COURSE OUTLINE

NUR714 Contemporary Mental Health Nursing

School: School of Health - Nursing

2028 | Trimester 1

Online | ONLINE | You can do this course without coming onto campus, unless your program has specified a mandatory onsite requirement.

Please go to unisc.edu.au for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1. Description

In this course, you will explore contemporary mental health nursing practice, focusing on recovery-oriented, trauma-informed, and person-centred care. You will develop skills in therapeutic communication, assessment, and care planning to support individuals with mental health conditions in diverse settings, informed by legislation, ethics, cultural safety and the ACMHN Standards for Practice.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ONLINE			
Information session – Weekly or fortnightly live Zoom or Teams sessions for discussion, case-based learning, and Q&A.	2hrs	Week 1	10 times
Learning materials – Lecture materials and learning activities	2hrs	Week 1	10 times
Online – Online learning modules and self-guided assessment	2hrs	Week 1	10 times

1.3. Course Topics

- Evidence-based mental health care practices
- Impact of mental illness on individuals, families, and communities
- Therapeutic relationship-building and communication skills
- Person-centred care planning and implementation
- Contemporary issues: stigma, cultural competence, and ethical considerations
- Mental health assessment and intervention strategies
- Recovery-oriented and trauma-informed care approaches
- ACMHN Standards for Practice in specialist mental health nursing
- Policy, legislation, and service delivery in mental health
- Interdisciplinary collaboration and leadership in mental health settings

2. What level is this course?

700 Level (Specialised)

Demonstrating a specialised body of knowledge and set of skills for professional practice or further learning. Advanced application of knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...		GRADUATE QUALITIES Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1	Critically synthesise contemporary mental health nursing theory, legislation, policy frameworks and ACMHN Standards to construct defensible specialist practice positions within complex care environments.	Knowledgeable
2	Formulate and justify advanced biopsychosocial and recovery-oriented mental health assessments that integrate cultural safety, partnership and therapeutic engagement.	Creative and critical thinker
3	Critically evaluate ethical tensions, power relations, coercive practices, governance structures and systemic influences shaping contemporary mental health nursing practice.	Ethical
4	Evaluate and advance strategies that promote social inclusion, reduce stigma and safeguard the rights of people experiencing mental health issues across diverse contexts.	Engaged
5	Critically appraise and translate contemporary evidence to inform specialist mental health nursing practice and professional leadership.	Creative and critical thinker
6	Demonstrate advanced scholarly communication through the synthesis of complex literature, disciplined academic writing, and the ethical use of intellectual property, including responsible engagement with digital and AI-supported tools.	Knowledgeable

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the UniSC Glossary of terms for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

5.1. Pre-requisites

Enrolled in Program GC010 or GC011 or MC009

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

5.5. Microcredential Information

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

Students will receive early formative feedback via a short reflective task submitted in Week 3. This activity will provide personalised comments on writing style, content alignment, and clinical relevance. It ensures students are on track before major assessments and helps develop their ability to link theory to practice.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Oral and Written Piece	Individual	25%	8-10 minutes	Week 3	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2	Case Study	Individual	35%	1,500 words	Week 8	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Oral and Written Piece	Individual	40%	12-15 minutes / 2,000 words	Week 9	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

All - Assessment Task 1: Assessment 1: Applied Reflective Task

GOAL:	To demonstrate early integration of ACMHN Standards, recovery-oriented principles and cultural safety through critical reflection on a contemporary mental health scenario.
PRODUCT:	Oral and Written Piece
FORMAT:	You will produce a recorded oral presentation reflecting critically on a contemporary mental health scenario. You must also submit a written individual reflection. Further details will be available on Canvas. You will submit the assignment online.

CRITERIA:

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Critically synthesises relevant legislation, policy frameworks and ACMHN Standards to construct a defensible practice position in relation to the scenario.	1
2	Applies recovery-oriented, biopsychosocial and culturally safe principles when reflecting on care.	2
3	Evaluates ethical tensions and systemic influences evident in the scenario.	3
4	Articulates strategies that promote social inclusion and uphold the rights of people experiencing mental health issues.	4
5	Demonstrates advanced scholarly communication with ethical use of intellectual property including AI-supported tools.	6

GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation, Information literacy

All - Assessment Task 2: Assessment 2: Case Study Analysis

GOAL:	To apply mental health legislation, ethical frameworks and advanced clinical reasoning to a complex mental health nursing scenario, demonstrating specialist care planning capability.
PRODUCT:	Case Study
FORMAT:	You will produce a written case analysis applying legislation, ethical frameworks and ACMHN Standards to a provided mental health scenario. Further details will be available on Canvas. You will submit the assignment online.
CRITERIA:	

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Synthesises contemporary mental health legislation, policy and ACMHN Standards to construct a defensible specialist practice position within the case.	1
2	Formulates and justifies an advanced biopsychosocial and recovery-oriented mental health assessment integrating cultural safety and therapeutic engagement.	2
3	Critically evaluates ethical tensions, coercive practices and systemic influences shaping care in the case.	3
4	Appraises and applies contemporary evidence to support proposed clinical reasoning and care planning.	5
5	Demonstrates disciplined academic writing, correct APA 7th referencing and ethical use of intellectual property including AI tools.	6

GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Information literacy

All - Assessment Task 3: Assessment 3: Integrative Scholarly Task

GOAL:	To critically evaluate a contemporary mental health model or policy and synthesise research with ACMHN Standards, demonstrating specialist knowledge and professional leadership.
PRODUCT:	Oral and Written Piece
FORMAT:	You will produce a recorded oral presentation critically evaluating a contemporary mental health nursing model or policy. Further details will be available on Canvas. You will submit the assignment online.
CRITERIA:	

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Critically synthesises contemporary evidence, policy and ACMHN Standards to advance specialist mental health nursing practice.	1 5
2	Evaluates ethical tensions, governance structures and systemic influences in the model or policy under analysis.	3
3	Advances strategies that promote social inclusion and safeguard the rights of people experiencing mental health issues.	4
4	Critically appraises and translates evidence to inform specialist practice and professional leadership.	5
5	Demonstrates advanced scholarly communication with well-organised oral delivery, accurate citation and ethical use of intellectual property including AI tools.	6

GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Information literacy

7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

7.1. Schedule

PERIOD AND TOPIC	ACTIVITIES
Week 1: Introduction to Contemporary Mental Health Nursing	Welcome module, overview lecture, Canvas orientation, initial discussion forum
Week 2: Social, Cultural & Biological Influences on Mental Health	Asynchronous lecture, case study reading, Zoom tutorial
Week 3: Mental Health Policy, Legislation & Ethics	Pre-recorded lecture, guided reading, online quiz
Week 4: Therapeutic Communication	Video demonstration, interactive Zoom workshop, peer feedback task
Week 5: Mental Health Assessment & Clinical Reasoning	Scenario-based activity, online forum, clinical case video analysis
Week 6: Recovery-Oriented and Trauma-Informed Care	Pre-recorded lecture, reflective journal entry, discussion board
Week 7: Evidence-Based Interventions	Canvas resources, literature search activity, Zoom debrief
Week 8: Interdisciplinary Practice and Collaboration	Team-based case study discussion, communication mapping task
Week 9: Ethics in Practice and Consumer Perspectives	Guest webinar (live or recorded), values clarification task
Week 10: Professional Identity and Reflective Practice	Reflective discussion post, career planning resources

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Canvas site– Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

You need regular access to the resource(s) below. Many texts are available as ebooks through the Library at no additional cost.

REQUIRED?	AUTHOR	YEAR	TITLE	EDITION	PUBLISHER
Required	Kim Foster, Peta Marks, Anthony O'Brien, John Hurley	2024	Mental Health in Nursing	6th Edition	Elsevier

8.2. Specific requirements

Students must have access to a computer with internet connectivity and audio/video capabilities. No additional equipment or costs are anticipated.

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the online induction training for students, and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:
(a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%; and
(b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

Students must attempt all three assessment tasks to be eligible to pass the course. Participation in scheduled online activities (such as discussions, workshops, and Zoom tutorials) is expected as part of formative learning and preparation for assessments. Extensions must be requested in advance where possible, and supporting documentation is required for special consideration. There are no hurdle assessments in this course; however, academic integrity and adherence to APA 7th referencing are essential. Failure to submit work that meets the minimum academic writing and referencing standards may result in reduced marks or referral for academic support.

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submissions may be penalised up to and including the following maximum percentage of the assessment task's identified value, with weekdays and weekends included in the calculation of days late:
(a) One day: deduct 5%;
(b) Two days: deduct 10%;
(c) Three days: deduct 20%;
(d) Four days: deduct 40%;
(e) Five days: deduct 60%;
(f) Six days: deduct 80%;
(g) Seven days: A result of zero is awarded for the assessment task.

The following penalties will apply for a late submission for an online examination:
Less than 15 minutes: No penalty
From 15 minutes to 30 minutes: 20% penalty
More than 30 minutes: 100% penalty

10.4. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Conduct
- Students with a Disability

For more information, visit https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching

10.5. Student Charter

UniSC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The Student Charter sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

10.6. General Enquiries

For course-specific questions, contact your teaching staff or Course Coordinator.

For other enquiries or to access support, please contact Student Central:

- UniSC Student Central
- UniSC Adelaide Student Central