SOCW1001

Introduction to Social Work

Term One // 2019

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Maree Higgins	m.higgins@unsw.edu.au	Monday 1-3pm, or by appointment	G41, Morven Brown Building	9385 2365

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Room 159

Morven Brown C20

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Social Work*

Provides an overview and rationale for the BSW curriculum. Students are introduced to the scope and parameters of the social work profession, the diversity of levels and contexts of intervention, the range of theory and knowledge that informs social work practice, and the code of ethics that guides professional intervention. A variety of case studies and scenarios are used to illustrate this material. To reinforce the links between conceptual knowledge and practical application, contact will be made with a range of relevant agencies.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Relate theory and knowledge from several areas of social work concern to practice interventions
2. Identify the diverse range of contexts within which social work intervention may occur
3. Apply their knowledge of social work issues to problem solving in a variety of practice strategies and skills
4. Understand the respective role of values and ethics in social work practice

Teaching Strategies

Rationale

This course is included to enable students to develop a knowledge base and skills in critical analysis that can be applied to key areas of concern. This will lay a solid foundation for the development of further social work knowledge and practice skill development. This reflects our position that practice within the Social Work field will require students to be equipped with both knowledge of the sector as well as a critical framework to use in understanding the needs of clients groups, the influence of context on defining their needs and, in the light of that, the roles that social workers might play as a result of this.

Teaching Strategies

The teaching is focused around a number of case studies which will be used to explore the range of associated Social Work issues that arise at individual, family, community and societal levels. The case examples will ensure the consideration of ethical dilemmas, and the range of possible social work service responses. The three key issues of diversity, mental health and child wellbeing/protection will be the focus of learning. Specific populations of Forgotten Australians, the Stolen Generation and Asylum Seekers will be used to illustrate these key area areas.

One basic assumption we make in this course is that all students bring background knowledge and life experience to classes, and that it is that knowledge and experience that is already possessed which is the most important ingredient in learning in Introduction to Social Work. Our method of teaching requires active participation in student's own learning, and an active use of what is already known.

The lectures will involve discussion of the theoretical information being studied as well as presentations that are directly related to the practice situations being studied. Some presentations will consist of people who have first-hand practice experience, and this is a valuable opportunity for students to ask their own questions and have general class discussion.

In accordance with UNSW Learning and Teaching Guidelines this course intends to engage students in learning by providing opportunities to engage in the social work context via a visit to an agency of their choice. Students are encouraged to discuss their experiences of Practicum/Volunteer and employed positions in relation to social work/welfare case study scenarios presented throughout the course.

Assessment

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Students are expected to put their names and student numbers on every page of their assignments.

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter. Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

Late Assessment Penalties

An assessed task is deemed late if it is submitted after the specified time and date as set out in the course Learning Management System (LMS).

The late penalty is the loss of 5% of the total possible marks for the task for each day or part thereof the work is late. Lateness will include weekends and public holidays. This does not apply to a task that is assessed but no mark is awarded. Work submitted fourteen (14) days after the due date will be marked and feedback provided but no mark will be recorded. If the work would have received a pass mark but for the lateness and the work is a compulsory course component, a student will be deemed to have met that requirement. This does not apply to a task that is assessed but no mark is awarded. Work submitted twenty-one (21) days after the due date will not be accepted for marking or feedback and will receive no mark or grade. If the assessment task is a compulsory component of the course a student will automatically fail the course.

Special Consideration Applications

You can apply for special consideration when illness or other circumstances interfere with your assessment performance. Sickness, misadventure or other circumstances beyond your control may:

* Prevent you from completing a course requirement,

* Keep you from attending an assessable activity,

* Stop you submitting assessable work for a course,

* Significantly affect your performance in assessable work, be it a formal end-of-semester examination, a class test, a laboratory test, a seminar presentation or any other form of assessment.

For further details in relation to Special Consideration including "When to Apply", "How to Apply" and "Supporting Documentation" please refer to the Special Consideration webstie: https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Report Plan	20%	17/03/2019 10:59 PM	2,3
Report	40%	18/04/2019 10:59 PM	2,3
Final Exam	40%	Not Applicable	1,4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Report Plan

Start date:

Length: 500 words

Details: A 500 word report plan on a topic relevant to course material Students are given written feedback within two weeks of submission

Additional details:

SOCW1001 Assignment Task 1 (500 words):

Describe and explain Social Work as a profession by providing analysis of a human services organisation and the role of social work.

A) Select a human services organisation to research during this course. State the name of the organisation you will research and outline the reasons for your choice. This should include:

- A brief description of the organisation
- The role/s of social workers in the organisation
- A statement about why you selected this organisation

B) Define social work in relation to the organisation as well as the literature in your text, readings and other articles. This should include:

- Discussion of the relevance of the different definitions of social work offered by professional bodies and the literature in relation to the organisation you have selected
- The context/s and method/s of social work practice utilised in your organisation of choice

Assignment 1 (Parts A and B) aims to assess your ability to analyse and discuss this topic by your:

- Selection of research and literature and the development of a scholarly argument.
- Capacity to identify appropriate resources to assist you to explore the work of a social welfare organisation/agency.
- Capacity to conceptualise the role of the social worker in an organisation, which is critical to this task.
- This assignment is linked to Assignment 2.

Submission notes: An assessment sheet with the details of the report will be posted on Moodle.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 2: Report

Start date:

Length: 2000 words

Details: 2,000 word report on a topic relevant to course materialStudents are given written feedback within two weeks of submission

Additional details:

SOCW1001 Assignment Task 2:

Listen to a podcast, recording or interview with a social worker describing and discussing their work in a human services organisation. This should be the same organisation that you identified as a focus for the term in Assignment 1. However, if this has changed, please state the name and briefly describe the new organisation (max. 50 words).

Describe and explain Social Work as a profession by providing an organisational analysis of a human services agency of your choice and reflecting upon the role of a social worker and challenges described in the podcast, recording or interview you listened to.

Part 1: Present a critical analysis of the human services organisation of your choice (1000 words).

This should include discussion regarding:

- The purpose of the organisation and its goals and objectives, including issues for social work practice addressed
- A description of the client group(s)
- A description of the services provided, the service context and methods of practice utilised
- The nature of the organisation's auspice and funding arrangements
- Your ideas about the limitations and strengths of the organisation

To complete this part of the assignment, you should research the organisation:

- Explore the organisation's/agency's website
- Read the organisation's/agency's annual report
- Collect literature that the organisation gives to clients which may answer some of these questions
- Explore multimedia that the organisation provides which may answer some of these questions
- Comment on the adequacy of the written information and how it could be differently presented

Part 2: Based on your notes or memory of the podcast, recording or interview you listened to, present a critical analysis of the role of a social worker in the organisation (1000 words).

This should include discussion regarding:

- The role of the worker in the organisation
- The worker's own ideas about the profession of social work
- The worker's perceptions of future directions for the profession
- Your commentary on the worker's ideas and perceptions - compare and contrast a selection of these views with what you have read and learnt so far in the course.

This two part assignment aims to assess your ability to analyse and discuss this topic by your:

- Selection of research and literature and the development of a scholarly argument.
- Capacity to identify appropriate resources to assist you to explore the work of a social welfare organisation/agency in depth.
- Ability to listen and collect information from an interview, podcast or recording of a social worker speaking about their work.
- Capacity to analyse a welfare organisation and the role of the social worker which is critical to this task.
- This assignment should build on the insights you gained from preparing the 500 word report plan (Assignment 1).

The marking criteria will assess your:

- Ability to use clear written expression and use the Harvard referencing system;
- Evidence that you have followed the directions for undertaking the assignment as described above, including addressing all sections of the set task;
- Analysis of the material gathered and use of additional references;
- Integration of the information collected from different sources;
- Depth, thoroughness and accuracy of the agency description and analysis.

Please note that assignments that draw on material from a wide range of sources will be highly regarded. The marking criteria allows for recognition of reading and referencing beyond the prescribed readings.

Submission notes: An assessment sheet with the details of the report will be posted on Moodle.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 3: Final Exam

Start date: Not Applicable

Details: Not feedback is given for final exams - except indicated as part of overall mark for course

Additional details:

Open Book Exam

The exam will consist of 2 case studies. Each case study you will be required to answer 4 short answer questions. You will be given the questions prior to the exam. However, you will not see the case studies until the exam. The exam is an open book exam, which means that you can take your notes and text

with you into the exam. There will be exam practice exercises in the last tutorial.

Submission notes: Exam will occur during the T1 examination period

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Attendance Requirements

The School of Social Sciences expects that sudents will attend and participate actively in 100% of learning activities (henceforth 'classes', to include lectures, tutorials, seminars, labs, online activities and so on).

Mandatory attendance of classes for this course is part of the accreditation requirements for the BSW (Hons) program.

If you attend less than 80% of classes, you may be refused final assessment. This means that if you do not attend at least 80% of possible classes your final assignment or exam may receive a mark of zero. You are responsible for keeping track of your attendance and contacting your course convenor (Maree Higgins) immediately if you are concerned about your attendance record and its impact on your ability to complete your course successfully.

For the purpose of attendance monitoring, the final assessment for this course is 40% of your overall grade for this course. This is the assessment that will be graded at zero if you do not meet the attendance requirement for this course.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 18 February - 24 February	Online Activity	**Introduction to the course, self awareness and self care** This online activity will consider how you 'show up', and establish how you will implement self care in the course. *Please note, this activity can be undertaken prior to Week 1, and must be completed by the end of Week 1.*
	Lecture	**What is social work?** Definitions of social work both nationally and internationally will be discussed. Who can be a social worker and who can practice as a social worker will also be examined.
	Group Activity	**Welcome to Social Work Morning Tea** This activity follows the Lecture in Week 1 and all students are expected to attend.

		Details: *Monday 18th February, 10-11am, Morven Brown Courtyard (or in CLB if it is raining).*
	Tutorial	This is a 1 hour tutorial in which students will practice a range of writing, referencing and bibliography skills, and learn about plagaiarism and how to avoid it.
Week 2: 25 February - 3 March	Lecture	**History and contexts of social work practice.** Historical developments in social work will be presented, and the current context of social work practice will be discussed.
	Tutorial	**Values for learning and context of practice** Tutorial exercises will establish the learning culture and expectations of the stakeholders - the class, the tutor, university staff, the social work profession, and the communities we serve. Students will also discuss the history and current context of social work practice.
Week 3: 4 March - 10 March	Lecture	**Social Work Fields, Methods and Interventions** This lecture will focus on the different sectors in which social workers practice, and the types and levels of interventions they utilise.
	Tutorial	**Social Work Fields, Methods and Interventions** This tutorial will introduce the different sectors in which social workers practice, and the types and levels of interventions they utilise. Students will have the opportunity to interview their tutor in preparation for Assignment 2 if they wish.
Week 4: 11 March - 17 March	Lecture	**Social Work Values and Ethics** This lecture will explore the ethical and values foundation of social work practice.

	Tutorial	**Social Work Values and Ethics** In this tutorial, students will discuss the value positions and ethical issues that may be influential in relation to particular case studies, and explore the AASW Code of Ethics and Practice Standards that guide social work practice.
	Assessment	**Project report - due 15 March.**
Week 5: 18 March - 24 March	Lecture	**Power, Oppression and Exploitation** This lecture will focus on marginalisation, social exclusion and discrimination of certain groups within Australia and what that means for social work practice.
	Tutorial	**Power, Oppression and Exploitation** Students will work through a series of case studies to identify the ways in which certain individuals and groups experience marginalisation and social exclusion and how social workers work to overcome marginalisation and social exclusion.
	Online Activity	Students are to watch the DVD Sunshine and Oranges and submit a 200 word summary online. The summary will identify the social work interventions that are contained within the DVD.
Week 6: 25 March - 31 March	Lecture	**Culture and Identity** What is diversity and what does it look like in the Australian context? Why is diversity important in social work and what does the AASW Code of Ethics say about diversity and what are the implications for social work practice?
	Tutorial	**Culture and Identity** Students will be asked to consider their own cultural identity and how this impacts on their experiences in the Australian society.

		They will also consider how the demographics of Australian society impact upon social work priorities and practices.
Week 7: 1 April - 7 April	Lecture	**Indigenous Australians** This lecture will consider the issues facing Australian Indigenous peoples and communities today and the roles for social workers in addressing these issues.
	Tutorial	**Indigenous Australians** Case Studies - exploring issues for working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients and communities.
Week 8: 8 April - 14 April	Lecture	**Child Wellbeing and Protection** The focus of this lecture is what is child protection and what are the legislative policies that frame working in this area.
	Tutorial	**Child Wellbeing and Protection** Case Studies - exploring issues for working in child protection.
	Assessment	**Report due - 12 April.**
Week 9: 15 April - 21 April	Lecture	**Adult Wellbeing and Mental Health** This lecture examines mental illness and social work. It looks at what mental illness and disorders are and what the role of social work is in this field of practice.
	Tutorial	**Adult Wellbeing and Mental Health** Case studies - exploring issues for working with adults regarding their wellbeing and mental health.

Week 10: 22 April - 28 April	Lecture	There is no lecture this week due to the Public Holiday; The replacement lecture in Week 11 is compulsory for all students.
	Tutorial	**End of Life, Grief and Loss (Tuesday tutorials only)** Tutorials will not run on Monday 22 April due to the public holiday. Students who attend tutorials on Tuesdays are expected to attend their tutorial as normal. Case studies - exploring issues for working with End of Life Issues and Grief and Loss. This tutorial will also provide exam preparation and practice.
Week 11: 29 April - 1 May	Lecture	**End of Life, Grief and Loss** This lecture will explore issues for working with End of Life Issues and Grief and Loss and bring the learning to a close. All students are expected to attend this lecture.
	Tutorial	**End of Life, Grief and Loss (Monday tutorials only)** Students who attend tutorials on Mondays are expected to attend tutorials on Monday 29 April in lieu of the tutorial that did not run due to the public holiday. Students who attend tutorials on Tuesdays are not required to attend tutorials in Week 11. Case studies - exploring issues for working with End of Life Issues and Grief and Loss. This tutorial will also provide exam preparation and practice.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

- Alston M, McCurdy S, & McKinnon J, 2018, *Social Work Fields of Practice,* Oxford University Press, Melbourne.
- Baldry, E, Hughes, M, Burnett, L, & Collinson, I, 2011, *Studying for Social Work,* Sage Publications, Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, Singapore, Washington DC.
- Connolly, M, Harms, L, & Maidment, J 2018, *Social Work Contexts and practice,* Oxford University Press, Melbourne.
- Morley, C, Mcacfarlane, S, & Ablett, P 2019, *Engaging with Social Work: A Critical Introduction,* Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Recommended Resources

Additional readings provided in Leganto

Appropriate podcasts that focus on social work practice

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback is welcome throughout the term. Students may email or phone their tutor and lecturer, and book a time to see the course convenor throughout the working week. In addition, students are also encouraged to complete the MyExperience link when available.

Previous student feedback has been utilised to develop course materials and online content, and redevelop assessment tasks for 2019.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

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For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.
http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

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