



AFFILIATED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

Renison University College
Affiliated with the University of Waterloo
40 Westmount Road North
Waterloo, ON Canada N2L 3G4
Phone: 519-884-4404 | uwaterloo.ca/renison

Renison University College Land Acknowledgement

With gratitude, we acknowledge that Renison University College is located on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Hodinohsyó:ni, and Attawandaran (Neutral) Peoples, which is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometres on each side of the Grand River from mouth to source. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place in all corners of our campus through research, learning, teaching, community building and outreach. We are guided by the work of our Reconciliation and Re-storying Steering Committee and Anti-Racism and Decolonization Spokescouncil, as well as the [University of Waterloo's Office of Indigenous Relations](#).

Winter 2023

Course Code: SOCWK/SWREN 120R-001

Course Title: Introduction to Social Work

Class Times/Location (building, room number): Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 2:20 p.m., Academic Centre, Renison University College, REN 2107

Instructor: Ela Smith (Course Author and Co-Instructor)

Dr. Arshi Shaikh-Grande (Co-instructor)

Office: Department of Social Development Studies, Renison University College

Office Phone: 519-884-4404 ext. 28688

Office Hours: Available by appointment

Email: a25smith@uwaterloo.ca, arshi.shaikh@uwaterloo.ca

Course Description

This course provides an overview of the social work profession as a part of the larger social welfare system in Canada. A particular attention is given to Indigenous and Eurocentric histories of the social work profession as well as Indigenous and Eurocentric worldview, values, and ethics. The course encompasses theories, practice models, processes and generalist skills required to engage in social work practice at micro, mezzo, and macro levels with various social groups (e.g., women, racialized minorities, Indigenous peoples, LGBTQ+, persons with disabilities) across different sectors and systems (e.g., child welfare, health care, mental health).

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes - (Upon completion of this course, students should be able to)

- A. Discuss the major concepts of Eurocentric social work profession and social welfare system.
- B. Describe the pre-colonial and colonial history of social work profession
- C. Appreciate Indigenous and Eurocentric social work worldview, values, and ethics.
- D. Understand theoretical approaches and practice models.
- E. Comprehend different levels (e.g., micro, mezzo, macro) of social work practice.
- F. Think critically about various fields of social work practice as they impact marginalized and disadvantaged social groups.

Required Text

- Hick, S. F., & Stokes, J. (2017). Social work in Canada: An introduction. Toronto, Ontario: Thompson

Course Requirements and Assessment

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Small Group Circle	Weeks 3-12	10%
Weekly Muses	Weeks 3-12	20%
Truth or Dare Assignment	Weeks 3, 5, 7, 9	20%

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Truth or Dare Reflection Paper	March 29, 2023	10%
Quiz #1	Feb 18 – 22, 2023	20%
Quiz #2	April 1-April 5, 2023	20%
Total		100%

Assessment 1

Small Group Circle (twice per semester 5% each = 10%)

Each group will complete a weekly check in. The weekly facilitator will chair the check in process.

The facilitator of the group will be responsible for noting:

- 1) Date & Name of Facilitator
- 2) P.A.T.H. example for each student
- 3) Outstanding Questions group may have (readings, course expectations)
- 4) Top Three media shares
- 5) Attendance of group members

These items will be recorded on an index card and submitted for grading.

Assessment 2

Weekly end of Class Muse, Weeks 3-12 (20%)

At the end of each class, each student will be asked to create 3-5 lines of reflection based on a reflective question. This is a weekly assignment. Each submission is worth 2% and there are no make-ups for missing a submission. If a student misses four or more submissions, regardless of the reason, the entire grade for this activity will be forfeited. These muses are intended to demonstrate learning and growth throughout the semester.

Assessment 3

Students will be asked to create a Twitter account and submit a screen shot, complete reflection questions, and respectfully engage with 3 or more peers regarding tweets. These images and reflections will become a document about the learning that has occurred in the course specific to the readings that are such a significant part of the knowledge development that will occur. Truth or Dare is a community-based assignment that seeks to engage and mobilize experiences at multiple levels. Truth or Dare is a means by which experience, and knowledge are shared in an accessible way. This is a bi-weekly assignment. There are 4 total

truth or dare assignments; 4 posts worth 5% each for an overall grade of 20% for the course.

Truth or Dare reflection questions must be posted in discussion board as well as responding to a minimum of 3 peers posts 6 days after the class that is assigned in. Therefore, if it is assigned on Friday you have until Thursday of the following week to complete post and responses to peers.

Due in weeks 3, 5, 7, 9

All pictures used for this assignment must be a screen shot of your tweets. Do not include any images without express consent by all people in photo.

These photos will be shared with the entire class community in the assigned discussion forum. Please reflect with classmates respectfully. Comments and feedback on classmates' submissions are part of the overall grade.

Truth or Dare Reflection Template

- Your UserName:
- Truth or Dare submission# :
- Truth or Dare (sharing someone's truth or why it is a dare (challenge) to your peers to engage):

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These photos will be shared with the entire class community in the assigned discussion forum. Please reflect with classmates respectfully. Comments and feedback on classmates' submissions are part of the overall grade.

Truth or Dare Reflection Template

- Your UserName:
- Truth or Dare submission# :
- Truth or Dare (sharing someone's truth or why it is a dare (challenge) to your peers to engage):
- Date Posted (must be within two weeks of due date):
- Is this post the sharing of truth (who's) or is a dare (challenge to learn or participate in something) that furthers your understanding regarding social work or social justice?
- Brief description of tweet (what is this tweet regarding?)
- What does this tweet tell us about the connections you have made to the course content?
- Why is this important to your learning?
- How does this relate to your intent and the impact you want to have on others through social work practice?

Truth or Dare Tips

Keep these tips handy as you post on Twitter. Refer to them often. Always check the source before you retweet someone's truth. Don't represent another's truth as your own. Remember that there are alternative ways to present issues and everyone has their own truth. You must adhere to being present, authentic, speaking your truth, and being human while engaging on Twitter.

Be creative and have fun!

Challenge yourself to find and follow many organizations. This will provide a variety of content and information for you to engage in and present to your peers as options for Truth or Dare. Remember that Truth or Dare is not about measuring someone's truth but to become a form of information sharing and networking to have a critical discussion with others about the relevant content to this course.

Assessment 4

Students will be required to write an accumulative reflection paper that details the connections made through the 4 truth or dare activities. This paper is worth 10% of the overall grades and is due on March 29, 2023.

The paper will be between 850 - 1000 words. It will adhere to APA formatting. The paper will include an appendix that lists the four tweets shared with peers.

It will answer the following questions:

- 1) Define Miskasowin and speak to it may have impacted your choice of organizations or tweets.
- 2) What connections did you make to organizations, people, or events (list the organizations you are following)?
- 3) How did these connections enhance your understanding of course content?
- 4) Provide details regarding each tweet you used in the 4 bi-weekly assignments noting;
 - a) The person or organization the information was from
 - b) Was it a truth or a dare post
 - c) Interesting feedback from peers
 - d) How did this post expand your understanding of Social Work or Social Justice?

5) Critically reflect on the truth or dare exercise and connect this to your intent within social work and what the likely impact might be of your actions.

Assessment 5

Quiz 1

Quiz 2

Course Outline

Notes on readings.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
1	Jan 9 – 13	Introduction and Miskasowin (Ela Smith)	Chapters 1 & 6
2	Jan 16 – 20	Mental Health and Social Work Practice (Arshi Shaikh-Grande)	Chapters 3 & 7
3	Jan 23 – 27	Toward a History of Social Work in Canada (Arshi Shaikh-Grande)	Chapter 2 Truth & Dare # 1
4	Jan 30 – Feb 3	Topics in Social Work with Women in Canada (Arshi Shaikh-Grande)	Chapter 8
5	Feb 6 – 10	Individuals, Groups, and Communities (Ela Smith)	Chapter 4 Truth or Dare #2
6	Feb 13 – 17	Social Work and Child Welfare in Canada (Ela Smith)	Chapter 5 Quiz #1
	Feb 20	Family Day	
	Feb 21 – 24	Reading Week	
7	Feb 27 – Mar 3	Social Work and First Nations, Inuit and Metis Peoples (Ela Smith)	Chapter 9 Truth or Dare #3
8	Mar 6 – 10	Racialized Canadians and Immigrants (Arshi Shaikh-Grande)	Chapter 10
9	Mar 13 – 17	Social Work with Older Canadians (Arshi Shaikh-Grande)	Chapter 11 Truth or Dare #4

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
10	Mar 20 – 24	Social Work and Sexual and Gender Diversity (Ela Smith)	Chapter 12
11	Mar 27 – 31	Social Work and Persons with Disabilities (Ela Smith)	Chapter 13 Reflection Paper/Truth or Dare Due
12	Apr 3 – 6	International Social Work Practice (Arshi Shaikh-Grande)	Quiz #2
	Apr 7	Good Friday	
	Apr 10	International Social Work Practice topics continued (Arshi Shaikh-Grande)	Chapter 14

Late or Incomplete Work

Let the instructor know by email 48 hours prior to the due date if an assignment will be late and arrangements can be made on a case-by-case basis.

Coursework Submission Policy

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided if they wish to submit an alternate assignment.

Policy on Plagiarism

“Policy 71’s glossary defines plagiarism, in part, as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others (whether attributed or anonymous) as one’s own in any work submitted whether or not for grading purposes”...

The Vice-President Academic and Dean has the authority to assess instances of plagiarism and the resultant penalties that are raised by an instructor. An instructor can propose a grade penalty to the Vice-President Academic and Dean, who will decide whether to accept the penalty or initiate a formal inquiry.”

For additional information on how plagiarism is dealt with at Renison, review the policy from where the above text is copied: [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#).

Students should also be aware that copyright laws in Canada prohibit reproducing more than 10% of any work without permission from its author, publisher, or other copyright holder. See Waterloo's policy on [Fair Dealing](#). Violation of Canada's Copyright Act is a punishable academic offence under [Policy 71 – Student Discipline](#).

Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin in this course.

Communication Policy

Email, using the uWaterloo provided email address, is the approved method of communication for Renison. The Office 365 email that you use to login using your WatIAM login and password is secure and confidential. Take caution when forwarding your WatIAM email to an external email service as confidential information forwarded to a third-party provider could be a data security breach and violation of FIPPA (Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act) under which all students, staff, and faculty are bound by law.

Final Examination Policy

For **Winter 2023**, the established examination period is **April 13-28**. The schedule will be available early February. Students should be aware that student travel plans are not acceptable grounds for granting an alternative final examination time. See the [Final Examination Schedule](#).

Accommodation for Illness or Unforeseen Circumstances

The instructor follows the practices of the University of Waterloo in accommodating students who have documented reasons for missing quizzes or exams. See [Accommodation due to illness](#).

Academic Integrity, Grievance, Discipline, Appeals and Note for Students with Disabilities

Academic Integrity: To maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity](#) and the [Arts Academic Integrity](#) websites for more information.

Renison University College is committed to the view that when a problem or disagreement arises between a faculty member and a student every effort should be made to resolve the problem through mutual and respectful negotiation. Most issues are resolved by a student/faculty meeting to discuss differences of opinion. It is only after this stage, when a common understanding or agreement is not obtained that further actions listed below could be taken.

Discipline: Every student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their own actions. [Check the [Office of Academic Integrity](#) website for more information.] A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration, should seek guidance from the course professor or academic advisor. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties are imposed under the University of Waterloo [Policy 71 – Student Discipline](#). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check the [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4](#). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the Department’s administrative assistant, or Academic Advisor, who will provide further assistance.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances](#) (other than a petition) or [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals](#).

Academic Integrity Office (UWaterloo): The website can be found at uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

[AccessAbility Services](#) is located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, and collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

Students are encouraged to register with AccessAbility Services (AAS) at the start of each term if they require accommodations due to a disability. However, some students not connected to AAS may require accommodations later in the term. In that case, you should immediately consult with your instructor and/or your Academic Advisor.

Intellectual Property

Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of the instructor, which can include:

- lecture handouts and presentations (e.g., PowerPoint slides)
- lecture content, both spoken and written (and any audio or video recording thereof)
- questions from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams)
- work protected by copyright (i.e., any work authored by the instructor)

Making available the intellectual property of instructors without their express written consent (e.g., uploading lecture notes or assignments to an online repository) is considered theft of intellectual property and subject to disciplinary sanctions as described in [Policy 71 – Student Discipline](#). Students who become aware of the availability of what may be their instructor's intellectual property in online repositories are encouraged to alert the instructor.

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

On Campus

- [Counselling Services](#): counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4096
- [MATES](#): one-to-one peer support program offered by the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) and Counselling Services
- [Health Services](#) – Student Medical Clinic: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

Off Campus, 24/7

- [Good2Talk](#): Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454

- [Empower Me](#): Confidential, multilingual, culturally sensitive, faith inclusive mental health and wellness service.
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 844-437-3247
- [Here 24/7](#): Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- [OK2BME](#): set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning teens in Waterloo. Email: ok2bme@kwcounselling.com Phone: 519-884-0000

Full details can be found online at the [Faculty of ARTS](#) website.

Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources \(PDF\)](#)

Download the [WatSafe](#) app to your phone to quickly access mental health support information.

A Respectful Living and Learning Environment for All

Everyone living, learning, and working at Renison University College is expected to contribute to creating a respectful environment free from harassment and discrimination.

Harassment is unwanted attention in the form of disrespectful comments, unwanted text messages or images, degrading jokes, rude gestures, unwanted touching, or other behaviours meant to intimidate.

According to the Ontario Human Rights Code, discrimination means unequal or different treatment causing harm, whether intentional or not, because of race, disability, citizenship, ethnic origin, colour, age, creed, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, or other personal characteristic.

If you feel that you are experiencing the above from any member of the Renison community (students, staff, or faculty), you may contact Melissa Knox, Renison's external anti-harassment and anti-discrimination officer, by email (mnknox@uwaterloo.ca) or by phone or text (226-753-5669). Melissa is an employment and human rights lawyer and part-time Assistant Crown Attorney for the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General. Melissa is experienced in case management, discipline and complaints processes, and works with organizations across Canada to foster safe, respectful, and inclusive work and learning environments through policy development, educational workshops, conflict mediation and dispute resolution, and organizational culture audits.

For additional information see Renison's [Harassment, Discrimination, and Abuse](#) policy.