SOCW1001

Introduction to Social Work

Term Two // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Maureen MacGinley	maureen.macginley@unsw.edu.au	12.30 - 1.30 PM Thursdays, or by appointment: Drop in zoom/in-person	Room 134, Morven Brown Building	02 9065 7039

Tutors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Dom Van Gestal	d.vangestel@unsw.edu.au	By appointment		

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 scope and parameters of the social work profession. It provides an overview and rationale for the BSW(Hons) curriculum by presenting on key areas of social work knowledge and practice, including the diversity contexts of social work 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, social work practice scenarios and practitioner perspectives will be used to illustrate this material. Applied social work field examples will also be used to examine the links between conceptual knowledge and practical application. A range of relevant agencies will be profiled and studied in this course.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Explain social work theory and values
2. Outline the diverse range of fields and contexts within which social work intervention may occur
3. Apply knowledge of social work theory and values to a range of social work fields, contexts, methods, and interventions
4. Examine the role of social work theory and values 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

Weeks 1-4 of lectures and tutorials will cover content that is directly relevant to completion of Assessment 1, while weeks 5-10 of lectures and tutorials will cover content that is directly relevant to completion of Assessment 2.

This is why attendance is important and active participation and communication with your convenor and tutor is essential.

General feedback on assessment completion will be provided in the class after you receive you grade and detailed feedback will be provided on your submitted assessment. Please ensure you read all comments and seek help early if you need it. We are here to encourage and support your development as active and reflexive learners.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Critical Exercise on topics relevant to the course	40%	02/07/2021 11:00 PM	1
Analysis of Context and Practice relevant to the course	60%	11/08/2021 11:00 PM	2, 3, 4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Critical Exercise on topics relevant to the course

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 1500 words, including references

Details:

A 1500-word assignment on topics relevant to the course.

Students are given written feedback within two weeks of submission.

Additional details:

In this assignment you are required to submit four short statements that summarise your current understanding of key elements of learning in your journey to becoming a social worker.

1. Discuss ONE of the definitions of social work provided in this course. Explain how it enhances your understanding of social work as a profession and also explain why there is not just one definition of social work. Cite the source of the definition and any other sources of information you draw upon (400 words).
2. Select and describe ONE theory for social work, outlining the key concepts, main theorists, how it

is used in social work. and evidence that explains or supports the theory (Refer to Chenowith and Mcauliffe, 2019, Chapter 5, and at least one other source). (400 words).

3. Read Walter & Baltra-Ulloa (2019), Chapter 4 in Our Voices. Referring to this text and others as needed, outline the history of the social work profession in Australia and the current impacts of colonisation. Explain what is meant by 'white privilege' and explain why the profession needs to re-think social work in Australia. (400 words).

4. State the social work agency you will research this term. Describe the agency briefly, outlining the purpose and main services provided, and the field and context of practice, citing the sources of all information (300 words).

Submission notes: Please follow the School referencing guide, consult the rubric, answer all questions asked and format your assignment appropriately.

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

Assessment 2: Analysis of Context and Practice relevant to the course

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 2500 words, including references

Details:

A 2500-word assignment on a topic relevant to course material.

Students are given written feedback within two weeks of submission.

Additional details:

You are to select one organisation in NSW, Australia, in which social workers are employed. You will research the work social workers undertake in this organisation in order to describe and analyse social work as a profession. You will identify and explain the focus population, field or practice, context of practice, methods of practice, theoretical and ethical aspects of practice. You will apply the knowledge from this course by critically reflecting on the agency in relation to activities undertaken and resources explored during this course. Written feedback and a numerical mark are provided two weeks after the submission due date.

1. Select a Australian human services organisation to research.
2. Read the organisation's website and most recent annual report as well as peer reviewed literature about the field or context of practice.
3. Next, listen to a podcast, watch a videoclip or meet with a social worker describing and discussing their work in the organisation you are researching, or a very similar one.
4. Provide a 'contextualised analysis of practice' by answering the questions below:
    1. State the name of the organisation.
    2. Discuss the *field of practice* in which the organisation functions (300 words).
    3. Using an intersectional lens, describe the *population* with whom the organisation works closely. What are their needs and issues and what produces these needs and issues? (300 words).
    4. Discuss a *theory that informs* social work practice in this organisation (300 words).

5. Describe a *method of social work practice* utilised in the organisation (300 words).
6. Discuss *three key skills* social workers will utilise in this organisation (300 words).
7. Describe *a law* that is relevant to the work of the organisation (300 words).
8. Describe how this organisation addresses at least *one of the core values* of the social work profession (500 words)
9. Explain why you chose this organisation to research (200 words).

You will be given time in class to work in small groups on specific aspects of this assessment each week and your tutor will oversee this work, to ensure you are able to investigate and show critical reflection in your analysis of the agency, including identifying the nature of their governance and funding arrangements and the limitations and strengths of the organization, and the role of social work, including the resources available and the way their work reflects the values and standards of the profession.

To complete this assignment, you should spend time researching the organisation in depth.

- Visit the organisation if possible – but remember they will be very busy and please always present yourself professionally!
- Explore the organisation's website
- Read a few of the organisation's annual reports
- Collect literature that the organisation gives to clients which may answer some of your questions
- Explore multimedia that the organisation provides which may answer some of your questions
- Think critically about the adequacy of the written information and how it could be differently presented

Submission notes: Please follow School referencing guidelines, answer all questions asked, and format appropriately

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

Attendance Requirements

In Term 2, SOCW1001 has the following attendance requirements.

LECTURE ONLINE PRE-RECORDED: All lectures for this course are pre-recorded and accessed via the course Moodle page. The lectures are available at the start of each week. The lectures were recorded during Term 1 2021 and the lecturer is Dr Maree Higgins. We suggest that you set aside a time each week to listen to the lecture - possibly Thursday 11 am -12 noon if not beforehand.

TUTORIAL ATTENDANCE ON-CAMPUS: This tutorial is highly interactive and you are expected to attend tutorial classes on-campus where at all possible, as this is a strength and a unique component of the degree at UNSW.

Partnerships and collaboration between students and educators are particularly important in social work learning. As well, to maintain our accreditation as a provider of social work education, it is important that each student finds themselves in an environment where they are able to experience all content to a high level of depth and engagement. For this reason, active participation and commitment to attendance is expected of all students.

Compassion and concern for student welfare is what we strive for in our provision of social work education and this is enabled by two-way communication. Communication is especially important when a student is experiencing learning barriers, particularly those which affect class attendance and completion of independent learning tasks.

To ensure that student learning and wellbeing is at the forefront of all decisions made, we encourage all students to communicate any barrier to attendance to your course convenor, lecturer or tutor as soon as possible, so a collaborative plan can be developed to work around these barriers.

If your attendance is affected for a limited period of time, we will refer you to selected alternate tasks we have created to promote your access to vital content in this course. These alternative tasks can also be completed by students whose attendance is exemplary and who wish to extend their learning. We will expect you to take full responsibility and initiative for completing these alternate tasks and to ensure that in completing them you develop a good working knowledge of the content missed.

Our aim is to foster an environment where students feel comfortable coming forward regarding concerns about their learning and attendance. Based on experience, if your attendance drops below a certain level it is unlikely you will have the skills and knowledge to effectively achieve the learning outcomes of this course; which is why we highly encourage active attendance and participation. With effective communication and planning we endeavour to avoid situations where students feel they have not adequately engaged with the course, and therefore strongly encourage students to communicate any concerns as early as possible. We want to again emphasise the importance of collaboration and communication, and acknowledge the unique circumstances students may find themselves experiencing. Please email the course convenor, Maureen MacGinley (maureen.macginley@unsw.edu.ay), as soon as possible if COVID-related reasons prohibit on-campus attendance.

Course Schedule

View class timetable

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 31 May - 4 June	Online Activity	**Introduce yourself!** This online activity will be available prior to the beginning of week 1 and needs to be completed by the end of week 1. See Moodle for more information
	Lecture	The professional and values base of social work All lectures for this course are pre-recorded and accessed via the course Moodle page. The lectures are available at the start of each week. The lectures were recorded during Term 1 2021 and the lecturer is Dr Maree Higgins. We suggest that you set aside a time each week to listen to the lecture - possibly Thursday 11 am -12 noon if not beforehand.
	Tutorial	Introduction to the course and consideration of definitions of social work Tutorial attendance is in-person on-campus. Please email the course convenor, Maureen MacGinley (maureen.macginley@unsw.edu.ay), prior to the first tutorial, if COVID-related reasons prohibit on-campus attendance.
Week 2: 7 June - 11 June	Lecture	Social work theory: An overview
	Tutorial	Mapping the knowledge base of social work practice
Week 3: 15 June - 18 June	Lecture	Social Work Values and Ethics: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing, being and doing
	Tutorial	Social Work Values and Ethics: Whiteness, Privilege and Decolonising Social Work
Week 4: 21 June - 25 June	Lecture	Fields, contexts and methods of practice
	Tutorial	Examining fields, contexts and methods of social work practice and the sectors in which social workers practice
Week 5: 28 June - 2 July	Lecture	Social Work Values and Ethics
	Tutorial	Examining Ethics From a Theory and Practice Lens
	Assessment	**Assessment 1 due Friday 2nd July**
	Online Activity	Between weeks 5-7 you will have the opportunity to actively explore social work methods of practice,

		via one or more of the following activities: * Listen to one or more of the recommended podcasts where social workers discuss their practice * Listen to one or both of the recorded practice discussions provided * Watch the recommended films/practice videos * Visit an agency and take notes about your experience Document what you have learnt in a blog of at least 100 words, and also comment on at least two other student's blogs. Further details will be provided in Moodle.
Week 6: 5 July - 9 July	Online Activity	Week 6 is Flexibility Week, a week in which no new content is to be delivered to students. Thus, our normal lectures and tutorials will not run in Week 6. This week, continue to actively explore social work methods of practice, via one or more of the following activities: * Listen to one or more of the recommended podcasts where social workers discuss their practice * Listen to one or both of the recorded practice discussions provided * Watch the recommended films/practice videos * Visit an agency and take notes about your experience to support your completion of Assignment 2 Document what you have learnt in a blog of at least 100 words, and also comment on at least two other student's blogs. Further details will be provided in Moodle.
Week 7: 12 July - 16 July	Lecture	Social Work and Diversity
	Tutorial	Social Work and Diversity
Week 8: 19 July - 23 July	Lecture	Methods of Practice: Micro and Macro Levels of Change
	Tutorial	Methods of Practice: Micro and Macro Levels of

		Change
Week 9: 26 July - 30 July	Lecture	Critical, Structural and Radical social work: conceptualising power, oppression and exploitation
	Tutorial	Social Work Intervention - Power, Oppression and Exploitation
Week 10: 2 August - 6 August	Lecture	The Onward Journey
	Tutorial	Developing a practice framework, the importance of self-care, continuing to learn and looking to the future
	Assessment	**Assessment 2 due Wednesday 11th August**

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Chenowith, L. & McAuliffe, D. 2020, *The Road to Social Work and Human Service Practice, 6th Ed.* Cengage, South Melbourne (note that the 5th Edition, published in 2017, is also acceptable if you have obtained it second hand)

Baldry, E, Hughes, M, Burnett, L, & Collinson, I, 2011, *Studying for Social Work,* Sage Publications, Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, Singapore, Washington DC.

Recommended Resources

A range of relevant resources will be available via the Course Moodle Site, including relevant social work texts, journal article links and 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:

- change the order of content to support completion of the assignments;
- develop new ways of examining content including thought maps, case studies and class activities;
- change the textbook;
- reduce the number of assessment pieces and changed Assessments 1 and 2 to highlight the unique knowledge, skills and values of the profession taught in this course;
- introduce theories for social work earlier in the term, explain them better, and link them to the case studies used in class.

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/

Image Credit

Higgins, Maree (photograph of work by artist Egor Zigura at Sculpture by the Sea 2020)

CRICOS

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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.