This course will provide students with an understanding of the scope of social work in health care settings. Students will examine the social determinants of health, understand family systems in relation to social work in health care, and explore relevant legislation and policies that guide social work practice in health care settings. This course will also examine the historical context of the health care system. Students will develop a critical analysis of health policy and health services as they relate to meeting the health care needs of marginalized populations. Topics will include understanding the continuum of care, health care issues across the life span, chronic illness, mental health issues, psychosocial assessment and intervention models, ethical health care decision making, adult guardianship, end of life care, and diversity issues including health care issues related to indigenous peoples, the elderly, ethno-racial groups, people with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-gendered people, and other marginalized groups.
LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Describe the historical context of the health care system
2. Provide a critical analysis of Canadian health care policy and the health care system.
3. Articulate the role of social work in health care settings identifying opportunities for advocacy using anti-oppressive and client-centred approaches.
4. Identify and examine the social determinants of health including their implications for practice
5. Critically analyze the power dynamics of the interdisciplinary team and the value of the social work role in the context of the medical model.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the legislation that guides social work practice
7. Demonstrate basic skills to complete a psycho-social assessment
8. Explain the continuum of care and implications for social work practice
9. Articulate and apply social work interventions
10. Demonstrate an understanding of health care ethics, and ethical decision making
11. Identify mental health conditions and identify relevant legislation that guides social work practice
12. Identify and analyze the structural barriers that exist and interfere with access of health care services
13. Demonstrate an understanding of chronic illness and identify social work interventions for people living with chronic illness.
14. Develop a beginning competence to provide social work interventions in end of life care,
15. Understand and describe adult guardianship issues within a social work framework.
16. Analyze diversity issues as they relate to access to health care for marginalized populations including indigenous peoples, the elderly, ethno-racial groups, people with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-gendered people, and other marginalized groups

METHODS: (Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)
This course will be instructed using a complement of lectures, seminars, class discussions, videos, guest speakers, and field visits.

METHODS OF OBTAINING PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):
- Examination(s)
- Portfolio assessment
- Interview(s)
- Other (specify): Oral examination

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

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS: [Textbook selection varies by instructor. Examples for this course might be:]
Additional texts and readings will be included in a course pack and provided by the instructor.

SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:

STUDENT EVALUATION: [An example of student evaluation for this course might be:]
- Test 25%
- Psych/social assessment 15%
- Major Paper on health topic 35%
- Critique on an Aspect of the Health Care system 25%

COURSE CONTENT: [Course content varies by instructor. An example of course content might be:]
- Week 1 Introduction to health care in Canada
- Week 2 History of Canadian health Care system and social determinants of health
- Week 3 Continuum of care, introduction to the health care models
- Week 4 Ethical decision making in health care
- Week 5 Adult Guardianship
- Week 6 Legislation that guides social work practice in health care across the lifespan
- Week 7 Psycho social assessments
- Week 8 End of life care
- Week 9 Diversity issues
- Week 10 Marginalized populations and access to health care
- Week 11 Mental health in health care
- Week 12 Chronic illness and social work practice
- Week 13 Vicarious trauma and self-care