



ORIGINAL COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: January 1998  
 REVISED COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: September 2026  
 COURSE TO BE REVIEWED (six years after UEC approval): March 2032  
 Course outline form version: 28/10/2022

## OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

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

<b>Course Code and Number:</b> SOWK 394		<b>Number of Credits:</b> 3 <a href="#">Course credit policy (105)</a>									
<b>Course Full Title:</b> Social Work and Substance Use											
<b>Course Short Title:</b> Social Work & Substance Use											
<b>Faculty:</b> Faculty of Education, Community, & Human Dev.		<b>Department/School:</b> Social Work and Human Services									
<b>Calendar Description:</b> Provides students with foundational social work knowledge and practice skills for working with individuals experiencing substance use and other addictive behaviours. Using trauma-informed, evidence-based, strength-based, and decolonial approaches, students will explore ethics, treatment, modalities, prevention, cooccurring disorders, and social policy, Emphasis is placed on understanding issues related to gender, diversity, culture, age, and disability.											
<b>Prerequisites (or NONE):</b>		45 university-level credits including PSYC 101 or PSYC 102. Note: Students without the prerequisites who have been admitted to the Bachelor of Social Work or Master of Social Work can contact the School of Social Work and Human Services for permission to register.									
<b>Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):</b>		None.									
<b>Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):</b>		None.									
<b>Antirequisite Courses</b> ( <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>		<b>Course Details</b> Special Topics course: <b>No</b> <i>(If yes, the course will be offered under different letter designations representing different topics.)</i> Directed Study course: <b>No</b> <i>(See <a href="#">policy 207</a> for more information.)</i> Grading System: <b>Letter grades</b> Delivery Mode: <b>May be offered in multiple delivery modes</b> Expected frequency: <b>Annually</b> Maximum enrolment (for information only): <b>36</b>									
<b>Typical Structure of Instructional Hours</b>		<b>Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)</b> PLAR is available for this course.									
<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 style="text-align: right;"><b>Total hours</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>45</b></td> </tr> </table>		Lecture/seminar	45					<b>Total hours</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>Transfer Credit</b> (See <a href="#">bctransferguide.ca</a> ) Transfer credit already exists: <b>Yes</b> Submit outline for (re)articulation: <b>Yes</b>	
Lecture/seminar	45										
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>45</b>										
<b>Scheduled Laboratory Hours</b> Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<b>Date of meeting:</b> January 9, 2026									
<b>Department approval,</b>		<b>Date of meeting:</b> February 20, 2026									
<b>Faculty Council approval</b>		<b>Date of meeting:</b> March 27, 2026									
<b>Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval</b>											

**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. Explain current models and theories of addiction and their implications for treatment planning
2. Describe the continuum of substance use disorder and the characteristics and effects of major classes of drugs.
3. Analyze the ethical, historical, and contextual factors that shape substance use, social work practice, and the continuum of care.
4. Assess substance-related concerns using standardized criteria and evidence-informed social work assessment tools.
5. Demonstrate foundational interviewing skills and stages of change to engage with individuals, families, and communities with substance-related concerns.
6. Evaluate diverse experiences of addiction across populations to inform responsive, trauma-informed, sensitive, and equitable social work intervention.
7. Interpret the nature and extent of substance use in Canada to understand social policy responses and their implications for social work practice.
8. Reflect on the impacts of colonization, intergenerational trauma, and culturally appropriate health services related to substance use.

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

Assignments:	100%	%	%
	%	%	%

**Details:**

Papers (2): 50%

Discussions and engagement with materials: 20%

Case study: 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.)*

This course will be taught using a combination of lectures, class discussions, problem-based learning activities, videos, small group presentations, 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	van Wormer, K., & Davis, D. R.	Addiction treatment: A strengths perspective	Current
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

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

1. Introduction and frameworks for understanding substance use from a social work perspective
2. The nature of the substance use continuum
3. Historical perspectives
4. Substance use and individuals/families
5. Substance use and communities
6. Substance use treatment with co-occurring mental health concerns
7. Addiction across the lifespan
8. Screening and assessment
9. Gambling, eating disorders, spending, and other behavioural addictions
10. Family risks and resiliencies; gender and sexual diversity considerations
11. Trauma-informed, decolonial, strengths- and evidence-based helping strategies
12. Mutual aid groups
13. Ethnicity, culture, and the socioeconomic determinants of addiction