SOCW 410, Understanding Ethics In the Lives of Persons with Disabilities

COURSE OUTLINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section:</th>
<th>S19W70</th>
<th>Semester:</th>
<th>Spring 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instructor:</td>
<td>Fiona Meyer Cook, BFA, BSW, MSW, PHD (C)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Office Hours:</td>
<td>As needed, email to arrange a meeting online</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Phone:</td>
<td>Instructor prefers e-mail contact</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e-mail:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Fiona.Meyercook@viu.ca">Fiona.Meyercook@viu.ca</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skype:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoom:</td>
<td>Links will be provided on the D2L</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Hay ch qa’ sii’em siye’yu mukw mustimuxw.

In keeping with regional protocol, Vancouver Island University students, staff, faculty and administration would like to acknowledge and thank the Snuneymuxw First Nation, Tla’amin First Nation, Snaw-naw-as First Nation and the Cowichan Tribes for allowing students, staff, faculty and administration to teach, learn, live and share educational experiences on the traditional territories of these nations.
COURSE DESCRIPTION

SOCW 410 (3) Understanding Ethics In the Lives of Persons with Disabilities (Ends May 2020)

An exploration of the ethical issues pertaining to people with disabilities. Topics include ethical considerations in responding to cultural differences; public policy issues including resource distribution and privatization; and choice and self-determination noting the societal perceptions regarding the value of the lives of people with disabilities. Credit will only be granted for one of CYC 360K or SOCW 410. (3:0:0)

Prerequisite: SOCW 310.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Students will be expected to understand, apply and adhere to the Canadian Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics and Ethical Practice Guidelines.
2. Understand the framework for ethics and ethical decision making.
3. Understand definitions of ethics, morals and values; the relationship between personal and professional ethics; and the philosophical and historical bases of professional ethics.
4. Articulate and reflect on personal attitudes, biases, individual socialization and ethical issues with regard to diversity and vulnerable populations.
5. Understand social responsibility and social justice.
6. Discern ethical obligations beyond professional guidelines.
7. Demonstrate models for ethical decision-making.
8. Understand the BCASW Code of Ethics and have an appreciation for inter-disciplinary approaches.
9. Understand ethics within the context of direct service: informed consent, privacy, confidentiality, access to services and record keeping.
10. Recognize professional boundaries and their maintenance (e.g. sexual relationships, business, friends, barter, fee collection, self-care).
11. Address ethical issues within the context of personnel shortages, legislated regulations, multi-disciplinary services and partnerships, for-profit service provision, aging population, self-managed care, spirituality at an introductory level.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

REQUIRED TEXTS: There is a mandatory text: Spencer, E., Massing, D. & Gough, J. (Eds.). (2017). Social Work Ethics: Progressive, Practical and Relational Approaches. Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press. All other readings and resources will be supplied to students on the D2L course site.
CLASS FORMAT AND ASSIGNMENTS

Students are expected to participate actively in all online class discussions and seminars. The class includes (3) seminars this semester. See D2L for the dates and sign-up sheet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due date</th>
<th>Grade %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Values Reflection</td>
<td>Tuesday January 22nd (week 3)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interview with a social worker</td>
<td>February 17th (week 6)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic for ethical case (must be approved)</td>
<td>February 24th (week 7)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitated Group Discussions</td>
<td>Weeks: 8,9,11,12,13</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethical Case study: final paper</td>
<td>March 24 (week 10)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOCIAL WORK CODE OF ETHICS

Students enrolled in the Bachelor of Social Work program at Vancouver Island University are expected to comply with the social work Code of Ethics within the jurisdiction in which they are residing. In Canada, students are expected to have read and comply with the Canadian Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics located here: https://casw-acts.ca/sites/casw-acts.ca/files/documents/casw_code_of_ethics.pdf

Non-compliance with the Code of Ethics can result in discontinuation from the Bachelor of Social Work program.

PARTICIPATION

Presence, engagement and participation in this class is mandatory. Students are expected to follow the course outline and keep current with their weekly readings and assignments. Instructors are able to keep track of student progress in the course, and will connect with students who appear to be struggling to ensure that they can complete the course successfully.

In some courses, participation will be graded and students who have extended attendance issues may not be able to complete the course.

METHOD OF STUDENT EVALUATION:

Details (outlines and marking rubrics) of each assignment for this course can be found on the D2L course site.
Students are expected to review the following policy with respect to grade appeals: [http://www.viu.ca/calendar/GeneralInformation/generalregulations.asp](http://www.viu.ca/calendar/GeneralInformation/generalregulations.asp)

**HANDLING OF STUDENT WORK**

1. Students are responsible for retaining a copy of all submitted work and for submitting all assignments by their due date. (please see late policy)
2. Every effort will be made to return assignments to students within two weeks.
3. Students can email the instructor to review and discuss their exams, assignments or course grade.
4. Final grades will be posted for each student to view on the course VIU Learn site and on their VIU Student Account.

**DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION**

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodation, please feel free to approach me and/or [Disability Access Services](#) (DAS) as soon as possible. The DAS staff is available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Students who have an existing disabilities accommodation must submit their documentation to the course instructor within the first two weeks of the course. Students who are seeking a disabilities accommodation must submit their documentation to their instructor as soon as it is completed. Students will meet with each of their instructors to discuss how their accommodation will be applied to the course content, online setting and the evaluation process.

**LATE SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS/MISSED EXAMS: CONSEQUENCES**

All assignments must be submitted on the date and time specified, and all tests are to be written on the date specified. The only time an assignment can be handed in late is if there is a medical or family emergency and it must be communicated to the instructor as soon as possible. A doctor’s note will be required for illness and must include the dates of the student’s incapacity.

A student is responsible for communicating any late submissions to the instructor, regardless of the reason.

If a student hands in an assignment late, a late deduction of 2% per day will occur up to 7 days.
Papers or assignments will not be accepted after 7 days.

Extension requests for assignments will only be considered under exceptional circumstances. These include: death of a family member, prolonged illness, hospitalization or what would be deemed an emergency situation. Extension requests need to be submitted at least 24 hours ahead of time. For illness or hospitalization, the student will be required to produce a doctor’s note that are specific to the dates of their incapacity.

There are no rewrites and therefore, no rewrite will be granted for papers with a low mark or failing grade. It is the student’s responsibility to understand the content and expectations of the assignments that are due. The instructor will provide outlines, marking rubrics, and overviews for the assignments. Meetings with the instructor are recommended and encouraged if a student is struggling with the content.

Requests for “make-up assignments”, “additional work” or “alternate assignments” for the purposes of increasing grades will not be granted.

**It is the student’s responsibility to monitor their progress** and access assistance/resources early on in the event of low marks or if it appears there may be a risk of not achieving the necessary grade required to fulfill program requirements. All grades are available on the course VIULearn site.

**Students are expected to keep a copy of all their work.** Therefore, losing assignments as a result of not having saved a paper will not be accepted as a reason for an extension. Computers/laptops crashing or breaking down as well as theft of computers from vehicles or homes will no longer be considered valid reasons for an extension request. It is suggested that students e-mail themselves drafts of their work at regular intervals or save draft copies of assignments on a disc or memory stick.

**GENERAL REGULATIONS AND STUDENT CONDUCT**

Students are expected to review and adhere to the General Regulations and Student Conduct Code (Policy 32.05): [http://www.viu.ca/calendar/GeneralInformation/generalregulations.asp](http://www.viu.ca/calendar/GeneralInformation/generalregulations.asp)

Students are expected to review and adhere to the Faculty of Health and Human Services Policies and Procedures listed here: [https://hhs.viu.ca/faculty-health-and-human-services-policies-and-procedures](https://hhs.viu.ca/faculty-health-and-human-services-policies-and-procedures)

It is an expectation that students will have read the BSW Student Handbook in its entirety and understand its contents. The student handbook can be located here: [https://hhs.viu.ca/bachelor-social-work/bsw-student-handbook](https://hhs.viu.ca/bachelor-social-work/bsw-student-handbook)

**Academic Integrity**
**Academic integrity is expected of all students.** There are five values that underpin academic integrity (these are also consistent with professional social work standards): honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Please read through the Student Academic Code of Conduct policy (www.viu.ca/policies) to ensure that you are aware of VIU’s expectations. Violations of the academic code of conduct will be taken seriously and acted upon according to this policy.

**Plagiarism on papers is considered a breach of academic conduct and will be dealt with accordingly.** A link to the VIU Academic Code of Conduct is included in the course outline. Please read it. If students have additional concerns or questions that come up for them throughout the duration of the course, they are encouraged to consult the instructor for clarification.

Submitting papers that are at an unacceptable level in terms of writing and organization are the student’s responsibility. If in the past, assistance was required with writing, it is strongly recommended that you be proactive early on to access assistance for this course. Links are provided for the Writing Centre at VIU and to the digital resource of Learning Matters. Learning Matters has excellent links to a variety of resources that can assist with studying, writing and researching.

Students will use APA referencing and formatting for all their academic papers. Not doing this correctly may result in deductions of marks (please see the rubrics for your assignments).

**Respectful Behaviour and Communication**

Students will exhibit professionalism and respect in their communication with both the instructor and their classmates. The online setting is easily misinterpreted, so be aware of how you write emails, post discussions and interact with one another in small groups or in online seminars.

Constructive feedback should not be taken personally, and if you are feeling upset or unsafe by something said or written or done online, please contact the instructor to discuss it further.

Any form of discrimination or harassment of your classmates or instructor will not be accepted.

Engagement with other students outside of the course itself, should also be respectful and professional. This includes discussion in student Facebook groups or on social media. Confidentiality is a key social work ethical principle and should be adhered to at all times in either online or face-to-face interactions.

**STUDENT SUPPORTS**

1. Vancouver Island University Calendar: [http://www.viu.ca/calendar/](http://www.viu.ca/calendar/)
2. VIU Learning Matters: [https://learningmatters.viu.ca/](https://learningmatters.viu.ca/)
3. VIU Writing Center: [https://services.viu.ca/writing-centre](https://services.viu.ca/writing-centre)
4. Student Affairs Department: https://www2.viu.ca/studentservices/
5. Vancouver Island University student information: https://www.viu.ca/students
6. Online APA style referencing sites provided under the APA style referencing link located here: https://learningmatters.viu.ca/pages/using-style-sheets and https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/
7. Online access to Instructor through email

BSW GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Students must have completed at least 120 university-level credits and have completed all the required core and elective courses to be eligible for the Bachelor of Social Work degree.
2. A minimum "C+" average on all required courses with no grade lower than "C".
3. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all requirements for the degree are met. Students are encouraged to consult the social work program Advisor for information and guidance.

INSTRUCTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Grades will be assigned according to the Vancouver Island University GRADE SCALE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percent age (%)</th>
<th>Grade Value</th>
<th>Point Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>4.33</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>76-79</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>72-75</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>68-71</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>64-67</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60-63</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>55-59</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Score Range</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>50-54</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failing work</td>
<td>0-49</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>UW</td>
<td>Unofficial Withdrawal</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR</td>
<td>Course passed</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>INC</td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>CS</td>
<td>Continuing Status</td>
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<td>Audit</td>
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<td>INP</td>
<td>In Progress</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGS</td>
<td>No Grade Submitted</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

Course not completed due to unofficial withdrawal. Calculated as a “0” in the GPA.

Requirements completed, but not calculated in GPA.

If course requirements are not completed after 90 days from the course end date, the “INC” grade will automatically become an “F” grade.

In good standing. Course is delivered over 2 terms, separated by a break. Final mark to be issued at end of 2nd term.

In progress. Student must re-enroll within one year.

No Grade Submitted yet; neither Pass nor Fail.