job that you have you chosen? Briefly locate and explain your community. Include information on the size, location and anything else of interest. Make sure to identify your agency.
2. Describe the geographic and physical environment and how it affects the lives of the people in the community?
3. Are there any issues that you might expect to cause tension and conflict within the community?
4. Compared with urban practice, what are the challenges and stresses that you would anticipate to experience in your professional role as a social worker in this community? Are there any rewards you would experience?
5. Identify challenges and stresses that you might expect to encounter in your own adjustment to life in your new community?
6. What specific steps would you take to prepare for positive adjustment and successful practice?

Your group will be provided with 40 minutes to present. The assignment will be graded by students and the instructor. Your group assignment will be graded by the rest of the class and the instructor. You must provide your instructor with an outline of your presentation and a reference list of the resources you used in your presentation. APA style.

Written Assignment

Select one news items each month that are relevant to rural and northern social work. The items can be from newspapers, magazines, journals, television, the internet, or radio. You should have a total of four news items. Summaries of each news article should be 2 pages long double spaced, 12 inch font, TIMES NEW ROMAN, 1 inch margins. Summarize the issue and then provide a commentary explaining how the information will impact social work in rural and remote areas. *April 10th*

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Jan. 7	First Day of Classes
Jan. 11	Last day to add for academic programs
Jan. 18	Last day to drop courses for academic programs.
Feb. 18	Family Day - College Closed
Feb. 25-March 1	Reading Week - No Classes for Academic Programs
March 8	Last day to withdraw without academic penalty.
March 29	College Closed - Good Friday
April 1	College Closed - Easter Monday
April 19	Last day of classes for students in Certificate, Diploma, and University Programs
April 22-30	FINAL EXAM PERIOD.

Academic Misconduct (pages 37-38 of the Credit Calendar):

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
- 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

Penalties for academic offences may range from a verbal reprimand to dismissal from the College, and in certain circumstances may involve legal action. Please refer to the 2012-2013 Credit Calendar for more information:

[http://keyano.ca/sites/default/files/a_files/calendars/keyano.calendar.credit\(2012-2013\).pdf](http://keyano.ca/sites/default/files/a_files/calendars/keyano.calendar.credit(2012-2013).pdf)

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

The College will provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities in order to promote academic success. If you require accommodation, contact the Learner Assistance Program (LAP) Office at 780-792-5608 to initiate the process for documenting, assessing and implementing your individual accommodation needs. In addition, tutoring services are available at the SKILL Centre.

Student Rights and Responsibilities:

Students should consult the Keyano College Credit Calendar or online information at: [http://keyano.ca/sites/default/files/a_files/calendars/keyano.calendar.credit\(2012-2013\).pdf](http://keyano.ca/sites/default/files/a_files/calendars/keyano.calendar.credit(2012-2013).pdf)



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Date

Reviewed and approved by:

Vincella Thompson, Chairperson

Date

Guy Harmer, Dean

Date