UniSC

COURSE OUTLINE

SCS235 Social Justice, Welfare and the State

School: School of Law and Society

2025 | Semester 2

UniSC Sunshine Coast		
UniSC Moreton Bay	BLENDED LEARNING	Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.
UniSC Fraser Coast		
Online	ONLINE	You can do this course without coming onto campus.

Please go to usc.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

Debate about the appropriate role of the state in welfare has been heightened by contemporary neoliberal reforms, including privatisation, managerialism, competition policy and economic globalisation. These developments have impacted upon welfare provision, on economic policy and social equity and wellbeing. This course explores the domestic and international factors that have shaped the welfare system in Australia with a strong focus on contemporary developments.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – 1 hour online learning materials and activities	1hr	Week 1	13 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On campus 10*2hrs tutorial/workshop	2hrs	Week 1	10 times
ONLINE			
Learning materials – 1 hour online learning materials and activities	1hr	Week 1	13 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Online tutorial	2hrs	Week 1	10 times

1.3. Course Topics

- Concept of state, welfare, and justice
- Discussion on Australian welfare policy
- Comparison of Australian welfare state with others
- Theories of welfare
- Neoliberalism and welfare
- Knowledge and skills in analysing welfare issues
- Welfare, creativity, and innovation

1.4. Mature Content

Adult themes

2. What level is this course?

> 200 Level (Developing)

Building on and expanding the scope of introductory knowledge and skills, developing breadth or depth and applying knowledge and skills in a new context. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally, undertaken in the second or third full-time year of an undergraduate programs.

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 MAPPING Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...	PROFESSIONAL STANDARD MAPPING * Australian Association of Social Workers
1 Critically understand and explain the Australian welfare issues and its comparison with others	Knowledgeable	1, 3, 5, 6, 9
2 Critically assess and analyse neoliberal welfare discourse and its implications for contemporary and future debate	Creative and critical thinker	1, 3, 5, 9
3 Critically investigate Australian welfare policies and apply knowledge and skills to evaluate these	Creative and critical thinker Empowered	1, 3, 5, 6, 9
4 Critically and scholarly engage in learning about welfare and synthesise it to develop own unique, personal understanding	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker	1, 3, 5, 6, 9
5 Ability to research and communicate both orally and in written format about Australian welfare issues and interventions	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Communication	5, 6, 9
6 Ability to effectively participate in a group and critically explore about Australian welfare issues and interventions	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Ethical Engaged Communication	1, 6, 9
7 Identify discriminatory practices in the social welfare system and how they impact clients and service users.	Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical	3, 4, 5, 6

* Competencies by Professional Body

CODE	COMPETENCY
AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS	
1	Practice Standard 1: AASW Code of Ethics
3	Practice Standard 3: Human rights and social justice
4	Practice Standard 4: Culture, identity and intersectionality
5	Practice Standard 5: Critical thinking in practice

CODE	COMPETENCY
6	Practice Standard 6: Exercising professional judgement
9	Practice Standard 9: Professional growth

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

Not applicable

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

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

This course assumes students have completed at least one sociology or politics course

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

Timely and detailed feedback is provided for each assessment. Feedback is provided both within text and general comments to build scholarly skills. Students are able to seek feedback through face-to-face discussion with the course coordinator. Tutorials will include extended discussion and review of the assessment task requirements and scope.

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	Quiz/zes	Individual	20%	1 Hour	Week 4	Online Test (Quiz)
All	2	Written Piece	Individual	40%	2000 words	Week 9	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Written Piece	Individual	40%	1500 words	Week 13	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

All - Assessment Task 1: Basic conceptual understanding of state, welfare, and justice

GOAL:	The goal of this task is to test students' knowledge and understanding of some basic concepts in welfare studies.	
PRODUCT:	Quiz/zes	
FORMAT:	Multiple choice quiz via Canvas.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1 Correct identification of knowledge and understanding of basic concepts in welfare studies.	① ③ ⑦
GENERIC SKILLS:		

All - Assessment Task 2: Critical analysis of an Australian welfare policy

GOAL:	This task intends to collectively engage students in assessing and investigating welfare policies in Australia.
PRODUCT:	Written Piece
FORMAT:	Students will choose an active welfare policy – either federal or state level – from Australia and will critically engage in policy analysis.

CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Criteria 1: Ability to critically locate the main issue/s represented in the policy.	① ③
	2	Criteria 2: Ability to outline and discuss dominant ideologies and discourses that underpin the policy.	② ③
	3	Criteria 3: Ability to assess and analyse the impacts of policy on its target population.	③ ⑦
	4	Criteria 4: Ability to propose effective and practical recommendations to improve the policy.	③ ④
	5	Criteria 5: Ability to present effectively and creatively, as well as show interest to respond to the questions arising from the presentation.	④ ⑤ ⑥

GENERIC SKILLS:	Problem solving, Organisation

All - Assessment Task 3: Personal reflection on contemporary welfare studies and issues.

GOAL:	The main goal of this task is to assess students' personal reflection on contemporary welfare studies and issues.
PRODUCT:	Written Piece
FORMAT:	This assessment builds on Task 2 to explore on alternative approaches, practice application and provide a reflection on ethics.

CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Criteria 1: Ability to systematically assess their learning and synthesise it as a personal reflection.	④ ⑦
	2	Criteria 2: Ability to research and scholarly explore about the real world of welfare studies and practice and compare these against their learning.	② ④ ⑤
	3	Criteria 3: Ability to predict challenges and ethical dilemma for themselves to work in the welfare, as well as identify how to address these.	④
	4	Criteria 4: Ability to build self-learning strategies to explore about welfare issues in the future.	④
	5	Ability to write a critical personal reflection	⑤

GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Organisation

6.4. Assessment to competency mapping

PROGRAMME DELIVERY MODE	ASSESSMENT TYPE	TITLE	COMPETENCY	TEACHING METHODS
AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION AND ACCREDITATION STANDARDS (ASWEAS)				
All delivery modes	Quiz/zes	Basic conceptual understanding of state, welfare, and justice	1	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			3	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			4	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			5	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			6	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			9	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
	Written Piece	Critical analysis of an Australian welfare policy	1	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			3	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			4	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			5	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			6	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			9	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
		Personal reflection on contemporary welfare studies and issues.	1	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			3	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			4	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			5	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			9	Taught, Practiced, Assessed

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.

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

> There are no required/recommended resources for this course.

8.2. Specific requirements

Nil

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

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. SafeUniSC

UniSC is committed to a culture of respect and providing a safe and supportive environment for all members of our community. For immediate assistance on campus contact SafeUniSC by phone: 07 5430 1168 or using the SafeZone app. For general enquires contact the SafeUniSC team by phone 07 5456 3864 or email safe@usc.edu.au.

The SafeUniSC Specialist Service is a Student Wellbeing service that provides free and confidential support to students who may have experienced or observed behaviour that could cause fear, offence or trauma. To contact the service call 07 5430 1226 or email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au.

10.5. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the Learning Advisers web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au.

10.6. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to Student Hub, email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226.

10.7. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, AccessAbility Services can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to Student Hub, email AccessAbility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 2890.

10.8. 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

10.9. 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.

10.10. General Enquiries

In person:
- **UniSC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **UniSC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **UniSC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **UniSC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **UniSC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **UniSC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au