OFFICIAL COURSE OUTLINE INFORMATION

Students are advised to keep course outlines in personal files for future use.

+ Shaded headings are subject to change at the discretion of the department and the material will vary
+ see course syllabus available from instructor

FACULTY/DEPARTMENT:
SOWK 312
SSSW 312

COURSE NAME/NUMBER FORMER COURSE NUMBER UCFV CREDITS
Legal Knowledge for Social Work Practice

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:
This course uses a critical perspective to introduce students to federal and provincial laws relevant to social work practice. Students will examine legislation in the areas of family law, child protection, consent and capacity, social assistance, mental health, youth criminal justice, victims of crime, immigration and refugees, human rights, record keeping, and liability. The course introduces students to the Canadian legal system, including the constitutional division of powers, the structure of the courts, and legal procedures, particularly as these affect the social justice aspirations of vulnerable and marginalized populations.

Note: Students cannot receive credit for both SOWK 312 and CYC 350.

PREREQUISITES: Admission to the BSW or CYC degree program, plus either (SOWK 110 and 210) or (CYC 201 and 210).
(Students in other degree programs, with a minimum of 45 credits, may be able to obtain instructor’s permission at the first class. However, they should check with their program head to see whether they can apply this course to their degree.)

COREQUISITES:

SYNONYMOUS COURSE(S)
(a) Replaces: (Course #) (Department/Program)
(b) Cannot take: (Course #) (Department/Program)

SERVICE COURSE TO:

TOTAL HOURS PER TERM: 45
TRAINING DAY-BASED INSTRUCTION
LENGTH OF COURSE:
HOURS PER DAY:

STRUCTURE OF HOURS:
Lectures: 20 Hrs
Seminar: 10 Hrs
Laboratory: Hrs
Field Experience: 5 Hrs
Student Directed Learning: 10 Hrs
Other (Specify): Hrs

MAXIMUM ENROLLMENT: 30
EXPECTED FREQUENCY OF COURSE OFFERINGS: 2 sections per year
WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (lower-level courses only)
Yes ☐ No ☐
WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (upper-level requested by department)
X Yes ☐ No ☐
TRANSFER CREDIT EXISTS IN BCCAT TRANSFER GUIDE:
X Yes ☐ No ☐

AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURES:
Course Designer(s): Curtis Magnuson, RSW
Department Head: Dr. Gloria Wolfson, Director
Chairperson: Dr. Jacalyn Snodgrass
Dean: UPAC Approval in Principle Date: Oct. 27, 2006
UPAC Final Approval Date:
LEARNING OBJECTIVES / GOALS / OUTCOMES / LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This course endeavours to instill in students an awareness of the rights of clients and the responsibility of social workers to uphold those rights. These topics will be treated in such a way that students become familiar with not only the social justice issues involved, but also the actual practices and legal procedures in family law systems; the impact of these procedures on individuals and families; and the role of social work practitioners within the legal system. In this course, students are expected to become familiar with legal principles, and be able to access and apply legislation and legal procedures to social work practice situations.

1. The student will have a basic understanding of, and working familiarity with:
   a. Key legal principles, including the role of law in Canadian society;
   b. The organization of the Canadian legal system and the structure of the courts;
   c. The role of lawyers and social workers within the legal system;
   d. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and provincial human rights legislation as these affect recipients of social work services;
   e. Relevant federal and provincial statutes and legal procedures, including Administrative Tribunals;
   f. Ethical accountability and liability for social workers.
2. The student will demonstrate application of the above legal knowledge and procedures to social work practice situations.
3. The student will be able to identify the skills necessary to function within the area of their legal mandate and the legal system.
4. The student will develop a critical analysis of the Canadian legal system and the impact of legal statues, procedures, and related social policies on the recipients of social work services.

METHODS:

The course will be conducted in interactive lecture style with the use of PowerPoint slides, Web-CT, the occasional video and guest speaker, as well as one in-class exercise.

PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):

Credit can be awarded for this course through PLAR (Please check:)  X Yes  □ No

METHODS OF OBTAINING PLAR:

This course is open to PLAR through portfolio and oral examination.

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS:

[Textbook selection varies by instructor. An example of texts for this course might be:]


Federal Legislation: Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; Divorce Act; Immigration and Refugee Protection Act; Youth Criminal Justice Act.


Provincial Legislation: Adult Guardianship Act; BC Human Rights Code; Child, Family and Community Service Act; Crime Victim Assistance Act; Employment and Assistance Act; Family Relations Act; Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act; Mental Health Act; Personal Information Protection Act; Social Work Act; Victims of Crime Act.


Other supplemental readings as assigned by the instructor.

SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:
STUDENT EVALUATION:
[An example of student evaluation for this course might be:]
Courtroom Site Visit and Written Report 25%
Mid-Term Examination 25%
Statutory Interpretation Written Assignment 25%
Final Examination 25%
TOTAL 100%

COURSE CONTENT:
[Course content varies by instructor. An example of course content might be:]

Week
1. Introduction to Law for Social Work Practice
2. Introduction to Law for Social Work Practice (continued)
3. Family Law
4. Family Law (continued)
5. Child Protection
6. The Law of Consent and Capacity in Health Care
7. Mid-Term Examination / Employment and Social Assistance Law
8. Serious Mental Illness and the Law
9. Youth in the Criminal Justice System
10. Criminal and Civil Law for Victims of Violence
11. Immigration and Refugee Law
12. Human Rights Law
13. The Social Work Record and the Courts / Liability for Social Workers