



TYNDALE
University College

SOCI 3513
THEORIES OF SOCIAL WORK
Fall 2009, Room 1007, Tuesdays, 8:30-11:30AM

Professor: Regine King

Office: Part-Time instructor's office

Email: regine.king@utoronto.ca

Office hours: Tuesday 1:00-4:00 and by appointment

Commuter Hotline: 416-226-6620 ext. 2187

Class cancellations due to inclement weather or illness will be announced/posted on the commuter hotline.

Mailboxes: Every student is responsible for information communicated through the student mailboxes. A mailbox directory is posted beside the mailboxes.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course involves a critical and analytical examination of theoretical, ideological, philosophical, political and socio-economic approaches to social work practice. Realities of the Canadian social welfare will include particular topics such as Aboriginal peoples in Canada, child poverty, and people with disabilities, and minority groups.

Prerequisite: SOCI 1013 & 1513

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The overall goal is to examine multiple theoretical, ideological, philosophical, political and socio-economic frameworks related to social work practice. The course will analyze these frameworks and seek to apply them to specific social work practice domains and situations (e.g. clinical practice, welfare/workforce, and homelessness).

Specific objectives;

- To examine social processes associated with the construction, production, and distribution of knowledge and to critically analyze how different kinds of knowledge are used in social work.
- To enhance students' ability to critique each theoretical framework in terms of its strengths and limitations and its applicability to social work practice.

- To encourage students to examine their knowledge base and develop a model of social work practice with regard to the intersecting diversities found in the Canadian society.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Turner, J. C. & Turner, F.J. (2009). *Canadian Social Welfare*. Sixth Edition. Toronto, Ontario: Pearson Education Canada Inc.

COURSE EVALUATION:

Grading structure:

- 10% Participation
- 15% Reflective paper
- 10% class presentation
- 20% Mid-term exam
- 20% Research paper
- 25% Final exam

Class participation (10%)

Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions. Class participation is evaluated with reference to students' presence, participation and the quality of their contribution to classroom discussions.

Reflective paper (15%)

Students are expected to critically reflect on their knowledge of social work practice, critically analyze and challenge their understanding of social issues as they assimilate new knowledge throughout the course. Students will be required to keep a journal in which they will record personal reflections on the topics discussed in class, on the class readings and on other information that raise consciousness about Canadian social realities. The journal will be handed in with a three page reflective paper on the personal experience of participating in the SOCI 3513 class. **Reflective paper due date: November 17, 2009**

Class presentation (10%)

On the first day of class, topics for presentation will be provided to students. Each student will pick a topic to present on the time scheduled for that topic. Each presentation will last 15 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions. Grading criteria for the presentations will be based on the merit of the presentation and according to the following criteria:

- Ability to identify issues related to the topic and present them
- Ability to lead a discussion regarding the topic
- Ability to provide other students useful materials about the topic.

Mid-term exam (20%)

The mid-term exam will be based on the contents of the readings and lectures offered to date.

The exam will be written in class on October 20, 2009.

Research paper (20%)

The research paper will relate to social work and be based on the topic of interest for each student. All students are required to choose a topic, discuss it with the professor and obtain her approval before its development. The paper must be 10-15 pages maximum, double spaced, written in 12-point font, Times New Roman, and in APA style. The paper will be graded based on content, clarity of writing and organization, consistency of style and bibliography.

Bibliographic sources must be taken from books, academic journals and other written materials.

Research Paper due date: December 01, 2009

Final exam (25%)

The final exam will be based on the topics covered in the reading materials, lectures and class discussions. Time and place of the exam will be scheduled by the registrar's office. **Final**

Exams begin December 11th and end December 21, 2009

Instructions regarding research papers submission

Research papers are to be submitted in class on the day they are due. Late papers will not be accepted, except for medical or other very serious situations. In case your paper is not submitted on the due date in class, then you need to have the date of submission of your paper stamped and placed in the professor's mailbox. Electronic copies are not acceptable (**please read more about this important policy in the academic calendar 2009-2010**).

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance at all classes is required for administrative purposes. Documentation may be requested for absences due to medical reasons or emergencies. Students are advised to read the academic calendar 2007-2008 for more information.

PLAGIARISM:

Students are expected to commit to the highest of integrity, and to understand the importance of protecting and acknowledging intellectual property. It is assumed that they bring a clear understanding of how to cite references appropriately and avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism and all academic dishonesty are serious offenses and will not be tolerated (please read the academic calendar, 2008-2009) for further information on this policy).

COURSE OUTLINE:

Week1. September 15, 2009. Introduction: Social welfare: basic components (Chapter 1 & 2)

Week2. September 22, 2009. The political, economic, and geographical bases of Canadian Social Welfare (Chapter 3, 4, & 5)

Week3. September 29, 2009. Historical base and Aboriginal peoples in Canada (Chapter 6 & 7)

Week4. October 06, 2009. Issues of women and immigrants (chapter 9 & 10)

Week5. October, 13, 2009. Canada's unique social realities, nature of oppression and Anti-oppressive policy (chapter 12 & 13)

Week6. October 20, 2009. Social Welfare structure: Agencies in general and the system of health care (Chapter 14 &17)

Week7. October 27-28, 2009. Reading days

Week8. November, 03, 2009. MID-TERM EXAM (first half of class)

Community capacity building: re-conceptualization of services for the protection of children (Chapter 18) (second half of class)

Week9. November 10, 2009. Services for children, youth and families (chapter18, 19, & 20)

Week10. November 17, 2009. Services for older adults and persons with disabilities (chapter 21, 22, & 23)

REFLECTIVE PAPER DUE

Week11. November 24, 2009. Personnel of the Canadian social welfare (chapter 24, 25, 26)

Week12. December 01, 2009. Globalization, social welfare and international social work (chapter 30 & 31)

RESEARCH PAPER DUE

Week13. December 08, 2009. Quality control of policy and practice (chapter 27, 28, & 29)

FINAL EXAMS DECEMBER 11-21, 2009

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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Professional social workers require detailed knowledge of social, mental, and interpersonal difficulties and the skills to work with the most vulnerable people in society. As a result, social work's interest and involvement in family, community welfare, and social justice have contributed significantly to mental health practice and social policy (Bland, Drake, & Drayton, 2021). Social workers make use of many theories. These theories fall in and out of fashion and appeal to different standpoints on human nature, human development, and society. The following list is a selection of several fascinating theories used by social workers to understand the intricacy and complexity of the human condition.

1. Anti-oppressive practice. Social work is an academic discipline and practice-based profession that concerns itself with individuals, families, groups, communities and society as a whole in an effort to meet basic needs and enhance social functioning, self-determination, collective responsibility, and overall well-being. Social functioning is defined as the ability of an individual to perform their social roles within their own self, their immediate social environment, and the society at large. Social work applies social... Social work theories are general explanations that are supported by evidence obtained through the scientific method. A theory may explain human behavior, for example, by describing how humans interact or how humans react to certain stimuli. Social work practice models describe how social workers can implement theories. Erikson's theory posits that individuals evolve through their stages of development based on how they adapt to social crisis throughout the lifetime. These social crises inform how individuals respond to the world around them. Sponsored by Toucan. As a social worker, you'll help individuals and families advance their well-being, or you'll work to shape the policies impacting social conditions for communities and groups. You'll bring opportunity to individuals and hope to communities by providing them with the support, tools, and resources to function and thrive in their respective environments. But what does this mean exactly? And what does social work look like? As a practitioner or student of social work, you need not view these as competing theories. Instead, your goal should be to understand how each of these theories approaches and addresses the service strategies and policy imperatives of social work. As a practitioner, you'll draw on the ideas that best serve your clients and your role.

Common Social Work Theories. Social work theories attempt to describe, explain and predict social events based on scientific evidence, studies and research. Social work perspectives draw from psychology, philosophy, economics, education and other fields to attempt to explain what drives and motivates people at various stages of life. Some social work students studying for a bachelor's degree in social work or master of social work may wonder, "Why is theory important in social work?" Social workers learn a variety of theories so they're prepared to apply social work theory to practice. That ensures competence in social work, which can increase social worker confidence.

Why Is Theory Important in Social Work?