

SOWK 120A - Rural and Northern Practice

3 credits, 3 hours

This course will explore the role of the social worker in Canadian rural, northern and remote communities and how urbanization and industrialization has impacted the development of these areas and its people.

Instructor

Instructor Name: Alexis Laird
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Office Hours

Monday: 12:00 – 1:00 PM
Tuesday: 2:00 – 3:00 PM
Wednesday: 9:00 – 10:00 AM
Thursday: 3:00 – 4:00 PM
Friday: 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Hours of Instruction

Tuesday 9:00 AM - 11:50 AM
Room: S205

Required Resources

Delaney, R., & Brownlee, K. (Eds.). (2009). *Northern and rural social work practice: A Canadian Perspective*. Thunder Bay, ON: Centre for Northern Studies.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student shall be able to:

- Be aware of the characteristics of rural and northern communities
- Understand the importance of partnership in the development of northern communities
- To identify and understand appropriate and effective methods of practice in rural northern and remote communities
- Understand the importance of practicing and developing culturally appropriate and ethical helping relationships
- Develop analytical and critical thinking skills that will deepen the understanding of the complex social issues that face rural, northern and remote communities
- Identify unique northern circumstances that can result in worker stress and the breakdown of helping relationships
- Critically analyze the socio-economic and environment impacts of the Alberta oil sands

- Understand how First Nation research differs to western empirical research

Evaluation

Reflection Paper	15%
Mid-Term Exam	25%
Northern Experience Paper	30%
Final Exam	30%
TOTAL	100%

A grade of C- is required for progression or transfer.

Reflection Paper: Students will submit a paper in response to reflection questions provided by the instructor. Student's reflections will be based on lived experience, lecture content and assigned readings. Written instructions will be provided in class. Weight is 15% of overall grade. **Due February 12, 2019.**

Midterm Exam: This exam will cover all content, class discussion and assigned readings from weeks 1-7. Weight is 25% of overall grade. **February 26, 2019.**

Northern Experience Paper: Students will select a northern or rural community in Canada and a social work job within that community. Students will explore community traits (social/geographical/economical), service delivery methods, and barriers to service delivery. Students will then provide a comparison to an urban experience. Written instructions will be provided in class. Weight is 30% of overall grade. **Due April 2, 2019.**

Final Exam: In class review for the final exam will be April 9, 2019. Exam date TBA (final exam period).

Grading System

Descriptor	Alpha Grade	4.0 Scale	Percent	Rubric for Letter Grades
Excellent	A+	4.0	> 92.9	Work shows in-depth and critical analysis, well developed ideas, creativity, excellent writing, clarity and proper format.
	A	4.0	85 – 92.9	
	A-	3.7	80 – 84.9	
Good	B+	3.3	77 – 79.9	Work is generally of high quality, well developed, well written, has clarity, and uses proper format.
	B	3.0	74 – 76.9	
	B-	2.7	70 – 73.9	
Satisfactory Progression	C+	2.3	67 – 69.9	Work has some developed ideas but needs more attention to clarity, style and formatting.
	C	2.0	64 – 66.9	
	C-	1.7	60 – 63.9	
Poor Minimum Pass	D+	1.3	55 – 59.9	Work is completed in a general way with minimal support, or is poorly written or did not use proper format.
	D	1.0	50 – 54.9	
Failure	F	0.0	< 50	Responses fail to demonstrate appropriate understanding or are fundamentally incomplete.

Proposed Schedule of Topics

Wk	Date	Topic	Assigned Readings	Assignments Due
1	Jan 8	Introduction to Rural and Northern Social Work	Delaney & Brownlee CH 1	
2	Jan 15	Oppression in Remote Communities	Delaney & Brownlee CH 2	
3	Jan 22	Objectives & Experiences of Rural and Northern SW	Delaney & Brownlee CH 3	
4	Jan 29	Issues for Northern Practitioners & Service Delivery	Delaney & Brownlee CH 4, 5	
5	Feb 5	Therapeutic Mediation Case Conference Model	Delaney & Brownlee CH 6, 7	
6	Feb 12	Ethics in Rural and Northern SW Practice <i>Midterm Exam Review</i>	Delaney & Brownlee CH 8, 9	Reflection Paper
7	Feb 19	Reading Week – No Class		
8	Feb 26			Midterm Exam
9	Mar 5	Community Practice and Power Imbalances	Delaney & Brownlee CH 10, 11	
10	Mar 12	Reflective Practice in Rural and Northern Communities	Delaney & Brownlee CH 12, 13	
11	Mar 19	STAT – No class		
12	Mar 26	Community Assessment Rural and Northern Social Agencies	Delaney & Brownlee CH 14, 15 Delaney & Brownlee CH 17	
13	Apr 2	Supervision in Rural and Northern SW Practice	Delaney & Brownlee CH 18	Northern Experience Paper
14	Apr 9	Burnout in Rural and Northern SW Practice <i>Final Exam Preparation</i>	Delaney & Brownlee CH 23	
	TBD			Final Exam

Please Note:

Date and time allotted to each topic is subject to change.

Performance Requirements

Student Responsibilities

It is your responsibility as a student to contact the Office of the Registrar to complete the forms for Withdrawal or Change of Registration, and any other forms. Please refer to the list of important dates as noted in the Academic Schedule in the Keyano College credit calendar.

More specific details are found in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct Policies.

Student Attendance

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a students' learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating to the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course.

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and / or notes that may be due.

Academic Misconduct

Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person's work as one's own
- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating)
- Collusion or the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work
- The deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications
- The willful distortion of results or data
- Substitution in an examination by another person
- Handing in the same unchanged work as submitted for another assignment
- Breach of confidentiality.

The consequences for academic misconduct range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from the College. More specific descriptions and details are found in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct Policies.

In order to ensure your understanding of the concept of plagiarism, you must successfully complete the online tutorial found on ilearn.keyano.ca. Then print the certificate, sign it, and show it to each of your instructors. Your course work will not be graded until you show this signed certificate.

Specialized Supports

The Student Academic Support Services (SASS) department: Accessibility Services, Skill Centre and Wellness Services, work together to support student success at Keyano College.

Accessibility Services (CC167) supports student success through group and individualized instruction of learning, study and test taking strategies, and adaptive technologies. Students with documented disabilities, or who suspect a disability, can meet with the Learning Strategists to discuss accommodation of the learning barriers that they may be experiencing. Students who have accessed accommodations in the past are encouraged to visit our office at their earliest opportunity to discuss the availability of accommodations in their current courses. Individual appointments can be made by calling 780-791-8934

Skill Centre (CC119) provides a learning space where students can gather to share ideas, collaborate on projects and get new perspectives on learning from our tutorial staff. Students visiting the centre have access to one-to-one or group tutoring, facilitated study groups, and assistance in academic writing. The Skill Centre's Peer Tutor program provides paid employment opportunities for students who have demonstrated academic success and want to share what they have learned. Tutoring is available free to any students registered at Keyano College on a drop in basis, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Additional evening hours are subject to tutor availability and are posted in the Skill Centre.

Wellness Services (CC260) offers a caring, inclusive, and respectful environment where students can access free group and individual support to meet academic and life challenges. Mental Health Coordinators offer a safe and confidential environment to seek help with personal concerns. The Mindfulness Room in CC260 is available as a quiet space for students to relax during regular office hours. Wellness Service welcomes students to participate in any of the group sessions offered throughout the academic year addressing such topics as Mindfulness and Test Anxiety. Individual appointments can be made by calling 780-791-8934.

Please watch your Keyano email for workshop announcements from our Student Academic Support Services team.