SOCW3009

Ethics and Reflective Practice

Term One // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Jane Dennis	jane.dennis@unsw.edu.au	Friday by appointment (please email)	Room 170, Morven Brown Building	0402 301011 - mobile

Tutors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Dominic Van Gestel	d.vangestel@unsw.edu.au			
Dr Margaret Mills	margaret.mills@unsw.edu.au			

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

This course introduces you to the key ideas in applied and professional ethics as these inform and are integrated with social work practice and theory. It addresses the Australian Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics (2010) and enables you to develop a critical understanding of the underlying ideas that inform the ethical principles behind the Code. It also seeks to prepares you to engage with ethics as a key element of your future role as a professional practitioner. To achieve this the course is integrated with the learning from SOCW3012 AND SOCW3013 – Level 3 placement, and must normally be taken alongside that course. The interactive style of teaching seeks to help you develop your capacities to reflect critically on your own practice in order to promote your grasp of life-long learning as a foundation for engaging with ethics in practice.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Articulate an understanding of the key ideas in professional ethics applied to social work.
2. Construct plausible arguments about moral and political issues in contemporary social work and human services and identify competing points of view.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the principles expressed in relevant ethical documents and 'moral fluency' in considering these.
4. Demonstrate the capacity to use ethical principles to reflect critically on professional practices.

Teaching Strategies

This course uses three interlinked approaches: first it imparts knowledge about key ideas through lectures; second, it uses interactive tutorials to enable students to develop their own skills in sharing and applying ideas to applied examples of professional practice; third, it enables students to test and improve their personal capacities to think in ethical terms through the use of on-line learning supports. In combination these strategies support students in developing 'fluency' in ethical thought and action.

Assessment

Further details of assessments, including descriptions of the tasks and related course objectives, are provided in downloads available on the Moodle site.

Assessment requirements will be outlined in lectures and discussed in tutorials prior to the due date for each assessment.

In all assessments, you should use the School's preferred referencing system.

Link: https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/sites/default/files/documents/SoSS_Referencing_Guide_2019.pdf

This is also detailed in the downloadable handout available on the Moodle site.

Due dates for work required in SOCW3009 Ethics and Reflective Practice, including Assignment 1 (Essay) and Assignment 2 (Case study), have been determined with reference to the requirements for SOCW3012 - Social Work Level 3 Placement A. Consideration has been given to dates when Field Education Placement tasks are generally due - including the Field Education Placement Learning Contract, the Mid-Placement Report and the End of Placement Report. This is intended to assist students to balance the requirements for SOCW3009 and SOCW3012, which are taught in parallel.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Essay	50%	20/03/2021 09:00 PM	1, 2
Case study	50%	24/04/2021 09:00 PM	3, 4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Essay

Length: 2000 words

Details:

Length: 2000 words.

Students are required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the relationship between ethical theory, critical reflection and professional practice in social work.

Written feedback and a numerical mark are provided two weeks after the submission due date. Criteria are available to students at the start of the course so that they can work towards specified standards.

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

Assessment 2: Case study

Length: 2000 wods

Details:

Length: 2000 words.

Students select one case from their practice (which may be an individual person, a family, a group or a community project). They identify and explain the ethical aspects of practice with this case and apply the knowledge from this course by critically reflecting on their practice.

Written feedback and a numerical mark are provided two weeks after the submission due date. Criteria are available to students at the start of the course so that they can work towards specified standards.

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

Attendance Requirements

The School of Social Sciences expects that students will attend and participate actively in 100% of learning and teaching activities. Mandatory attendance of classes for this course is part of the accreditation requirements for the BSW (Hons) program. Lectures in this course are designed to provide essential learning; this means you must attend all 8 lectures. Tutorials are designed to provide essential application content; this means you must attend 80% or more of the 5 tutorials scheduled. If you miss lectures you will struggle to complete and pass the course assignments.

If you are unable to attend a class (i.e. lecture or tutorial), you must email your course Tutor and the Course Convenor, Jane Dennis, at your earliest convenience. Make-up work may be required for any absences. 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 may receive a mark of zero. You are responsible for keeping track of your attendance and contacting your course convenor (Jane Dennis) 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 the Case Study worth 50% of your overall grade for this course. This is the assessment item that will be graded at zero if you do not meet the attendance requirement.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 15 February - 19 February	Lecture	Introduction: What is ethics? Critical reflection and the AASW Code of Ethics (2010).
	Tutorial	Introduction: establishing the working agenda. Critical reflection: identifying values and ethics in everyday situations.
Week 2: 22 February - 26 February	Lecture	Critical reflection and "critical theory".
Week 3: 1 March - 5 March	Lecture	Human dignity and worth: the road to human rights; Social justice; Ethical theory: Deontology and Utilitarianism.
	Tutorial	Looking at the foundational concepts: human dignity and worth and social justice. Exercises: How do values affect practice? Critical reflection; What does deontology look like in practice? How is utilitarianism useful? Applying ethical theory to case scenarios; Examples from students' field education placements.

Week 4: 8 March - 12 March	Lecture	Professional integrity: Virtue ethics and practice
Week 5: 15 March - 19 March	Lecture	Ethics of Care: Feminist ethics in practice
	Tutorial	Professional integrity and 'virtues': the ethics of our professional selves; Ethics of care framework in social work practice; Critical reflection. Exercise: Examples from placements. Preparing for Essay DUE on 21 March 2021.
	Assessment	Essay DUE on 20 March 2021 at 9pm.
Week 6: 22 March - 26 March	Lecture	Flexibility week - No classes
Week 7: 29 March - 2 April	Lecture	Good Friday - No classes
Week 8: 5 April - 9 April	Lecture	Ethical decision-making
	Tutorial	Ethical debates and challenges: are there 'ethical dilemmas'? Critical reflection. Exercise: Examples and issues from placements.
Week 9: 12 April - 16 April	Lecture	Ethics and culture; First Nations people and social work practice; Universalism, relativism and pluralism
Week 10: 19 April - 23 April	Lecture	'Moral fluency' and the politics of practice.
	Tutorial	Achieving 'moral fluency' and 'walking the talk'; Looking deeper at what we bring to social work: personal and cultural values Exercise 1: examining cross-cultural examples; Exercise 2: First Nations people - Indigenising social work practice; Exercise 3: self-reflection and ethical learning. Preparing for Case Study DUE on 24 April 2021. Evaluation.
	Assessment	Case Study DUE on 24 April 2021 at 9pm.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Banks, S. (2012) *Ethics and Values in Social Work*, 4th Edition. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. (Please note that there is a new edition of this book published in 2020, however, it is not yet available in the UNSW library. The 2012 edition will be referred to in this course.)

Gardner, F. (2014) *Being Critically Reflective*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Hugman, R. (2014) *A-Z Professional Ethics*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Recommended Resources

Banks, S. (2004) *Ethics, Accountability and the Social Professions*. Basingstoke: Palgrave- Macmillan.

Banks, S. & Gallagher, A. (2009) *Ethics in Professional Life: Virtues for Health and Social Care.* Basingstoke: Palgrave-Macmillan.

Bowles, W., Collingridge, M., Curry, S. & Valentine, B. (2006) *Ethical Practice in Social Work: An Applied Approach.* Crows Nest: Allen & Unwin.

Chenoweth, L. & McAuliffe, D. (2015) *The Road to Social Work & Human Service Practice.* 4th edition. South Melbourne: Cengage Learning. [especially Chapters 2, 3, 4, 9 & 10]

Clifford, D. & Burke, B. (2009) *Anti-Oppressive Ethics and Values in Social Work.* Basingstoke: Palgrave- Macmillan.

Gray, M. & Webb, S. A. (eds) (2010) *Ethics and Value Perspectives in Social Work.* Basingstoke: Palgrave-Macmillan.

Hinman, L. M. (2013) *Ethics: a Pluralistic Approach to Moral Theory.* 5th Edition. Boston, MA : Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.

Hugman, R. (2005) *New Approaches to Ethics in the Caring Professions.* Basingstoke: Palgrave-Macmillan.

Hugman, R. (2013) *Culture, Values and Ethics in Social Work: Embracing Diversity.* London: Routledge.

Hugman, R. & Carter, J. (eds) (2016) *Rethinking Values and Ethics in Social Work*. London: Palgrave.

Payne, M. (2016) *Modern Social Work Theory*. 4th Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Pawar, M. & Anscombe, A. W. (2014) *Reflective Practice in Social Work: Thinking, Doing and Being.* Port Melbourne: Cambridge University Press.

Pawar, M., Hugman, R., Alexandra, A. & Anscombe, A.W. (eds) (2017) *Empowering Social Workers: Virtuous Practitioners.* Singapore: Springer Nature.

In addition, relevant journal articles and other library materials are provided in the Leganto link on

Moodle. You are also encouraged to undertake your own literature searches. Good places to start are Australian Social Work, British Journal of Social Work, Ethics & Social Welfare (all available via the UNSW Library) and the on-line Journal of Social Work Values & Ethics (for which a hotlink is provided on the Moodle page). (Anything by Sarah Banks is likely to be relevant, and she does also occasionally write about community work.)

Course Evaluation and Development

This course is evaluated using student learning reviews, class feedback and the myExperience survey results. Student feedback is valued as part of the ongoing course review and development. Specific feedback has been used to make changes which have included, based on previous evaluations - changes have been made to assessment tasks and fine-tuning of class exercises. Thank you in advance for your participation in this process.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

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.

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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https://unsplash.com/photos/EZPop1lVioY

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.