



ORIGINAL COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: May 1991
 REVISED COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: September 2026
 COURSE TO BE REVIEWED (six years after UEC approval): March 2032
 Course outline form version: 29/08/2024

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

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

Course Code and Number: SOWK 110	Number of Credits: 3 Course credit policy (105)												
Course Full Title: Introduction to Social Work and Social Services Course Short Title: Intro Soc Work & Soc Services													
Faculty: Faculty of Education, Community, & Human Dev.	Department/School: School of Social Work & Human Services												
Calendar Description: Introduces social work and social services in Canada. Students will learn the history, values, theoretical perspectives, and ethical principles that inform the profession of social work. Students will reflect on their personal values and positionality as they explore social justice approaches to social issues.													
Prerequisites (or NONE):	None. Note: As of January 2027, prerequisites will change to the prerequisites for CMNS 125 or ENGL 105.												
Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	None.												
Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	None.												
Antirequisite Courses (<i>Cannot be taken for additional credit.</i>) Former course code/number: Cross-listed with: Equivalent 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>	Course Details Special Topics course: No <i>(If yes, the course will be offered under different letter designations representing different topics.)</i> Directed Study course: No <i>(See policy 207 for more information.)</i> Grading System: Letter grades Delivery Mode: May be offered in multiple delivery modes Expected frequency: Every semester Maximum enrolment (for information only): 36												
Typical Structure of Instructional Hours <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Lecture/seminar</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">45</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total hours</td> <td style="text-align: center;">45</td> </tr> </table>	Lecture/seminar	45									Total hours	45	Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) PLAR is available for this course.
Lecture/seminar	45												
Total hours	45												
Scheduled Laboratory Hours Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: No	Transfer Credit (See bctransferguide.ca) Transfer credit already exists: Yes Submit outline for (re)articulation: Yes <i>(If yes, fill in transfer credit form.)</i>												
Department approval	Date of meeting: November 7, 2025												
Faculty Council approval	Date of meeting: February 20, 2026												
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval	Date of meeting: March 27, 2026												

Learning Outcomes *(These should contribute to students' ability to meet program outcomes and thus Institutional Learning Outcomes.)*

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

1. Describe the historical development of social work and social welfare in Canada.
2. Identify the ethical principles, values, and theoretical perspectives that guide social work and social services in Canada.
3. Explain the relationships between social justice, power, and social issues.
4. Examine the role of political ideology in the construction of social issues.
5. Identify current issues and challenges in social work and social services.
6. Explore the decolonization and Indigenization of social work and social services.
7. Critically reflect on personal values and positionality in relation to social work and social services.

Recommended Evaluation Methods and Weighting *(Evaluation should align to learning outcomes.)*

Final exam:	30%	Quizzes/tests/midterm:	30%	Assignments:	40%
	%		%		%

Details:

Assignments: introductory assignment (10%), final paper (30%)

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

Typical Instructional Methods *(Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)*

Lectures, seminars

Texts and Resource Materials *(Include online resources and Indigenous knowledge sources. [Open Educational Resources](#) (OER) should be included whenever possible. If more space is required, use the [Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form](#).)*

Type	Author or description	Title and publication/access details	Year
1. Textbook	Ives, Denov, & Sussman	Introduction to social work in Canada	Current
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

Required Additional Supplies and Materials *(Software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.)***Course Content and Topics**

1. Introduction to social work and social welfare in Canada
2. History of social work in Canada
3. Social work theories
4. Ethics in social work
5. Social work with individuals and families
6. Social work practice with children and youth
7. Social work and health
8. Indigenous Peoples and social work
9. Social work with immigrants and refugees
10. Social work with aging populations
11. Social work and sexual and gender diversity
12. Disability and social work practice