SW 522: Critical Indigenous Analysis of Social Work Theory

THIS IS A SAMPLE OUTLINE.
ACTUAL COURSE OUTLINE MAY VARY IN STRUCTURE, REQUIRED READINGS, TEXTS AND ASSIGNMENTS.

Calendar Description: The history of social work practice is one of injustice, particularly in relation to First Nation’s peoples. In the course, we would like to examine its assumptions and envision alternatives that are rooted in indigenous philosophies and theories. We will also apply this understanding to alternative ways of practicing social work so that it reflects traditional understandings of helping and healing as well as provides a critique of mainstream ways of practicing social work.

Course Objectives:
- To center indigenous knowledges and ways of being
- To critique normative assumptions of other theoretical perspectives
- Explore relationships between Indigenous ways of knowing and professional practice
- Make social justice explicit in our lives and practice.

Weekly Topics with readings:

Text Books:

Other readings: Readings in the Course Pack

Week 1 Introduction and Course Outline “What is Indigenous Philosophy?”

Week 2 What is Indigenous Knowledge? “What is our world view?”

**Week 3**

Indigenous perspectives on identity and social justice


**Week 4**

Indigenous Analysis of Eurocentric perspectives on social justice


**Week 5**

What is Indigenous Knowledge? “Why are you doing social work?”

“What is it’s relationship to your social work practice?”


**Week 6**

Critical perspectives on the relationship between knowing and doing social work practice. “How do we know differently” “How do we engage and dialogue with other traditions of practice?”


**Week 7**

Indigenous perspectives on Child welfare practice “How FN theory looks in practice”


**Week 8**


**Week 9**

PRESENTATION

**Week 10**

PRESENTATION

**Week 11**

PRESENTATION

**Week 12**

EVALUATION

**Assignments/Learning Activities & Due Dates:**

**Assignment #1: 20% participation: attendance, dialogue, presence**

Objective: To ensure that students are present and engage in critical reflection based on their lived experiences throughout the course.

Criteria: Attendance in class.

  - Participate in class and online activities.
  - Show curiosity and are self-directed in taking learning initiatives.
  - Reflective and thoughtful analysis.
  - Making relationships in and outside of class

**Due Date: On going**

**Assignment #2 Presentation: putting your theoretical framework into practice (40%)**

Objective: To be able to identify your own perspective and apply it using an example from your own social work practice.

Criteria: Comprehensive analysis of chosen theoretical perspective.

  - Ability to reflect theoretical understanding to implications of practice.
  - Critical reflection of theory and practice.
  - Clear, well organized, creative presentation.

**Due Dates: Units nine to eleven**

**Assignment #3 40% paper: formulating your theoretical framework for social justice**

This assignment has two parts, both of which consist of written papers.

**Part A: Write a reflection paper on the discussions that we have engaged in**
during the first half of the course. This paper should be no more than 2000 words. (Assignment worth 20%).

Objective: To reflect on the concepts undertaken by the readings and class discussions in the first part of the course.
Criteria: - Ability to grasp the concepts discussed in the course.
    - Ability to reflect on these using your lived experiences and community perspectives.
    - Clear and comprehensive analysis
    - Ability to use readings to reflect and analyze concepts.

Due Date: February 6th 2009

Part B: Write a research paper on the theoretical/world view that you situate yourself in having taken this course. This paper should be no more than 3000 words. (Assignment worth 20%).

Objective: To clearly articulate the theoretical position/s in which you situate your own analysis.
Criteria: - Ability to articulate your own theoretical perspective/s
    - Ability to use readings and class discussions by which to arrive at your position/s
    - Ability to be analytical and reflective
    - Clear, well organized paper

Due Date: February 20th

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIT ONE</th>
<th>January 9th 2009</th>
<th>Introduction and Course Outline “What is Indigenous Philosophy?”</th>
<th>Face-to-Face Class</th>
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<tr>
<td>UNIT TWO</td>
<td>January 16th</td>
<td>What is Indigenous Knowledge? “What is our world view?”</td>
<td>Face-to-Face Class</td>
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<td>UNIT THREE</td>
<td>January 23rd</td>
<td>Indigenous perspectives on identity and social justice</td>
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<td>UNIT FOUR</td>
<td>January 30th</td>
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<td>WebCT Class</td>
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<td>UNIT FIVE</td>
<td>February 6th</td>
<td>What is Indigenous Knowledge? “Why are you doing social work?” “What is its relationship to your social work practice?”</td>
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<td>UNIT EIGHT</td>
<td>“How does Child Welfare look in other International Indigenous communities?”</td>
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