

SWRK1010: Introduction to Social Work 1

Ourimbah and Newcastle City Precinct
Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

OVERVIEW

Course Description	This course develops understandings of social justice as it relates to social work practice. Historical and contemporary debates regarding inequality are examined, focussing on the ways inequality is constructed and experienced through income, race and gender. Critical thinking skills are also developed as students consider their lived experience in relation to social work professional values and ethics
Academic Progress Requirements	Nil
Requisites	Students cannot enrol in this course if they have previously successfully completed SWRK1001. Students must be active in Bachelor of Social Work (Honours) [12317].
Contact Hours	Callaghan AND Ourimbah Lecture Face to Face On Campus 1 hour(s) per week(s) for 8 week(s) starting Week 3 – 6 and 8 - 11 Lectorial Face to Face On Campus 2 hour(s) per week(s) for 4 week(s) starting Week 1, 2, 7 and 12 Tutorial Face to Face On Campus 3 hour(s) per week(s) for 8 week(s) starting Week 3 – 6 and 8 - 11 Workshop Face to Face On Campus 2 hour(s) per week(s) for 4 week(s) starting Week 1-2, 7 and 12
Unit Weighting	20
Workload	Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

COURSE OUTLINE

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	Ourimbah and Newcastle City Precinct Dr Karen Menzies Karen.Menzies@newcastle.edu.au 0418333822 Consultation: Student consultation is always welcomed. Please email Dr Karen Menzies for an appointment time.
Teaching Staff	Coralie Properjohn - coralie.properjohn@newcastle.edu.au Rebecca Bojkowski - rebecca.Bojkowski@newcastle.edu.au Marty Ward – martine.ward@newcastle.edu.au
School Office	School of Humanities Creative Industries and Social Sciences NU Space, Level 4 409 Hunter Street Newcastle HCISS@newcastle.edu.au +61 4985 4500.

SYLLABUS

Course Content	Topics will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inequality in society• Current inequalities in Australian society (e.g. Income, race, gender)• Social work responses to inequality• Group dynamics and group theory• Professional ethics and professional practice
Course Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this course, students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Describe and apply a foundational understanding of core social work values outlined in the AASW Code of Ethics.2. Analyse and discuss inequality as it relates to specific demographic and identity groups in Australian society.3. Convey critical analysis in written form.4. Identify how their values, ethics and lived experience shape professional practice.5. Identify and display skills in working effectively in groups.6. Develop and apply foundational research skills.
Course Materials	Resources to support student learning and online activities will be provided in Canvas. All students must satisfy the eight domains of the inherent requirements in the Bachelor of Social Work. Please click on the link and read the 'Inherent requirements for Bachelor of Social Work'. Inherent requirements for Bachelor of Social Work / Inherent requirements / Students with a disability (AccessAbility) / Personal support / Support / Current Students / The University of Newcastle, Australia

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	Course introduction What is social work? Social justice as a concept.	see canvas for resources	Professional and Personal Video Learning Journal - due by each Sunday at 11.59pm (5 minutes each video).
2	4 Mar	Inequality: why does it matter to social work?	see canvas for resources	Literature Critical Analysis Part A - Opens at 9am on Friday 8th 2024 March and closes at 11.59pm on Sunday 10th March 2024, in week 2 (10%). Professional and Personal Video Learning Journal - due by each Sunday at 11.59pm (5 minutes each video).
3	11 Mar	Anti-oppressive social work practice.	see canvas for resources	Literature Critical Analysis Part B - Sunday 17 th March 2024 by 11:59pm, week 3 (10%). (500 words). Professional and Personal Video Learning Journal - due by each Sunday at 11.59pm (5 minutes each video).
4	18 Mar	Racial inequality. Groupwork theory	see canvas for resources	Professional and Personal Video Learning Journal - due by each Sunday at 11.59pm (5 minutes each video).
5	25 Mar	Human rights - why are they important?	see canvas for resources	Literature Critical Analysis Part C - Sunday 31 st March 2024 by 11:59pm, week 5. Professional and Personal Video Learning Journal - due by each Sunday at 11.59pm (5 minutes each video).
6	1 Apr	Health inequality - social determinants of health	see canvas for resources	Professional and Personal Video Learning Journal - due by each Sunday at 11.59pm (5 minutes each video).
7	8 Apr	Gender inequality.	see canvas for resources	Professional and Personal Video Learning Journal - due by each Sunday at 11.59pm (5 minutes each video).
Mid-Semester Recess				
Mid-Semester Recess				
8	29 Apr	Theories that contribute to gender inequality	see canvas for resources	Policy Discussion Paper Sunday 28 th April 2024 by 11:59pm, week 8. Professional and Personal Video Learning Journal - due by each Sunday at 11.59pm (5 minutes each video).
9	6 May	Occupational welfare - income and wealth inequality	see canvas for resources	Professional and Personal Video Learning Journal - due by each Sunday at 11.59pm (5 minutes each video).
10	13 May	Poverty / Homelessness	see canvas for resources	Group Presentation Sunday 19 th May 2024 in week 10 submit online, ppt only (min 12 slides & max 15 ppt slides). Professional and Personal Video Learning Journal - due by each Sunday at 11.59pm (5 minutes each video).
11	20 May	Group presentations	see canvas for resources	Group Presentation Delivered face to face in tutorials during week 11 week commencing Monday 20 May 2024 (max 20 minutes). Professional and Personal Video Learning Journal - due by each Sunday at 11.59pm (5 minutes each video).
12	27 May	Why gender, income and racial inequality	see canvas for resources	Professional and Personal Video Learning Journal - due by each Sunday at 11.59pm (5 minutes each video).

		matters to social work		video).
13	3 Jun	No class		
Examination Period				
Examination Period				

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 4 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Literature Critical Analysis	<p>Part A - Opens at 9am on Friday 8th March and closes at 11.59pm on Sunday 10th March, in week 2 (10%).</p> <p>Part B - Sunday 17th March by 11:59pm, in week 3 (10%).</p> <p>Part C - Sunday 31st March by 11:59pm, in week 5 (20%).</p>	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3, 4, 6
2	Policy Discussion Paper	Sunday 28th April by 11:59pm, week 8.	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3, 6
3	Group Presentation	<p>Sunday 19th May by 11.59pm, in week 10, online PowerPoint</p> <p>Group presentations will take place in tutorials during week 11 week commencing Monday 20 May 2024.</p>	Group	10%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
4	Professional and Personal Learning Journal	Video submissions are due weekly from week 1 to week 12 by each Sunday at 11.59pm.	Individual	10%	1, 2, 3, 4, 6

Late Submissions

The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late.

Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

All assessments must be attempted to pass this course.

Assessment 1 - Literature Critical Analysis

Assessment Type Purpose

Written Assignment

Development of knowledge and skills in relation to academic writing, critical reading, critical thinking, and reflective writing.

Description

This assessment item is designed to develop key academic literacies of critical reading, critical thinking, and reflective writing. In addition, the task provides an opportunity for reflection on key social work concepts and debates relating to inequality. The Literature Critical Analysis has three components: **Part A**, **Part B** and **Part C**.

Part A is made up of a quiz. You are required to complete the online 'academic learning module' before you commence the quiz. The learning resources and quiz is in canvas under the Modules tab titled, Assessment 1 - Academic Learning Module & Quiz. The online quiz is timed, and **no** re-attempts are permitted.

Part B is ONE reflective writing piece of 500 words on Paul Keating's speeches. The audio-visual and transcripts are available in week 1 of the 'weekly resources' folder located in the

modules tab. This assessment has been structured in this way to allow you to receive feedback on your first reflection prior to the submission of your remaining two reflections.

Part C is made up of TWO reflective writing pieces of 500 words each. This readings are available in week 2 in the Course Readings tab on the Canvas website.

Weighting	40%.
Length	Part A: 60min online quiz. Part B: (500 words). Part C: 1000 words (2 x 500 words)
Due Date	Part A - Opens at 9am on Friday 8th March and closes at 11.59pm on Sunday 10th March, in week 2 (10%). Part B - Sunday 17th March 2024 by 11:59pm, in week 3 (10%). Part C - Sunday 31st March 2024 by 11:59pm, in week 5 (20%).
Submission Method	Online via Canvas course website.
Assessment Criteria	Part B and Part C Assessment Criteria (equally weighted) Engage with the following questions to assist you in preparing your responses: 1. What are the key messages which you noticed in this learning resource/reading? 2. What were your first reactions to the learning resource/reading? 3. What about the learning resource/reading challenges or reinforced your values and how is it linked to the learning in the course? 4. What are the issues which unsettle you about this learning resource/reading?
Return Method	Reflective writing pieces should be structured using clear paragraphing and be supported with other academic evidence. Students are to use the marking criteria and rubric (available under the Assignments tab on Canvas) to guide their work. Online via Canvas course website.
Feedback Provided	Online - 2 weeks after submission via the Canvas course website.

Assessment 2 - Policy Discussion Paper

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Purpose	This assignment builds on assignment one, providing for the development of a more rigorous argument linking policy evidence to a social justice theme in contemporary Australia. It is a common task for social workers to raise concerns about social and political policy issues that create disadvantage for specific groups within Australian society. Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversity.
Description	The Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) is seeking advice about Uluru Statement from the Heart. Specifically, the AASW requests a discussion paper about the third reform in the Uluru Statement on the importance of 'Truth Telling'. The discussion paper needs to explore how past events help to understand the present and should identify the importance truthfulness.
Weighting	40%
Length	2000 words
Due Date	Sunday 28th April 2024 by 11:59pm, week 8
Submission Method	Online via Canvas website
Assessment Criteria	Assessment Criteria (equally weighted) 1. Capacity to clearly explain the Uluru statement reforms with an emphasis on the third proposed reform, 'Truth Telling'. 2. Demonstrates an understanding of how historical events impact Indigenous people and non-Indigenous people in different ways. Consider who has a voice and who is silenced when recording historical events and the implications for the future narrative of the stories. 3. Demonstrates and integrates theoretical and conceptual material covered in this course such as, racial inequality, social exclusion and institutional discrimination. 4. Capacity to present a coherent academic argument about the importance of 'truth telling' that draws on social work values (and does not rely on emotional or subjective values). 5. Clear and professional written expression, including attention to sentence structure, spelling and grammar, and correct academic referencing (using the APA referencing convention).
Return Method	Online via Canvas course website.
Feedback Provided	Online - 2-3 weeks after submission

Assessment 3 - Group Presentation

Assessment Type	Group Presentation
Purpose	Group work is an essential component of social work practice. Social work practitioners work in a range of settings with other social workers, members of multi-disciplinary teams, service users and with community-based colleagues. For this reason, developing skills in working effectively and productively in groups forms an important component in the BSW (Hons) program.
Description	<p>Prepare a presentation that could be shared with future social work students during their first lecture. The focus of small group learning comprises a work-integrated task where you will be required to work in small groups and conduct a conversation with a social worker. Each group will be allocated a social worker in the field. Groups will develop a series of questions to ask the social worker about their professional practice. Each group will design and develop a ppt about the findings from their interview with the social worker, incorporate groupwork theory and deliver an in-class presentation during a tutorial.</p> <p>NOTE: All group members must prepare content, participate in the interview, and deliver the group presentation.</p>
Weighting	10%
Length	20 mins presentation (12 -15 max PowerPoint slides)
Due Date	11.59pm Sunday 19th May in week 10 for online PowerPoint slides Group presentations will take place in tutorials during week 11 commencing Monday 20 May.
Submission Method	Online via Canvas website
Assessment Criteria	Assessment Criteria (equally weighted) <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Demonstrated ability to clearly identify the practice of social work.2. Ability to design a visually engaging ppt.3. Capacity to describe stages of group work and the importance of group work theory.4. Ability to deliver an articulate and engaging 20-minute group presentation.
Return Method	Online via Canvas website
Feedback Provided	Online via Canvas website

Assessment 4 - Professional and Personal Video Learning Journal

Assessment Type	Video Journal
Purpose	The professional and personal video learning journal will allow students to reflect of their learning experience each week. Students will critically reflect on the content of course and discuss personal challenges and individual responses to the curriculum. Video reflections will also assist students to develop the practice of critical self-reflection that is required in professional social work practice.
Description	<p>Each week students will be required to submit a five-minute video reflection to demonstrate their capacity to be reflective about the way in which their values and assumptions are being challenged or affirmed, and their new learning in regard to social work practice, social justice, inequality and white privilege.</p> <p>It is expected that students will use an electronic digital device, e.g., laptop computer, mobile phone or ipad etc to record their reflections to inform teaching staff about their engagement in tutorials and with the course materials. The video reflections do not simply require the student to provide a description of the content viewed, or heard, readings, or workshop discussions. Rather, it requires students to critically reflect on the course content and their intellectual and personal responses to the curriculum.</p> <p>Students should experience the video reflections as a valuable tool to build foundational social work practice skills. Instructions for the video reflection uploads is located on Canvas. Videos will only be viewed by the teaching team and not accessible by other students.</p>
Weighting	10%
Length	5 minutes
Due Date	Video submissions are due weekly from week 1 to week 12 by each Sunday at 11.59pm.
Submission Method	Online via Canvas course website
Assessment Criteria	Assessment Criteria (equally weighted)

1. A progressive awareness and understanding of the core concepts of social justice and inequality as it relates to income, race and gender.
2. A clear capacity to critically engage with curriculum, including tutorials and online and course materials.
3. An awareness of personal values and a progressive understanding of how these values have been formed and shaped over a lifetime.
4. A capacity to critically consider one's life experiences, cultural position, white privilege, and their impact on one's worldview, bias and approach to professional social work ethics and practice.

Return Method

Online via Canvas course website

Feedback Provided

Online - 1 week after submission via Canvas course website

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

Communication Methods

Communication methods used in this course include:

Course Evaluation

Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.

Oral Interviews (Vivas)

As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the [Oral Examination \(viva\) Procedure](#). In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the [Student Conduct Rule](#).

Academic Misconduct

All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to <https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35>.

**Adverse
Circumstances**

The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:

1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;
3. you are requesting a change of placement; or
4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.

Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at:

<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236>

**Important Policy
Information**

The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/respect-at-uni/policies-and-procedures> that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.

© 2024 The University of Newcastle, Australia