



**Course Outline**

**SOCIAL WORK DIPLOMA PROGRAM**

**SOWK 120A  
RURAL AND NORTHERN PRACTICE**

**Winter, 2015**

**3 CREDITS  
3 HOURS PER WEEK**

**INSTRUCTOR: SARAH HEAGY BA BSW MSW RSW**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Sarah Heagy  
**PHONE NUMBER:** (780) 791-4976  
**E-MAIL:** sarah.heagy@keyano.ca  
**OFFICE NUMBER:** S113D

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday	2:00 – 3:00 PM
Tuesday	3:00 – 4:00 PM
Wednesday	2:00 – 3:00 PM
Thursday	10:00 – 11:00 AM
Friday	10:00 – 11:00 AM

**HOURS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Thursday	1:00 – 3:50 pm	Room S205
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**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* (3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

<b>CLASS SCHEDULE</b>		
<b>Scheduled</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>and Assignments:</b>
Jan 8	Introduction to course	
Jan 15	Collier Chapter 1, 2	
Jan 22	Collier Chapter 3 & 4	
Jan 29	Collier Chapter 5	
Feb 5	Collier Chapter 6	Exam #1
Feb 12	Collier Chapter 7	
Feb 19	Delaney Chapter 1	
Feb 26	Reading Week	
Mar 5	Delaney Chapter 2, 3, 4,	
March 12	Delaney Chapter 5 & 6	Exam # 2
March 19	Delaney Chapter 7	
March 26	Delaney Chapter 8 & 9	
April 2	Delaney Chapter 10, 11, 16	
April 9	Delaney Chapter 18	
April 16	Delaney Chapter 23 Oil Sands—material TBD	Assignment Due
Exam Period		Exam # 3

**EVALUATION**

In class examination (1hr) Feb 5th	20%
In class examination (1 hr) March 12 <sup>th</sup>	20%
Group presentation	20%
Written assignment April 16 <sup>th</sup>	20%
Final Exam	20%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Exams:** Multiple choice; true or false; short answer, essay. Content: handouts, lectures and assigned readings.

**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.

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 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 item 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.

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:**

<b>Important Dates</b>	
<b>Winter 2015</b>	
First Day of Class	January 5
Last day to ADD Courses	January 9
Tuition is due (\$100 late fee charged after this date)	January 9
Last day to DROP Courses with full refund (\$100 deposit is non-refundable)	January 16
Last day to WAIVE health & dental plan (new winter students only)	January 16
Last day to WITHDRAW with a refund (50%)	February 13
Last day to WITHDRAW (Grade of W)	March 30
<b>Important Dates</b>	
<b>Winter 2015</b>	

**PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS**

**Classroom Behaviour and Cell phone/Laptop Policy**

Social work students are held to professional standards at all times while in the Keyano Social Work Diploma Program. Class and practicum settings are considered professional work settings and students are expected to behave according to professional standards. Students should at all times be acting the same way as they would in a meeting. This includes use of cell phones and laptops. You are asked to kindly turn off cellphones during class time. If you are expecting an important call please let your instructor know prior to the class. If you are unsure of what constitutes professional behaviour please ask your instructor. Students are asked to take written records of classroom material but are strictly prohibited from audio or video recording class room sessions. This is due to the sensitive nature of social work classes and to respect fellow classmates privacy and confidentiality

**Student Attendance**

Class attendance is mandatory for students in the social work program. The chair of the program will be aware of students with multiple absences. You may be requested to provide a note from your doctor.

### **Late Assignments**

Assignments are due on dates as assigned throughout the semester. Late assignments may not be accepted dependent on the nature of the work or may be subject to a 5% late penalty per day. If a student expects that an assignment will be late, he or she is urged to consult with the course instructor prior to the due date.

### **Student Preparation**

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
- 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 2014-2015 Credit Calendar for more information

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism means submitting someone else's work as your own. For example, copying material from the Internet, a book or other source without acknowledging that the words or ideas are someone else's and not your own is plagiarism. If you copy an author's words, exactly, treat the passage as a direct quotation and supply the appropriate citation. If you use someone else's ideas, even if you paraphrase the wording, appropriate credit should be given. You have committed plagiarism if you purchase a term paper or submit a paper as your own that you did not write. Please see the Student Rights and Responsibilities document, regarding Academic Misconduct in the 2014-2015 Credit Calendar.

### **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 & Responsibilities**

Students should consult the Keyano College Credit Calendar for more information

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**SOWK 120A  
Rural and Northern Practice**

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3 HOURS PER WEEK**

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**Sarah Heagy, Instructor**

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**Date**

**Reviewed and approved by:**

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**Vincella Thompson, Dean**

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**Date**