## 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 adoption, child protection, consent and capacity, family law, human rights, immigration and refugees, mental health, social assistance, social work records, victims of violence, and youth criminal justice. Students will be introduced 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.

### 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:

- PRE or COREQUISITES:

### SYNONYMOUS COURSE(S):

- (a) Replaces:
- (b) Cross-listed with:
- (c) Cannot take:

### TOTAL HOURS PER TERM:

**45**

**STRUCTURE OF HOURS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lectures</th>
<th>45 Hrs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laboratory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field experience</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student directed learning</td>
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<td>Other (specify)</td>
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### TRAINING DAY-BASED INSTRUCTION:

Length of course: 

Hours per day: 

**OTHER:**

- Maximum enrolment: **30**
- Expected frequency of course offerings: **2 sections per year**

- **(every semester, annually, every other year, etc.)**

### WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (lower-level courses only)

- Yes
- No

### WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (upper-level requested by department)

- Yes
- No

### TRANSFER CREDIT EXISTS IN BCCAT TRANSFER GUIDE:

- Yes
- No

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**Course designer(s):** Curtis Magnuson, MSW, RSW

**Department Head:** Dr. Elizabeth Dow, Director

**Supporting area consultation (Pre-UPAC):**

**Curriculum Committee chair:**

**Dean/Associate VP:** Dr. Rosetta Khalideen, Dean

**Undergraduate Program Advisory Committee (UPAC) approval:**

**Date approved:** October 2010

**Date of meeting:** October 22, 2010

**Date approved:** November 2010

**Date of meeting:** November 26, 2010

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**COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** September 2000

**COURSE REVISED IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** January 2011

**COURSE TO BE REVIEWED:** November 2016

(six years after UPAC approval)

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**OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE 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 – see course syllabus available from instructor.
LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
• Articulate the importance of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and BC Human Rights Code as these affect recipients of social work services
• Instill in clients an awareness of their rights and demonstrate the role of social workers to advocate on behalf of clients’ rights
• Demonstrate an understanding of legal procedures in civil law matters
• Articulate key legal principles, including the role of law in Canadian society
• Apply legislation, including legal procedure, to social work practice situations
• Describe the organization of the Canadian legal system and the structure of the courts
• Articulate the role of lawyers and social workers within the legal system
• Develop a critical analysis of the Canadian legal system and the impact it has on recipients of social work services

METHODS: (Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)

The course will be conducted in interactive lecture style with the use of PowerPoint slides, Blackboard supplementals, and the occasional video and guest speaker.

METHODS OF OBTAINING PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):

☐ Examination (Oral)  ☒ Portfolio assessment  ☒ Interview(s)

☐ Other (specify): Written examination

☐ PLAR cannot be awarded for this course for the following reason(s):

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


British Columbia. (various). Adoption Act; 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. Victoria, BC: Queen’s Printer.


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%

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to Law for Social Work Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Human Rights Law</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Family Law</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Child Protection</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Adoption Law</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Poverty and Social Assistance Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>The Law of Consent and Capacity in Health Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Serious Mental Illness and the Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Youth in the Criminal Justice System</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Criminal and Civil Law for Victims of Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Immigration and Refugee Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Social Work Record and the Courts</td>
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