

SWK251 Working with First Nations Peoples and Multicultural Communities

School: School of Law and Society

2026 Trimester 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.

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

Professionals in many settings are required to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and multicultural communities demonstrating professional practice standards, values, and ethical principles. Students will develop relevant knowledge to critique current ways of working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and multicultural communities. Students will develop specific strategies and skills to engage and provide culturally responsive services.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – online content	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – 2 hour on-campus tutorials	2hrs	Week 1	10 times
ONLINE			
Learning materials – online content	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – 2 hour online tutorials	2hrs	Week 1	10 times

1.3. Course Topics

This course will cover key concepts and themes related to Indigenous Knowledges, historical contexts of colonisation and impacts, Indigenous rights and social and emotional wellbeing, theoretical frameworks in Indigenous social work, debates and ways forward for working with First Nations peoples, multiculturalism, acculturation, and settlement, theoretical frameworks in multicultural social work, collaborative assessment processes, intersectionality in cross-cultural social work, and Sustainable Development Goals.

(Mature content across all course topics)

1.4. Mature Content

Drug Use, Violence, Coarse Language, 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	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 Understand historical contexts and apply that understanding to critically analyse contemporary social and political issues impacting on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and privilege their voices	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical Engaged Communication	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9
2 Apply an intersectional lens to understand and articulate complexities around culture and diversity for engaging respectfully with culturally diverse people	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical Engaged Sustainability-focussed Communication	1, 2, 4, 5, 9
3 Identify and clearly articulate professional values and ethical practice principles for working alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and with multicultural communities with cultural responsiveness	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical Engaged Sustainability-focussed Communication Collaboration	1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9
4 Demonstrate and apply critical understanding of theories and research for working alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and with multicultural communities	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical Engaged Sustainability-focussed Communication Collaboration Problem solving Organisation Applying technologies	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9

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
5 Be an active learner demonstrating research, engagement, collaboration, team and group work, and good practice	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical Engaged Sustainability-focussed Communication Collaboration Problem solving Organisation Applying technologies	1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9
6 Demonstrate active contribution of critical perspectives on inter-agency work supporting contemporary developments in Indigenous and Multicultural Social Work area	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical Engaged Communication Organisation	1, 5, 7, 9
7 Work inclusively and respectfully with client to promote their involvement in decision-making	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical Engaged Communication Collaboration Problem solving Organisation	1, 4, 7

* Competencies by Professional Body

CODE	COMPETENCY
AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS	
1	Practice Standard 1: AASW Code of Ethics
2	Practice Standard 2: Working alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
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
6	Practice Standard 6: Exercising professional judgement
7	Practice Standard 7: Professional identity
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

SCS251

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

Not applicable

5.5. Microcredentia 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

Early feedback is provided to students through discussions and activities in the tutorials.

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	Journal	Individual	30%	1200 words	Week 5	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2	Oral and Written Piece	Individual and Group	30%	A 15-minute group presentation to share in class, a 300-word written statement on group work process, and a 400-word written peer-review of another group presentation.	Week 8	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check and in class
All	3	Case Study	Individual	40%	1500 words	Week 12	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

All - Assessment Task 1: Reflective Journal

GOAL:	To critically reflect on positionality and standpoint to demonstrate you understand key course concepts																			
PRODUCT:	Journal																			
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:																				
FORMAT:	The reflective journal will require you to critically reflect on own positionality and author's standpoint from required course readings to demonstrate your learning																			
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GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation, Applying technologies, Information literacy																			

All - Assessment Task 2: Oral Group Presentation and Written

GOAL:	To demonstrate critical understanding of course key concepts from historical and contemporary contexts to present their impact on Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples.																			
PRODUCT:	Oral and Written Piece																			
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:																				
FORMAT:	Group presentation in class demonstrating critical understanding of course key concepts from historical and contemporary contexts with analysis of impact on Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples. Each group will write a 300-word statement on group processes including shared responsibilities and contributions, and review another group's presentation, submitting a written peer-review.																			
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All - Assessment Task 3: Case Study Analysis

GOAL:	To critically analyse a case study/film resource and apply your knowledge of course concepts and culturally responsive practice skills.																			
PRODUCT:	Case Study																			
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:																				
FORMAT:	This case study/film resource analysis requires you to develop relevant inter-agency approach and multidisciplinary knowledge to critique current ways of working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and multicultural communities and develop specific strategies to provide culturally responsive services.																			
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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 Analysis	1	Taught, Practiced, Assessed		
			2	Taught, Practiced, Assessed		
			3	Taught, Assessed		
			4	Taught, Assessed		
			5	Taught, Practiced, Assessed		
			7	Taught, Assessed		
			9	Taught, Practiced, Assessed		
			Journal	Reflective Journal	1	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
					2	Taught, Assessed
	3	Taught, Assessed				
	4	Taught, Assessed				
	5	Taught, Practiced, Assessed				
	7	Taught				
	9	Taught, Practiced, Assessed				
	Oral and Written Piece	Oral Group Presentation and Written			1	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
					2	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			3	Taught, Practiced, Assessed		
			5	Taught, Practiced, Assessed		
			7	Taught		
			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. 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](#)