WS 320-4 Women's Issues in Social Work

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Office hrs. Wednesday 2:00-3:00
& by appointment

Social work is a 'caring' profession that has evolved in specific ways over the last one hundred and fifty years. Students will discuss this history from the standpoint of women and their role in professionalizing the daily work of caring and compassion. This course will also explore the wide range of professional sites and practices that encompass what we have come to know as the contemporary field of social work, and it will explore how an application of anti-racist and feminist thought might be relevant to student's future daily practice of social work.

Topics to be covered: A definition of the practice and ethics of social work; an overview of the emergence and disintegration of the Canadian Welfare State; the feminization of poverty, family issues and child welfare; the role of the social worker in social work practice at various level (clinical, community development, advocacy, policy analysis, administration as a social worker); and, future directions in the field of social work.

Each week students will be required to read two or three selected readings organized to introduce an historical, theoretical and practical knowledge base of social work.

Required readings:
A custom courseware package will be available at the university bookstore.

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
10% - participation – each student received a grade for being prepared for thoughtful class discussion
20% - journal – each student will be expected to keep a weekly journal (one entry per week) which reflects current social issue as represented in the media (newspaper, magazine, etc.)
25% - midterm exam (inclass)
5% - term paper proposal
30% - term paper – the topic will be self-selected on an issue relevant to social work
10% - presentation – each student will present fifteen minutes on a self-selected topic related to her term paper.
  Any audio/visual aids are to be discussed with the instructor prior to the student's presentation

Prerequisites:
60 credits

Wednesday 9:30-13:20

The Department of Women's Studies encourages clarity of thought and expression and good writing. Students will be evaluated on these skills in all courses given by the Department.