COURSE OUTLINE

SWK703 Introduction to Social Work

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.

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

This course introduces you to social work within contemporary Australian society and globally. You will develop knowledge and understanding of the purpose, focus, core values, professional ethics, theories and processes required to undertake social work with individuals, groups and communities. The variety of roles, fields, contextual considerations and theories informing social work practice are examined, unified by an emphasis on respect for persons, human rights, social justice, professional integrity in social work practice and critical reflection.

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 – On-campus tutorial/workshop - 2 hours	2hrs	Week 1	11 times

1.3. Course Topics

This course delves into a range of social work concepts essential for understanding practice within the Australian context. Key topics encompass the fundamental purpose and scope of social work, the significance of diversity, and the ethical framework provided by the AASW code of ethics. These concepts serve as pillars guiding our exploration throughout the course.

1.4. Mature Content

Drug Use, Nudity, Sex/Sexual references, Violence, Coarse Language, Adult themes

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 MAPPING Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...	PROFESSIONAL STANDARD MAPPING * Australian Association of Social Workers
1 Demonstrate an ability to respond to evolving practice contexts and situations within the classroom and assessment environments promptly and ethically, showing an understanding of the values, principles, and guidelines described in the Code of Ethics	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Ethical Engaged Problem solving	1
2 Apply an intersectional lens to your approach to practice complexities around culture and diversity while working inclusively and respectfully with others	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Ethical Communication Problem solving	4
3 Positively and constructively contribute critical perspectives during classroom and assessment activities that display a capacity to sustain focus, engagement, and verbal and nonverbal communication in busy and stimulated environments	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Ethical Engaged Communication Collaboration Problem solving	5
4 Identify, apply, and promote relevant human rights and social justice concepts, processes, and values in diverse contexts upholding the rights, dignity, and autonomy of all those with whom you work	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Ethical Communication Problem solving	3, 5
5 Engage in effective professional dialogue with a diverse range of clients, consumers, and other stakeholders, taking into account their varying communication capacities and needs and working effectively with others in a team environment	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Ethical Engaged Communication Collaboration	4, 7
6 Monitor, evaluate, and review your skills, knowledge, and expertise in a range of oral and written forms across various learning and practice settings	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical Engaged Communication Collaboration Problem solving Organisation Applying technologies Information literacy	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
7 Be an active learner, demonstrating your skills and capacity to work in environments with high workload demands and with competing priorities, requiring your sustained focus, ability to switch between tasks efficiently, and to meet deadlines in managing your professional learning opportunities	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical Engaged Communication Collaboration Problem solving Organisation Applying technologies Information literacy	9

* 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
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

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

Quiz/zes 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	Quiz/zes	Individual	30%	3 Quizzes 1 hour	Throughout teaching period (refer to Format)	Online Test (Quiz)
All	2	Written Piece	Individual	30%	2000 words	Week 5	Online Submission
All	3	Artefact - Professional	Individual	30%	8-10-minute pre-recorded video	Week 11	Online Submission
All	4	Activity Participation	Individual	10%	All tutorials	Refer to Format	In Class

All - Assessment Task 1: Quizzes

GOAL:	The goal of this assessment task is to demonstrate an understanding of a range of concepts, values, contextual considerations and theories relevant to social work
PRODUCT:	Quiz/zes
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	Released at various intervals across the course. You will access and respond to the quizzes via Canvas. Quizzes may contain multiple choice and/or short answer questions.
CRITERIA:	**No.** — **Learning Outcome assessed** 1 Identification and/or application of core concepts and processes to practice situations — 1 2 4 6 7 2 Description and application of core practice values to social work and human services practice — 1 2 4 6 7 3 Demonstration of critical thinking in written response — 1 2 4 6 7
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Information literacy

All - Assessment Task 2: Critical analysis

GOAL:	The purpose of this assessment is to enable students to critically examine how contemporary social, political, and economic forces shape social work practice within a selected field. Through independent research and analysis, students will demonstrate an understanding of key theoretical, ethical, and practice considerations that influence service delivery and professional decision-making in the current welfare context.
PRODUCT:	Written Piece
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	Upload via Canvas

CRITERIA:

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Applied understanding of managerialism, globalisation, neoliberalism, and trauma-informed approaches and their relevance to the chosen field; demonstrates strong grasp of how these forces shape welfare practices, service delivery, and user experience	1 2 4 6 7
2	Analysis of how managerialism and globalisation impact welfare practices, frontline autonomy, resource allocation, ethical considerations, and vulnerable populations; integrates theory, research, and examples with depth.	1 2 4 6 7
3	Application of concepts and analysis to the chosen field, including a trauma-informed approach; demonstrates deep insight into how managerialism, neoliberalism, trauma, and ethical considerations shape practice realities and service user experiences	1 2 4 6 7
4	Use of appropriate academic writing skills, structures, referencing, grammar, and spelling.	6

GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Organisation, Applying technologies, Information literacy

All - Assessment Task 3: Simulation Piece

GOAL:	This assessment provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate their professional readiness for social work practice. By simulating an employment interview, students will apply critical self-reflection, articulate their professional values and practice knowledge, and communicate their understanding of contemporary social work roles within diverse organisational and community contexts.
PRODUCT:	Artefact - Professional
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	Uploaded video via Canvas

CRITERIA:

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Demonstrated knowledge of chosen field; integrates current issues, challenges, and role expectations with depth and accuracy.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
2	Critical reflection on personal values, biases, and influences; strong alignment (or thoughtful discussion of misalignment) with AASW Code; demonstrates ethical maturity.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
3	Integration of theory and practice; identifies key social justice and human rights issues; articulates appropriate practice approaches/interventions with depth.	3 4 5 6 7
4	Professional and engaging communication; confident, articulate, and reflective; strong presence (tone, body language, professional dress).	1 2 4 6 7
5	Structure, Clarity & Time Management	3 6 7

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

All - Assessment Task 4: Tutorial Attendance and Participation

GOAL:	AASW external accreditation requires mandatory attendance for skills based tutorials. Students must attend weekly tutorials and actively participate in all tutorial activities.
PRODUCT:	Activity Participation
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	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 all tutorials.

CRITERIA:

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Work effectively with others in a team environment	1 3 5 6 7
2	Be an active learner, open to new and emerging knowledge, research, and evidence informing your practice	1 3 5 6 7
3	Contribute your critical perspectives in interactions with peers in a positive and constructive manner	3 4 5 6 7

GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, 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	Activity Participation	Tutorial Attendance and Participation	5	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			7	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			9	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
	Artefact - Professional	Simulation Piece	1	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			3	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			4	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			5	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			6	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			7	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			9	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
	Quiz/zes	Quizzes	1	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			3	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			4	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
	Written Piece	Critical analysis	1	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			3	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			4	Taught, Practiced
			5	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			6	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			7	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

Not applicable

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