School Vision: Building upon a foundation of social justice and an ethic of care, we are a community of learners actively engaged in the development of critical, transformative knowledge for social work practice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year/Term</th>
<th>Summer, 2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>SOWK 440H – Social Work and the Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Schedule</td>
<td>Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30 – 8:30 pm, Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Location</td>
<td>Room 223 – Jack Bell Building (School of Social Work)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Office Location</th>
<th>Office Phone</th>
<th>E-mail Address</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Margaret M. Wright</td>
<td>Room 240</td>
<td>604-822-6073</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Margaret.wright@ubc.ca">Margaret.wright@ubc.ca</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Office Hours: By appointment only

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to Canadian and British Columbia Law as it intersects with the practice of Social Work. We will exam some of the many critical perspectives on law, the legal system and the legal processes that interact with our professional practice. Students will critically examine the interaction of laws, the culture of law, social work and the culture of social work. Since this course is an introduction to these concepts, only a few areas of law will be examined. These will include human rights; criminal and youth justice; child welfare; adoption; marriage and divorce; mental health, poverty; immigration; disability; and substitute decision-making.

Format of the course: seminar format combined with lecture and guest speakers

Required and Recommended Reading:


This library web page is a gateway to many law sites: [http://guides.library.ubc.ca/leggov](http://guides.library.ubc.ca/leggov)

Some of them are listed below:

- Centre for Elder Law Studies: [http://www.bcli.org/cCEL](http://www.bcli.org/cCEL)
- Community Legal Assistance: [http://www.clasbc.net/](http://www.clasbc.net/)
- Disability Law: [http://www.legaltree.ca/node/26](http://www.legaltree.ca/node/26)
  [http://www.bloorstreet.com/300block/aablawleg.htm](http://www.bloorstreet.com/300block/aablawleg.htm) scroll down to Canada section
Course Assignments, Due dates and Grading:

First Assignment Due June 5th: Analysis of a BC Court of Appeal Decision or a Supreme Court of Canada decision that is relevant to social work practice. Detailed information about expectations will be handed out in class. 50%

Exam: during last class

Course Schedule:

May 11: Introduction. Chapters 1 and 2
- Discussion about course expectations.
- Beginning discussion of Canadian legal system, most relevant areas for social work and provincial and federal jurisdictions
- What is law? What is the purpose of law? What is the Canadian foundation of law?
- Distinction between laws and regulations
- Levels of Court
- Canada’s Charter of Rights and Freedoms:  

May 13: Human Rights, Class Interests and the Law: Chapter 2 and:

Canadian Welfare Laws and Reports:
http://www.canadiansocialresearch.net/welfare.htm

May 20: Criminal Code: Chapters 9

May 25: Youth Justice Chapter 8


May 27: Child Protection: Guess Speaker from Representative’s Office
Chapter 4 and 5

Representative for Children and Youth:
http://www.rcybc.ca/content/publications/reports.asp

Court Decisions:

June 1: Canadian Law and Aboriginal People

Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. v. Canada (Attorney General)

Metis Rights:
http://www.cbc.ca/thecurrent/episode/2013/01/11/is-official-indian-status-good-or-bad-for-metis/


June 3: Health and Mental Illness: Chapter 7.

Guide to the Mental Health Act:

Disability and Substitute Decision Making: Chapter 6.

Social Workers as Experts and Regulation of Social Workers: Chapters 11 and 12.

June 8: Marriage and Divorce: Chapter 3.

http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/legislation/family-law/


Barbeau v. British Columbia (Attorney General), 2003 BCCA 251
http://www.courts.gov.bc.ca/jdb-txt/ca/03/02/2003bcca0251.htm


Citizenship and Immigration Canada Website: http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/index.asp
Human Trafficking in Canada: http://www.lawyersweekly.ca/index.php?section=article&articleid=849

June 15: Social Workers as Experts and Regulation of Social Workers:
Chapters 11 and 12.

June 17: Exam

Course Policies:

- Students who miss more than 3 classes may be refused the right to hand in a final assignment. Attendance sheets must be signed during each class.

- Academic Dishonesty: Please read the UBC Calendar on the subject of academic regulations and the University’s policies on plagiarism.

- Students must retain a copy of all work submitted in case of loss or if the need for a Review of Assigned Standing arises (See Academic Regulations, UBC Calendar). Students have the right to view their marked examinations with their instructor, providing they apply to do so within a month of receiving their final grades. This review is for pedagogic purposes. The examination remains the property of the university.

- Students with ability/disability issues are encouraged to inform the instructor of these issues at the beginning of the course so that appropriate accommodations can be made for them. The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Disability Resource Centre.

- The University accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance, submitting assignments, or completing scheduled tests and examinations. Please let your instructor know in advance, preferably in the first week of class, if you will require any accommodation on these grounds.

- Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations, or other similar commitments, cannot assume they will be accommodated, and should discuss their commitments with the instructor before the drop date.

- Late Assignments: Extensions are granted only in cases of personal illness or family issues and not because of academic workload or conflicts. Extensions must be requested in advance of the due date of the assignment.

- Participation is expected of all students beyond simple attendance. Students are expected to read all of the assigned readings before every class and to come to class prepared to discuss the material.

- Students who use electronic devices to aid in their learning process (e.g. laptop computers) must have the permission of the instructor to use the device and, if permission is granted, must have the wireless capacity of the device turned off.
All cell phones must be turned off.

ASSIGNMENTS

Submitting Assignments-
Assignments should be submitted by email to the instructor

Return of marked student assignments -
The instructor will mark assignments on-line (with track changes) and return to the student on-line.

GRADING CRITERIA:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percent Range</th>
<th>Mid-Point</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>Represents work of exceptional quality. Content, organization and style are all at a high level. Student demonstrates excellent research and reference to literature where appropriate. Also, student uses sound critical thinking, has innovative ideas on the subject and shows personal engagement with the topic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>87</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>82</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>76-79</td>
<td>77.5</td>
<td>Represents work of good quality with no major weaknesses. Writing is clear and explicit and topic coverage and comprehension is more than adequate. Shows some degree of critical thinking and personal involvement in the work. Good use of existing knowledge on the subject.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>72-75</td>
<td>83.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>68-71</td>
<td>69.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>64-67</td>
<td>65.5</td>
<td>Adequate and average work. Shows fair comprehension of the subject, but has some weaknesses in content, style and/or organization of the paper. Minimal critical awareness or personal involvement in the work. Adequate use of literature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60-63</td>
<td>62.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>55-59</td>
<td>57</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-54</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>Minimally adequate work, barely at a passing level. Serious flaws in content, organization and/or style. Poor comprehension of the subject, and minimal involvement in the paper. Poor use of research and existing literature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-49</td>
<td></td>
<td>Failing work. Inadequate for successful completion of the course or submitted beyond final date of acceptance for paper.</td>
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