

# SCS730 Advanced Social Work Theories for Practice

**School:** School of Law and Society

2024 Semester 1

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.

*Please go to [usc.edu.au](http://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

This course provides you with an overview and exploration of a range of theories which inform social work practice. You will develop an understanding of social work theory to develop skills in applying theory to understand and intervene with individuals, communities and society. You will further extend your practice philosophy and skills within these theoretical frameworks. You will be challenged to integrate your own personal perspective and societal influences when applying theoretical concepts to specific practice contexts and understand the implications of these for practices.

### 1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
<b>BLENDED LEARNING</b>			
<b>Learning materials</b> – A variety of materials will be presented for 1 hour per week (online) for students to complete in own time.	1hr	Week 1	13 times
<b>Tutorial/Workshop 1</b> – On campus tutorial	2hrs	Week 1	11 times

### 1.3. Course Topics

- Understanding of theories
- Models and perspectives
- Micro theories of practices
- Macro theories of practices
- Application of theory to practice

## 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	GRADUATE QUALITIES MAPPING	PROFESSIONAL STANDARD MAPPING *
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...	Australian Association of Social Workers
1 Identify, discuss and apply theoretical concepts to specific practice contexts and understand the implications of these for practice	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Ethical	4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4
2 Engage with the process of self-reflection and describe how your own environment, beliefs, values and worldviews your role as a social worker.	Knowledgeable Empowered Ethical Engaged	4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 5, 5.2, 5.4, 6.3
3 Examine recent developments in social theory and apply these understandings to how they can contribute to transforming society in a more just, participatory and sustainable direction.	Creative and critical thinker Sustainability-focused	3, 3.1, 4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 5, 5.2, 5.4
4 Apply your knowledge of theory to a particular case study.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Ethical Engaged	1.2, 2, 3, 4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 5, 5.1, 5.4, 6, 6.4, 7, 7.1
5 Demonstrate emerging professional verbal and written communication skills	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered Engaged	1.1, 1.2, 4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 5, 6, 7, 7.1

#### \* Competencies by Professional Body

CODE	COMPETENCY
AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS	
1.1	Practise in accordance with the AASW Code of Ethics
1.2	Manage ethical dilemmas and issues arising in practice
2	Professionalism
3	Culturally responsive and inclusive practice
3.1	Work inclusively and respectfully with cultural difference and diversity
4	Knowledge for practice
4.1	Understand higher level systemic influences on people with respect to area of practice
4.2	Understand and articulate social work and other relevant theories and concepts
4.3	Understand the role of research and evaluation in obtaining and generating new knowledge for practice
4.4	Understand and articulate how and when theories, knowledge bases and knowledge sources inform practice
5	Applying knowledge to practice
5.1	Assess and analyse needs to inform practice
5.2	Work collaboratively

CODE	COMPETENCY
5.4	Apply critical and reflective thinking to practice
6	Communication and interpersonal skills
6.3	Work with others in a team environment
6.4	Use information technology to communicate and provide services
7	Information recording and sharing
7.1	Record and manage information appropriately

## 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 any postgraduate program

### 5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

### 5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

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

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

The in-class activities commencing in the tutorials and will entail early feedback on your comprehension of the learning materials in this course.

### 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	Activity Participation	Individual	10%	13 weeks	Throughout teaching period (refer to Format)	In Class
All	2	Artefact - Creative	Individual	15%	A4 size	Week 8	Online Submission
All	3	Oral	Individual	30%	10 minutes	Week 10	In Class
All	4	Portfolio	Individual	45%	2500 words	Week 13	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

#### All - Assessment Task 1: Tutorial Attendance and Participation

<b>GOAL:</b>	AASW external accreditation requires mandatory attendance for skills based tutorials. Students must attend weekly tutorials and actively participate in all tutorial activities.
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Activity Participation
<b>FORMAT:</b>	Tutorial attendance will be recorded to meet external AASW accreditation requirements. Student participation and engagement in tutorial activities assessed based upon attendance and participation across 13 tutorials.

CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1 Attendance and engagement in activities	2
	2 Demonstrate engagement with course content.	1 5

#### All - Assessment Task 2: Poster

<b>GOAL:</b>	The goal is to demonstrate a clear understanding of course concepts and learning materials.	
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Artefact - Creative	
<b>FORMAT:</b>	A4 poster design	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1 Identify, discuss and apply theoretical concepts to specific practice contexts and understand the implications of these for practice	1
	2 Application of social theories- discussion in tutorials and learning activities.	2
	3 Communication and understanding of key terms in social work theories	1 3

#### All - Assessment Task 3: Individual Presentation

<b>GOAL:</b>	The goal is to demonstrate a clear understanding of course concepts and learning materials.	
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Oral	
<b>FORMAT:</b>	This task will be an individual presentation related to the course content.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1 Development of an Eco-map	1 4 5
	2 Explanation and application of relevant concepts from social work theories.	1 2 4 5
	3 Critical analysis of social work theories to provide a broader and more critical understanding of a issues and application to social work practice	1 2 4 5
	4 Effective professional communication in oral and written format.	2 5

#### All - Assessment Task 4: Social Work Report

<b>GOAL:</b>	The goal of this task is to demonstrate a critical understanding of course materials in a practical context. This assessment will involve critical reflection	
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Portfolio	
<b>FORMAT:</b>	A written application and critical analysis of course materials and the demonstration of the application of various theoretical and evidence-based concepts to a case study.	

CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Demonstrate and apply an advanced and accurate knowledge of the relevant concepts and theories to social work practice. <span style="float: right;">1 3 4</span>
	2	Critical self-reflection of how one's own worldview impacts your role as social worker <span style="float: right;">2</span>
	3	Logical and compelling arguments - based on your critical analysis and relevant academic evidence. <span style="float: right;">1 3</span>
	4	Clear professional written communication, including grammar and APA7th referencing. <span style="float: right;">5</span>

## 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

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%

The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct.

### 10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks may be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day - 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task. Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late. To request an extension you must contact your course coordinator to negotiate an outcome.

### 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](tel:0754301168) or using the [SafeZone](#) app. For general enquires contact the SafeUniSC team by phone [07 5456 3864](tel:0754563864) or email [safe@usc.edu.au](mailto: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](tel:0754301226) or email [studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:studentcentral@usc.edu.au)

