

SWK100 Introduction to Social Work Practice Theories

School: School of Law and Society

2025 | Semester 2

UniSC Sunshine Coast
UniSC Moreton Bay
UniSC Caboolture
UniSC Fraser Coast
UniSC Gympie

**BLENDED
LEARNING**

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Online

ONLINE

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

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

This course provides you with an introduction to 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
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – online learning materials	1hr	Week 1	11 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Weekly tutorials	2hrs	Week 1	11 times
ONLINE			
Learning materials – 11 weeks of online learning materials	1hr	Week 1	11 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Weekly online (Zoom) tutorials	2hrs	Week 1	11 times

1.3. Course Topics

Social theories, models and perspectives

Micro and macro theories of practices

Application of theory to practice

[Mature content across all topics]

1.4. Mature Content

Adult themes

2. What level is this course?

100 Level (Introductory)

Engaging with discipline knowledge and skills at foundational level, broad application of knowledge and skills in familiar contexts and with support. Limited or no prerequisites. Normally, associated with the first full-time study year of an undergraduate program.

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 Engage with the process of self-reflection and describe how your own environment, beliefs, values and worldviews your role as a social worker.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Ethical Engaged	5, 6
2 Apply theoretical concepts to specific practice contexts and are able to adopt or adapt innovations in practice on the basis of a critical assessment of evidence	Empowered Engaged	1, 5, 6
3 Apply your knowledge of theory to a particular case study.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Ethical	1, 5, 6, 7
4 Make professional decisions on the basis of a holistic assessment of the needs, strengths, goals and preferences of clients	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Ethical Problem solving	
5 Demonstrate emerging professional communication skills	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical Engaged	1, 9

* Competencies by Professional Body

CODE	COMPETENCY
AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS	
1	Practice Standard 1: AASW Code of Ethics
5	Practice Standard 5: Critical thinking in practice
6	Practice Standard 6: Exercising professional judgement
7	Practice Standard 7: Professional identity

CODE	COMPETENCY
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)

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 annotated bibliography will be used to provide early feedback on the understanding of course content.

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	Written Piece	Individual	15%	A minimum of 5 peer-reviewed articles	Week 3	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2	Written Piece	Individual	40%	1,250 words	Week 7	Online Submission
All	3	Case Study	Individual	45%	2000 words	Week 12	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

All - Assessment Task 1: Annotated Bibliography

GOAL:	The goal of this assessment task is to develop students' abilities to critically engage with current research by compiling an annotated bibliography of recent studies on a chosen social work topic. Students will summarise key findings and evaluate the practical relevance of each article, enhancing their skills in literature review, critical appraisal, and connecting evidence to social work practice.		
PRODUCT:	Written Piece		
FORMAT:	This task will be submitted on Turnitin via a Word doc.		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Able to summarise the article's key finding	5
	2	The quality and relevance of articles to practice issue	5
	3	Writing quality & referencing standards upheld	5
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Organisation, Information literacy		

All - Assessment Task 2: Systems Analysis of Justice Issues

GOAL:	The goal of this assessment task is to apply systems theory and an ecological lens to critically analyse a contemporary justice issue, demonstrating an understanding of how individual experiences are shaped by intersecting systems at micro, meso, exo, macro, and chrono levels. Students will engage in structural thinking, identify systemic barriers, and reflect on the implications for ethical and culturally responsive social work practice.		
PRODUCT:	Written Piece		
FORMAT:	This task will be in Word doc or pdf.		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	A critical reflection on societal influences that impact your work as an emerging professional	1 3 5
	2	Understanding the complexities across multiple levels on individual behaviour and development	1 3 5
	3	Demonstrate a Critical Understanding of Societal Influences	2 5
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Organisation, Information literacy		

All - Assessment Task 3: Case study

GOAL:	The goal of this task is for you to apply your cumulative understanding of various theories and the multidimensional nature of human behaviour to analyse the behaviour of a case study.		
PRODUCT:	Case Study		
FORMAT:	You will compare and contrast two different theories in relation to the understanding of a selected case study and identify the strengths and weaknesses of each theory.		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Critical evaluation and application of theories in their connection to practice.	1 2 5
	2	Demonstrations of clear emerging professional communication skills	5
	3	Identify strengths and limitations of various theories and their application to practice.	1 2 3
	4	Make professional decisions on the basis of a holistic assessment of the needs, strengths, goals and preferences of clients	4
	5	Development of an ecomap	2 3 4
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving		

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	Case Study	Case study	1	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			5	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			6	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
	Written Piece	Systems Analysis of Justice Issues	1	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			5	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			6	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			7	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

Information regarding prescribed texts or other associated resources will be made available on the Canvas site prior to commencement of study.

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](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.

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.

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