

Social Work

Post-Degree courses offered at the Fredericton campus (F) of St. Thomas University are open to Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) students only, with the exception of electives which may be available to other students, subject to the approval of the instructor.

Courses offered in Sackville, New Brunswick (S) are open to Mi'kmaq/Maliseet Bachelor of Social Work (MMBSW) students only, with the exception of electives which may be available to other MMBSW students, subject to the approval of the instructor.

Undergraduate Courses

SCWK-2013. Introduction to Social Welfare (S)

An examination of the history, philosophy, and development of social welfare as a social institution in New Brunswick and elsewhere. Analysis of the institution and its relationship to the history, philosophy, and values of the profession of social work.

SCWK-2033. Introduction to Social Work Fields of Practice (F)

This is a survey course for all students interested in social work, curious about the relevance of arts and social science disciplines to social work fields of practice, and/or who wish to explore the profession as a potential career choice. Students will be introduced to the values, ethics, history and requirements of professional social work practice, with particular emphasis on social justice issues. Students will also have an opportunity to explore the various social work fields of practice.

SCWK-2503. Research Strategies in Native Studies (NATI)

Surveys various research strategies from Anthropology and Sociology and assesses their applicability to, and compatibility with, Native Studies. Considers special protocol and ethical questions in research on Native Peoples. Prerequisite: NATI 1006 or by special permission of instructor.

SCWK-3603. Native People and the Colonial Experience (NATI)

This course will look at colonialism as a strategy of imperialism and as a model for understanding North American Native history. Different types of colonialism will be explored, i.e. classic, internal, and neocolonialism, and an emphasis will be placed on the history and continuing impact of colonialism on Indigenous peoples and cultures of North America. The course will also analyze Christian missions, the fur trade, and colonial government policies, as well as exploitation, racism, war, indoctrination, genocide, and cultural appropriation as manifestations of colonialism. Responses to colonialism, including resistance and decolonization, will also be considered. Prerequisite: NATI 1006.

SCWK-3813. Native Cultural Identity and Cultural Survival (NATI)

Considers cultural identity and survival within the context of inequality (power, wealth and status). Focuses on the ways in which Native language, group solidarity and community offer cultural completeness, acting as barriers to assimilation. Historic and contemporary Native cultures are presented as dynamic and flexible. Prerequisite NATI 1006 or SOCI 1006.

SCWK-3843. Suicide and Indigenous Peoples (NATI)

Suicide is, and has been for nobody knows how long, rampant in indigenous populations in Canada. Despite well-publicized projects targeting specific communities, none of the interventions have been able to demonstrate any positive effect; if anything, the problem continues to worsen. We examine critically the field of Suicidology as it applies to the Native Peoples of Canada and suggest reasons why efforts to prevent suicide have not paid off. We also explore different kinds of interventions that may be more successful.

SCWK-3853. Alcohol, Drugs, and Indigenous Peoples (NATI)

This course provides an introduction to issues of alcohol and drug use/abuse in indigenous communities (concentrating on Canada for the most part, but including reference to such issues in other indigenous communities worldwide). Traditional uses of substances which alter consciousness are reviewed, as well as the role that the introduction of unfamiliar psychoactive substances played in European expansionism and colonialism. Modern models of addiction and programs for recovery are critically examined and placed within the context of creating a continuing marginalization of indigenous cultures by dominating ones.

SCWK-3973. Introduction to Narrative and Narrative Analysis (SOCL, GERO, PSYC, ENGL)

Framed around three key approaches to narrative this course will provide students with the basis on which to develop their understanding of narrative and their skills in narrative analysis. The three approaches are: the narrative study of lives; the narrative analysis of texts; and, the analysis of narrative dynamics. Through these approaches students will be introduced to the work of key narrative thinkers. The course, in content and delivery, reflects the interdisciplinary nature of narrative.