

<b>ORIGINAL</b> Course Implementation Date:	September 2011
<b>REVISED</b> Course Implementation Date:	September 2021
<b>Course to be REVIEWED</b> Date: (six years after GSC approval)	November 2026

## OFFICIAL GRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

**Note:** The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

<b>Course Code and Number:</b> SOWK 720		<b>Number of Credits:</b> 3 See <a href="#">Course credit policy (105)</a> and the <a href="#">Principles for Course Credit Assignment: Graduate Studies</a>	
<b>Course Full Title:</b> Critical Perspectives on Social Justice and Anti-Oppressive Social Work <b>Course Short Title (if title exceeds 30 characters):</b> Anti-Oppressive Social Work			
<b>Faculty:</b> Faculty of Professional Studies		<b>Department/School:</b> School of Social Work and Human Services	
<b>Calendar Description:</b> By advancing their understanding of social justice, discrimination, and oppression, students will acquire ways to address, resist, and counter oppression through conceptual and theoretical analyses of privilege, marginalization, intersectionality, and inclusion/exclusion. These anti-oppressive frameworks will be used to examine and critique the roles of institutions, corporate news media, social media, and policy producing/reproducing oppression and construction of the "other".			
<b>Prerequisites</b> (or NONE):		Admission to the Master of Social Work.	
<b>Corequisites</b> (if applicable, or NONE):			
<b>Pre/corequisites</b> (if applicable, or NONE):			
<b>Antirequisite UFV Courses</b> (cannot be taken for additional credit) Former course code/number: Cross-listed with: Dual-listed with: Equivalent UFV course(s): <i>(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)</i>			
<b>Total Contact Hours:</b> 45 <b>Sample structure of instructional hours:</b> Hours 1. Face to face instruction (in class, lecture, etc.) 45 2. Lab hours 3. Online class learning 4. Community learning 5. Group work <b>See:</b> <a href="#">Course credit policy (105)</a> and the <a href="#">Principles for Course Credit Assignment: Graduate Studies</a> <b>Note:</b> For each contact hour students should expect to spend at least three hours further on coursework outside of class.		<b>Special Topics</b> (Double-click on box to select) Will this course be offered with different topics? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, the topic will be recorded when offered. <b>Grading system:</b> Letter Grades: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Credit/No Credit: <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, upon approval and on a case by case basis. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, PLAR cannot be awarded for this course because MSW courses cannot be done by PLAR, as per the Academic Calendar <b>Expected Frequency of Course Offerings</b> (every semester, annually, every other year, etc.): Every 2 years, based on MSW Cohort model	
<b>Senate Graduate Studies Committee</b>		<b>Date Approved:</b> 20201119	

**Course Objective**

The overall purpose/rationale for this course is:

To provide students with the skills to analyze and critique the multifaceted phenomena of marginalization and exclusion. The course will examine and critique theories of oppression and the interrelationships between oppression, social justice and social work.

**Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Articulate an understanding of social justice, discrimination, and oppression.
- Articulate an advanced level of understanding of colonialism, imperialism and other historical practices that have created and reinforced marginalization of social groups, with particular attention paid to the colonialism of Indigenous peoples in Canada;
- Evaluate the various contexts (social, political, economic, and so on) that shape the historical and present-day realities of classism, racism, sexism, heterosexism, ableism, and other forms of oppression and power relations in Canada;
- Evaluate oppression of Indigenous peoples in Canada.
- Examine the Francophone reality as it pertains to oppression.
- Critique the roles of institutions, corporate news media, social media, and policy that produce and reproduce oppression and construction of the 'other'.
- Integrate and critique a range of social work practices, ethical and theoretical frameworks with theories of oppression and social justice;
- Critically examine the conceptual and historical foundations of anti-oppressive theories and practice including various epistemological traditions such as critical modernism, post-modernism, and post-colonialism;
- Critique models of anti-oppression and social justice in relationship to social work ethics;
- Critically demonstrate the role of self and reflexivity in anti-oppressive and social justice practice and research;
- Articulate a conceptual and operational framework for anti-oppressive social work, addressing and critiquing oppression, as it applies to social work research, policy, and practice interests.

**NOTE:** The following sections vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the specific instructor.

**Sample Instructional Methods**

This is an online course with a face to face component. The course will be based on lectures, small and large group discussions, case studies, multi-media resources, guest speakers, and student presentations.

**Sample Text(s) and Resource Materials**

Baines, D. (Ed.). (2011.) Doing anti-oppressive practice. Halifax, NS: Fernwood Publishing.  
 Young, I.M. (1990). Justice and the politics of difference. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.  
 A Coursepack will accompany the texts.

**Sample Required Additional Supplies and Materials****Sample Evaluation Methods and Weighting**

Assignment #1: Reflexivity and positioning paper	20%	Assignment #2: Critical Reflection paper	25%	Assignment #3: Online seminar facilitation	20%	Assignment #4: Major Paper – Research paper	35%
	%		%		%		%

**Sample Course Content and Topics**

- Introduction: Interrogating social justice and oppression.
- Theoretical/epistemological foundations.
- Politics of difference, power, and recognition.
- Genealogy of anti-oppressive practice.
- Theories of oppression revisited: Debates and tensions.
- Imperatives of social work: Anti-oppressive social work in current context.
- The context of colonialism and decolonizing: historical and Indigenous social justice.
- Social work, social justice, working through and against colonial histories.
- Theorizing experience and epistemological foundations: Power, ways of knowing.
- Anti-oppressive social work: working with, for and through communities.
- Anti-oppressive social work: working within organizations and leadership.
- Developing a model for one's own anti-oppressive practice. Theoretical intersections and ethical considerations: Dealing with backlash and resistance.