

Course Outline

Code: SWK278

Title: Ethical Practice in the Helping Professions

School: Social Sciences
Teaching Session: Semester 2
Year: 2020
Course Coordinator: Dr Dyann Ross - dross@usc.edu.au
Course Moderator: Professor Cindy Davis

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

The course provides students with an appreciation of how their values influence their decisions and actions in practice. It provides an overview of ethical theories, ethico-legal principles and relevant legislation in practice. Attention is given to understanding ethics as a capacity to act for the rights and well-being of people, animals and the ecosystem, where power inequalities can compound pre-existing inequalities and issues. It provides students with tools and skills for resolving ethical dilemmas and identifies the importance of self-care in complex human services practice settings.

1.2 Field trips, WIL placements or activities required by professional accreditation

Activity	Details
Nil	Nil

2. What level is this course?

200 level Developing – Applying broad and/or deep knowledge and skills to new contexts. May require pre-requisites and introductory level knowledge/skills. Normally undertaken in the 2nd or 3rd 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?

Specific Learning Outcomes	Assessment tasks	Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to:	You will be assessed on the learning outcomes in task/s:	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to:
Describe and critically evaluate theoretical components of ethical practice	1, 2 and 3	Knowledgeable. Creative and critical thinkers.
Demonstrate ability to make and be accountable for professional decisions based on ethical frameworks, and to resolve ethical dilemmas	1, 2 and 3	Creative and critical thinkers. Empowered.

Specific Learning Outcomes On successful completion of this course, you should be able to:	Assessment tasks You will be assessed on the learning outcomes in task/s:	Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to:
Develop and justify arguments based on understanding of ethical and professional approaches to human services practice	1, 2 and 3	Knowledgeable. Engaged.
Demonstrate understanding of need to act in culturally appropriate ways	1, 2 and 3	Ethical.
Demonstrate verbal and written communication skills relevant to professional ethical issues in human services practice	1, 2 and 3	Empowered. Engaged.
Develop foundational skills in critical analysis and reflective ethical practice, including use of self in practice	2	Sustainability-focused

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 Enrolment restrictions

Nil

5.2 Pre-requisites

Nil

5.3 Co-requisites

Nil

5.4 Anti-requisites

SCS278

5.5 Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Nil

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1 Grading scale

Standard – High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL)

6.2 Details of early feedback on progress

Students can receive feedback on a draft outline of their second assessment before progressing substantially with it.

6.3 Assessment tasks

Task No.	Assessment Product	Individual or Group	Weighting %	What is the duration / length?	When should I submit?	Where should I submit it?
1	Quiz/zes	Individual	15%	Self-paced, 3 x questions per	Weeks 3 – 7	Online Assignment Submission

Course Outline: SWK278 Ethical Practice in the Helping Professions

				week during 5 weeks		
2	Essay	Individual	40%	2000 words essay	Week 6	Online Assignment Submission
3	Case Study	Individual	45%	15 minutes & (1500 words equivalent)	Week 14	Online Assignment Submission
			100%			

Assessment Task 1: Key Concepts Quiz

Goal:	The aim is for you to demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts relating to ethics in professional practice.
Product:	Quiz/zes
Format:	Online self-paced quiz employing multiple choice, multiple answer and other question methods. The quiz will be completed weekly commencing in week 3 and concluding in week 7. You are required to log on to the site (directions to be provided) and complete the quizzes by following the prompts. This is an open book task and you are to ensure you have the recommended readings (to be identified and provided on Blackboard) at hand.
Criteria:	You need to complete the 5 components of the quiz and level of achievement will relate to number of questions answered correctly.

Assessment Task 2: Professional Values & Ethical Theories Essay

Goal:	To define and discuss relevant professional values and ethical theories.
Product:	Essay
Format:	Students are to identify a minimum of three professional values, two ethical theories and two ethico-legal principles. These all need to be defined, discussed and applied to a provided case study, using course references.
Criteria:	<p>You will demonstrate an ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain what 'professionalism' means and what the 'ethical use of self' entails. • Define and discuss professional values, ethical theories and ethico-legal principles. • Explain how these ethical ideas would guide an initial sense of the matters of concern in a provided case study. • Define power and identify power issues in the case study & how these might influence ethical practice. • Appropriately use course text and a minimum of 6 other references from the course materials. • Present a well written essay (clarity of expression, correct grammar, spelling and punctuation), logically structured, coherent description and analysis, within the word count, appropriately referenced using the Harvard system of referencing.

Assessment Task 3: Ethical Dilemma on PowerPoint with Voice Over

Goal:	To apply an ethical decision-making model to a case study, which will inform professional practice.
Product:	Case Study

Format:	<p>This is an individual assessment and can be presented with sub-headings from the recommended ethical decision-making model.</p> <p>You need to identify and critically reflect upon one possible ethical dilemma within a practice situation, as presented through a case study. You will be required to demonstrate: a sound application of ethical theory; professional values; a clear understanding of Australian ethico-legal principles and laws that may apply; and a sound working knowledge of your own profession's code of ethics. You will also need to research your role and your agency related to the case study and show an understanding of issues that may be impacting on the situation. You will demonstrate your ability to work through a decision-making model overviewed in this course, that will guide your ethical practice.</p> <p>Case studies will be provided to you and relate to specific fields of practice such as child protection, aged care, mental health, drug and alcohol and youth work. You can create an alternative case study in consultation with your tutor. You will be required to place yourself as a worker from your own discipline into this case study and apply the recommended ethical decision-making process that leads to particular action you would take in relation to this case.</p>
Criteria:	<p>This task will be marked according to the level of achievement in the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an ability to apply an ethical decision making model to a case study, showing an understanding of ethical theories, your own profession's code of ethics, Australian ethico-legal principles and legislation, relevant case study specific research, and power issues; • an ability to identify the limitations of the ethical decision making process you have undertaken; • a well prepared powerpoint with voice over - logically structured, coherent analysis, within the time limit and word count, appropriately referenced using the Harvard system of referencing and with a minimum of 6 references from the course.

7. Directed study hours

The directed study hours listed here are a portion of the workload for this course. 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.

Location:	Directed study hours for location:
Sippy Downs	Lecture: 2 hours per week Tutorial: 1 hour per week
USC Fraser Coast	Lecture: 2 hours per week Tutorial: 1 hour per week

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note that course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, and topical ethical issues are available on the course Blackboard site. Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1 Prescribed text(s) or course reader

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

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 as a student 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. It is also your responsibility to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online Health Safety and Wellbeing training module 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 Blackboard, are electronically checked through SafeAssign. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work that SafeAssign has access to.

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%
- b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale
- c) You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

10.3 Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks will 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 and supply the required documentation to negotiate an outcome.

10.4 Study help

In the first instance, you should contact your tutor, then the Course Coordinator. Additional assistance is provided to all students through Academic Skills Advisers. To book an appointment or find a drop-in session go to [Student Hub](#).

Contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au

10.5 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:

<http://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.6 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