

SOWK 120, Rural and Northern Practice

3 credits, 3 hours

Course Description

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

Pre and Co-requisites

None

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Upon successful completion of the course, the student shall 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 environmental impacts of the Alberta oil sands
- Understand how First Nation research differs from Western empirical research

Evaluation

Assessment Type	Percentage
Reflection Paper	15%
Northern Experience Paper	30%
Mid-Term Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%

Reflection Paper: Students will submit a paper in response to the reflection questions provided by the instructor. Their reflections will be based on lived experience, lecture content, and assigned readings. Written instructions will be provided in class. The weight of this assignment is 15% of the overall grade. **February 11, 2026.**

Midterm Exam: This exam will cover all content, class discussion, and assigned readings from weeks 1-7. Weight is 25% of the overall grade. **March 4, 2026.**

Northern Experience Paper: Students will select a northern or rural community in Canada and a social work job within that community. Students will explore community traits (social/geographical/economic), service delivery methods, and barriers to service delivery. Students will then provide a comparison to an urban experience. Written instructions will be provided in class. Weight is 30% of the overall grade. **April 1, 2026**

Final Exam: The final exam will be scheduled during the final exam period (April 17th – 23, 2026). This will be a 3-hour exam covering all chapters discussed after the midterm and any other additional material covered in class. Weight is 30% of the overall grade. **Date TBA (April 17th – 23, 2026).**

Course Completion Requirements

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

Grading Scale

4.0 Grade Scale	Alpha Grade	Percentage Grade
4.0	A+	93-100
4.0	A	85-92.9
3.7	A-	80-84.9
3.3	B+	77-79.9
3.0	B	74-76.9
2.7	B-	70-73.9
2.3	C+	67-69.9
2.0	C	64-66.9
1.7	*C-	60-63.9
1.3	D+	55-59.9
1.0	D	50-54.9
0.0	F	0-49.9

Land Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge that Keyano College is on Treaty No. 8 Territory, the ancestral and traditional territory of the Cree, Dene, and Métis people.

Review Date: November 26, 2024

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