

Social work subjects available in the Bachelor of Arts

The following social work subjects have been made available to students undertaking the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Letters degrees. Students who are subsequently admitted into the Bachelor of Social Work degree may be exempted from these subjects. The Bachelor of Social Work prepares students for professional social work practice in Australia and graduates are eligible for membership of the professional body, the Australian Association of Social Workers.

These subjects are required in the BSW and are offered as complementary content for students pursuing related disciplines or areas of study in, for example, psychology, criminology, political science, women's studies, sociology, social theory or geography and environmental studies. They are also useful introductory subjects for those wishing to explore further social work studies, or for those seeking to work in the human services or welfare areas.

For more information

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Second/third year subjects

196-001 Human Behaviour and Social Environment 1

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Dorothy Scott

Prerequisites: Admission into the Bachelor of Social Work; for BA students, 50 points of first year subjects.

Contact: A 1.5-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject explores individual and environmental sources of resilience and vulnerability. Concepts relating to stress, trauma and loss are examined across the human life span. After taking this subject, students should be able to identify factors within the individual and the social environment which shape responses to adversity. They should also be able to reflect critically upon different theoretical perspectives and values as they relate to the content of this subject.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words. Attendance at a minimum of 75% of tutorials is a hurdle requirement for this subject.

Prescribed texts: E Hutchison, *Dimensions of Human Behavior: Person & Environment*, Pine Forge Press California, 1999. • E Hutchison, *Dimensions of Human Behavior: The Changing Life Course*, Pine Forge Press California, 1999.

196-002 Human Behaviour and Social Environment 2

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Dorothy Scott

Prerequisites: 196-001 Human Behaviour and Social Environment 1 (*p.327*)

Contact: A 1.5-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject explores a range of vulnerable populations and psycho-social problems such as mental health, child abuse, drug and alcohol dependence, disability and chronic illness. After taking this subject students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of debates about their social construction and their epidemiology and etiology, as well as the subjective experiences of affected individuals and their significant others.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words. Attendance at a minimum of 75% of tutorials is a hurdle requirement for this subject.

Prescribed texts: E Hutchison, *Dimensions of Human Behavior: Person and Environment*, California, 1999. • E Hutchison, *Dimensions of Human Behavior: The Changing Life Course*, Pine Forge Press California, 1999.

196-003 Theorising Social Inequality

Note: Formerly known as Social Work & Social Change 1. Students who have completed Social Work & Social Change 1 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Phillip Swain

Prerequisites: Selection into the BSW, or for BA students, 50 points of first year subjects.

Contact: A 1.5-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject explores the development of social policy and community services in Australia. It includes an historical analysis of approaches to 'welfare' or well-being, and considers social work practice within the context of social inequality, as it is produced and re-produced through socio-economic class, race, ethnic and gender power relations. Students who complete the subject should comprehend different theoretical approaches to understanding the provision of 'welfare' or social well-being and the development of social policy.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words. Attendance at a minimum of 75% of tutorials is a hurdle requirement for this subject.

Prescribed texts: L Bryson, *Welfare and the State*, Macmillan, 1992. • J Wilson J Thomson & V Anthony (eds), *The Australian Welfare State: Key Documents and Themes*, Macmillan, 1996. • W Weeks & M Quinn (eds), *Issues Facing Australian Families*, (3rd ed) Macmillan, 2000.

196-004 Contemporary Social Policy

Note: Formerly available as Social Work & Social Change 2. Students who have completed Social Work & Social Change 2 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Ms Heather Fraser

Prerequisites: 196-003 Theorising Social Inequality (*p.327*) or a social sciences subject approved by the subject coordinator.

Contact: A 1.5-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject involves an examination of key contemporary social policy debates related to such issues as income security, work and unemployment, housing and community services and an examination of social work practice in relation to these issues. This subject has been designed to examine how dominant and muted discourses shape the social policy making process, with reference to a selection of case studies. Links will be made to the practice of social work. Students who complete this subject should be familiar with social change processes as they occur in selected contemporary social policy areas; and understand the contribution and potential contribution of social work to social policy development and social change.

Assessment: A 1-page draft of a critical social policy analysis and the submission of a subsequent paper totalling not more than 4000 words. Attendance at a minimum of 75% of tutorials is a hurdle requirement for this subject.

Prescribed texts: W Weeks & M Quinn, *Issues Facing Australian Families: Human Services Respond*, (3rd ed) Longman Cheshire, 2000.

196-011 The Legal Context of Human Services

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Phillip Swain

Prerequisites: Admission into the Bachelor of Social Work course; for BA students 100 points of subjects.

Contact: A 1.5-hour lecture and a 1.5-hour workshop/seminar per week. Workshops contain complementary content not available in lectures (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject provides a general overview of the Australian and Victorian legal systems and their components, and the values and principles upon which law is based. The subject does not attempt to cover all issues raised by a consideration of the law. However, it does explore the relationship between the law and the human services to develop student's understanding of the major legal structures and organisations that impinge on welfare practice. It includes material on giving evidence to tribunals and courts of law; the ethics of practice; the Australian legal system; protection of human rights in Australia; the role of the state in income maintenance; family law; and state intervention in the family and domestic violence.

Assessment: Assessment in this subject may include participation in computer-based multimedia exercises, observation and comment upon of particular legal settings, class participation and presentation, and written work. Assessment totals 4000 words or equivalent. Attendance at a minimum of 75% of seminars is a hurdle requirement for this subject.

Prescribed texts: P A Swain, *In the Shadow of the Law*, Federation Press, 1995. • Fitzroy Legal Service, *The Law Handbook 2001*. • S Tarakson, *Everyday Law*, Federation Press, 1995.

