### OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE

**SOWK 493**  School of Social Work & Human Services  3

#### COURSE NAME/NUMBER
Feminist Social Work

#### FACULTY/DEPARTMENT
UFV CREDITS

#### COURSE DESCRIPTIVE TITLE
The course will examine social work issues from a feminist perspective, incorporating an analysis of the ideology and conceptual practices underpinning social welfare policy in Canada. Beginning with the historical development of feminist social work and feminist theories as they relate to social work practice, the class will explore gender role stereotypes, social welfare policies, ethics, research as empowerment, and specific issues experienced by women in areas such as disability, sexual orientation, and violence.

#### CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

#### PREREQUISITES:
Admission into the Bachelor of Social Work program. (Students with a minimum of 45 credits in other degree programs 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: SSSW 493
(b) Cross-listed with: 
(c) Cannot take: for further credit.

#### TOTAL HOURS PER TERM: 45

#### STRUCTURE OF HOURS:
- Lectures: 30 Hrs
- Seminar: 15 Hrs
- Laboratory: Hrs
- Field experience: Hrs
- Student directed learning: Hrs
- Other (specify): Hrs

#### TRAINING DAY-BASED INSTRUCTION:
- Length of course: 
- Hours per day: 
- Other: Maximum enrolment: 30

#### WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (lower-level courses only)
- Yes [ ] No [ ]

#### WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (upper-level requested by department)
- Yes [x] No [ ]

#### TRANSFER CREDIT EXISTS IN BCCAT TRANSFER GUIDE:
- Yes [x] No [ ]

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**Course designer(s):** Georgina Marsom MSW, RSW  
**Department Head:** Dr. Elizabeth Dow, Director  
**Supporting area consultation:** 
**Curriculum Committee chair:** 
**Dean/Associate VP:** Dr. Rosetta Khalideen, Dean  
**Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval:**  
**Date of meeting:** January 21, 2011  
**Date of meeting:** February 3, 2012
LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate the development of feminist theories in social work and explain how these influence current feminist theories.
2. Critically analyze power and control within patriarchal structures in relation to women’s lived experiences.
3. Identify the underlying ideological issues that shape social policy.
4. Identify one’s own dominant/non-dominant status in relation to the privileges of dominant group membership.
5. Explain the ways in which feminism has been racist and articulate the role of feminist theory in anti-oppressive social work practice.
6. Identify how social policy development may contribute in making women “the problem”.
7. Critically analyze traditional and feminist approaches to ethics, and demonstrate an awareness of current ethical issues within social work practice from a feminist perspective.

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

Lectures, class discussion, videos, experiential exercises, and guest lectures. Student involvement is critical to the learning environment, and students are asked to actively participate.

METHODS OF OBTAINING PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):

☑ Examination(s) ☑ Portfolio assessment ☑ Interview(s)

☐ Other (specify):

☐ 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:]


SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:

STUDENT EVALUATION:

[An example of student evaluation for this course might be:]

Self-in-relation to Feminism Paper  25%
Analysis of a Social Phenomenon Paper  35%
Policy Analysis Paper  40%

COURSE CONTENT:

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

WEEK 1. Introductions; course requirements; history of feminism in social work
WEEK 2. Historical context of the family & motherhood in social work; Backlash to feminism
WEEK 3. The personal is political: liberal feminism, radical feminism, socialist feminism
WEEK 4. Women in context: lesbian feminist theory; family as the site of contestation
WEEK 5. Women in context: global, cultural & ecofeminism and womanism
WEEK 6. Socialization of males; postmodern feminist theory
WEEK 7. Third-wave feminisms
WEEK 8. Application of social work to feminist theories
WEEK 9. Ethics; research as empowerment
WEEK 10. Politics of social policy development
WEEK 11. Research as empowerment
WEEK 12. Influence of popular media
WEEK 13. Last Class-Final Review and Wrap Up