

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

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

Course Code and Number: SOWK 210		Number of Credits: 3 Course credit policy (105)													
Course Full Title: Introduction to Social Welfare Course Short Title: Intro to Social Welfare															
Faculty: Faculty of Education, Community, & Human Dev.		Department/School: School of Social Work and Human Services													
Calendar Description: Provides an overview of the Canadian social welfare system. Explores the socio-economic, political, and cultural contexts in which Canada's welfare system has developed. The role of social work is examined in the context of the social welfare system's impact on individuals, groups, communities, organizations, and society.															
Prerequisites (or NONE):		SOWK 110 with a C or better.													
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" data-bbox="105 1323 860 1564"> <tr> <td>Lecture/seminar</td> <td>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>Total hours</td> <td>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 <i>(See bctransferguide.ca.)</i> Transfer credit already exists: Yes Submit outline for (re)articulation: No <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. Identify key concepts related to social welfare in Canada.
2. Describe historical influences on the contemporary welfare system.
3. Explain how globalization and political ideology affect the Canadian social welfare system.
4. Discuss the impact of the labour market policies and programs on Canada's diverse populations.
5. Compare social welfare and income security programs in Canada.
6. Explain how colonization has shaped the social welfare system and impacted Indigenous peoples.
7. Examine barriers experienced by service users when accessing social welfare programs.
8. Describe the role of social work and social services in promoting progressive social change.

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

Quizzes/tests/midterm:	25%	Assignments:	25%	%
Project:	25%	Final exam:	25%	%

Details:

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.)

This course will be taught using a combination of lectures, class discussions, videos, and guest speakers.

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	Hick, S., & Stokes, J.	Social welfare in Canada: Inclusion, equity, and social justice	Current
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

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

1. Course syllabus and introductions – why study social welfare?
2. Social welfare and social well-being in Canada
3. A history of social welfare in Canada
4. Canadian labour market policies and programs
5. The welfare and well-being of people in poverty
6. The welfare and well-being of women and families
7. The welfare and well-being of sexual and gender diverse peoples
8. The welfare and well-being of Canadian children
9. Social welfare and mental well-being in Canada
10. The welfare and well-being of Indigenous peoples
11. The welfare and well-being of immigrants and temporary residents
12. The welfare and well-being of older people
13. The welfare and well-being of persons with disabilities