



COURSE OUTLINE

SWK703 Introduction to Social Work

School: School of Law and Society

2022 | Semester 1

USC Sunshine Coast

**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 the USC website 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 – 1 hour online learning materials and activities not for timetabling	1hr	Week 1	13 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On campus tutorial/workshop - 2 hours	2hrs	Week 2	11 times
Seminar – 2 x 2-hour synchronous Seminar offered on campus	2hrs	Week 1	2 times

1.3. Course Topics

- Purpose and focus of social work
- Contexts of practice
- Motivations for undertaking social work
- Conceptualising and responding to complexity
- Current directions in conceptualising social work
- Social work values
- The history and grand challenges of social work and social care
- Practice roles and levels of practice
- Intersecting fields of practice
- Diversity, difference and intersectionality
- Social work ethics
- Discourses in policy, service delivery and social work practice
- Theories for 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 Demonstrate an understanding of foundation social work concepts and theories, and articulate the relevance of these for social work practice.	Knowledgeable Empowered	1, 1.1, 4.2, 4.4
2 Discuss, collaborate on and explain how your own sense of self and personal values intersect with social work and may impact on your social work practice	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker	1, 3, 5.4, 8
3 Identify and apply relevant social work concepts and theories to social work practice case studies in ways that reflect the orientations and values of social work.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker	1, 1.1, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 5, 5.4

* Competencies by Professional Body

CODE	COMPETENCY
AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS	
1	Values and ethics
1.1	Practise in accordance with the AASW Code of Ethics

CODE	COMPETENCY
3	Culturally responsive and inclusive 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
5.4	Apply critical and reflective thinking to practice
8	Professional development and supervision

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [USC 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

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%	1 hour	Throughout teaching period (refer to Format)	Online Test (Quiz)
All	2	Written Piece	Individual	20%	1500 words	Week 7	Online Submission
All	3	Case Study	Individual	40%	2500 words	Week 13	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	4	Activity Participation	Individual	10%	11 tutorials	Refer to Format	In Class

All - Assessment Task 1: Quiz/zes

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	
FORMAT:	Submit: Weeks 3 to 10. Each quiz will consist of a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1 Accuracy, depth and relevance of response	1 3

All - Assessment Task 2: Reflective and researched essay

GOAL:	The goal of this assessment task is to reflect on and articulate your motivations for undertaking social work practice, and to link this to relevant social work literature regarding such motivations and the purpose, focus, fields and values of social work.	
PRODUCT:	Written Piece	
FORMAT:	This task will be to write a reflective essay which locates your motivations for undertaking social work in relevant course and other social work literature. In doing this you are to demonstrate an understanding of the purpose, focus and core values of social work, and how your motivations and understandings link to the various contexts, fields and levels of social work practice.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1 Demonstrated ability to identify and critically reflect on own motivations and values	2
	2 Capacity to link your motivations and reflections to relevant course and social work concepts and literature	2
	3 Demonstrated understanding of the focus, purpose and values of social work	1
	4 Relevant and sufficient use of course learning materials and other relevant social work literature, cited accurately	1

All - Assessment Task 3: Case study

GOAL:	The goal of this task is for you to demonstrate you can identify and apply relevant social work concepts, values, questions and theories to a given case study.	
PRODUCT:	Case Study	
FORMAT:	Individual written report summarising final response to case study. Supported by prior workshop discussions and collaboration.	

CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Demonstrated capacity to ask and justify practice relevant questions to explore relevant aspects of a case study 3
	2	Understanding of social work concepts, values, processes and theories 1
	3	Identification and justification of relevant social work concepts, values and theories to a case 3
	4	Critical and context responsive analysis of social work practice in the particular case study, including consideration of how identified concepts, theories, and processes can assist the worker deal with identified complexities 3
	5	Use of relevant literature and collaborative communication to support the exploration of the case 3

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				
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 11 tutorials.				
CRITERIA:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No.</th> <th>Learning Outcome assessed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Discuss, collaborate on and explain how your own sense of self and personal values intersect with social work concepts and processes canvassed in the course and how your values and understandings may impact on your social work practice 2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	No.	Learning Outcome assessed	1	Discuss, collaborate on and explain how your own sense of self and personal values intersect with social work concepts and processes canvassed in the course and how your values and understandings may impact on your social work practice 2
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1	Discuss, collaborate on and explain how your own sense of self and personal values intersect with social work concepts and processes canvassed in the course and how your values and understandings may impact on your social work practice 2				

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. Directed study hours may vary by location. 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

Please note that you need to have regular access to the resource(s) listed below. Resources may be required or recommended.

REQUIRED?	AUTHOR	YEAR	TITLE	EDITION	PUBLISHER
Required	Karen Healy	2014	Social Work Theories in Context	2nd	Palgrave Macmillan

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

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. SafeUSC

USC 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 SafeUSC by phone: [07 5430 1168](tel:0754301168) or using the [SafeZone](#) app. For general enquires contact the SafeUSC team by phone [07 5456 3864](tel:0754563864) or email safe@usc.edu.au.

The SafeUSC 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
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

Visit the USC website: <https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.9. Student Charter

USC 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:

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

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au