

Course Outline

Code: SWK707

Title: Ethical Social Work Practice in Complex Contexts

School: Social Sciences
Teaching Session: Semester 1
Year: 2019
Course Coordinator: Associate Professor Phil Crane - pcrane@usc.edu.au
Course Moderator: Dr Tina Lathouras – tlathouras@usc.edu.au

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 the purposes of social work practice, to various sources of complexity, & the implications for practice. You will develop knowledge & skills in critically appreciating & responding to legal, organisational & social dimensions of complex practice situations in ethical & context responsive ways. You will be required to reflexively apply a range of concepts, frameworks, and decision-making models to complex practice situations. The emphasis is on developing your understandings & generic skills for ethical social work practice across diverse and complex contexts.

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

Activity	Details
Nil	Nil

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?

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:
Demonstrate an appreciation of the purposes, focus, values, and ethical requirements of social work	1 and 2	Knowledgeable. Engaged.
Identify and critically analyse complex and context specific aspects of ethical practice from various perspectives (client, social,	2 and 3	Ethical. Creative and critical thinkers.

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:
legal, organisational, professional), drawing on relevant theories, models, processes, concepts and evidence.		
Justify and apply relevant social work processes to complex practice situations	1, 2 and 3	Creative and critical thinkers. Ethical.
Develop a critical and reflective process for on-going learning	2 and 3	Sustainability-focussed.

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

Must be enrolled in AR707

5.2 Pre-requisites

Nil

5.3 Co-requisites

Nil

5.4 Anti-requisites

SWK407

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

The inclusion of a new assessment item (Task 2) will provide a better scaffold for the complex case analysis that students do. This and the complex case analysis process involve significant workshop discussion so that students can gauge how well they are understanding the assessment task and the associated course content.

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	30%	Combination of multiple choice questions and short (300 word) written responses	Weeks 3 and 5	Online Assignment Submission with Plagiarism check

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2	Report	Individual	30%	2000 word written report which includes a visual summary eg pictorial or table	Week 7	Online Assignment Submission
3	Case Study	Individual	40%	3000 words summary of own analysis and inquiry processes	Week 13	Online Assignment Submission with Plagiarism check
			100%			

Assessment Task 1: Short essay responses/ multiple choice quiz

Goal:	To develop knowledge about core concepts and contexts for social work practice
Product:	Quiz/zes
Format:	This is an individual assessment. This task requires you to complete two quizzes which comprise a combination of short answer multiple choice questions (15 marks) and short essay style responses (15 marks). Questions and answers will be drawn from a list of key course readings and lecture materials accessible via Blackboard and/ or through student research.
Criteria:	<p>This assessment will be graded according to the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The multiple choice answers will be judged as being the most correct response of those available. • Short essay responses will be marked according to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Factual correctness. Use of relevant academic and credible grey literature to support statements made Critical and reflective analysis, which appreciates relevant contexts, core values and approaches to practice • Structure and accuracy of writing

Assessment Task 2: Reflective report

Goal:	To demonstrate your capacity to articulate <i>how</i> you could explore complex practice situations in ways which contribute to ethical and context responsive practice.
Product:	Written Piece
Format:	<p>This is an individual assessment.</p> <p>You are to write a report detailing <i>how</i> you would investigate various aspects of a given or self nominated practice scenario. In this report you will indicate what aspects of the practice scenario you consider the practitioner could consider, what questions they should ask, in doing this, and what processes you could use to enquire into these questions. A visual table or summary is to be included. This assessment will be supported by course materials, lecture presentations and discussions which consider various contexts for social work practice.</p> <p>The product of this assessment is your own reflective and evidence based process for exploring key considerations for ethical and context responsive social work practice which appreciates various complexities which may be faced..</p>
Criteria:	This written report will be assessed according to your ability to demonstrate you can:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key aspects of the practice context for the practitioner to consider including why these are significant. This should include identification of any significant ethical considerations that are significant for you as a social work practitioner in the scenario • Identify important practice relevant questions you the practitioner should ask as you consider how you should practice in respect of complex aspects of the scenario, • Demonstrate your capacity to articulate a range of relevant strategies for enquiring into the various contexts for practice drawing on a range of relevant knowledges and sources. • Demonstrate your capacity to reflect on a practice situation in ways which promote ethical and context responsive practice. • Demonstrate your capacity to summarise, justify, visually display and share in class the framework for enquiry you have developed. • Demonstrate an emerging professional level of written expression including grammar, punctuation, spelling and referencing
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Assessment Task 3: Analysis of a complex case

Goal:	To critically apply relevant practice concepts and processes to a complex case study.
Product:	Oral and Written Piece
Format:	<p>This is an individual assessment, undertaken through a process which requires collaborative engagement in a group of 3-5 students, who operate as a 'community of practice'... This task requires you to analyse a given problem based learning (PBL) scenario, select a practice location within the scenario from a number of possibilities, identify aspects of the scenario to foreground in respect of various aspects of the practice context, and articulate the enquiries and practice processes a social worker could use to respond to these.</p> <p>The product of this assessment is your own reflective and evidence based written and visual analysis of key considerations for context responsive social work practice in complex contexts. You will be expected to share a developed draft of your chosen approach within workshops held in weeks 12 and 13.</p> <p><i>Formative assessment - The tutorials between Weeks 8 to 10 will provide an opportunity for you to present your initial ideas and obtain feedback from your tutor for this assessment task.</i></p>
Criteria:	<p>The written submission will be assessed according to your ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key aspects of the practice context for the practitioner to consider including why these are significant • Identify important practice relevant questions the practitioner could ask, and demonstrate the capacity to enquire into these drawing on relevant knowledges and sources. • Identify and justify at least one significant feature of the context which creates complexity the practitioner should be aware of and drawing on course and professionally relevant literature indicate how they could respond to this • Identify processes for responding to the above contexts in ethically mindful ways drawing on relevant course and case relevant research studies, good quality grey literature, the social work Code of Ethics, and relevant practice literatures • Effective professional communication of your analysis using written and visual modes • Demonstrate and provide evidence of your openness to, and capacity for, collaborative reflection with student peers through a willingness to develop your analysis of practice through dialogue with other students in course processes, expose your practice ideas to scrutiny and feedback, and demonstrate your capacity to deepen and extend your analysis of practice through such processes. • Demonstrate an emerging professional level of written expression including grammar, punctuation, spelling and referencing

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	3 hour workshop 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, etc. 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:

- The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%
- 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 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