

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 Resilience across the Lifespan

Note: Students who have completed Human Behaviour & Social Environment 1 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: BSW 1st year, BA 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Louise Harms

Prerequisites: Admission into the Bachelor of Social Work 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 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: A subject reader will be available for purchase from the University Bookroom.

196-002 Human Risk and Vulnerable Populations

Note: Students who have completed Human Behaviour and Social Environment 2 are not eligible to enrol in this subject

Availability: BSW 1st year, BA 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Louise Harms

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

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: A subject reader will be available for purchase from the University Bookroom.

196-003 Theorising Social Inequality

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

Availability: BSW 1st year, BA 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Phillip Swain

Prerequisites: Admission into the Bachelor of Social Work 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 considers the ways in which social inequality can be understood and 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 socioeconomic class, race, ethnic and gender relations. The subject considers contemporary policy in the light of historical concepts and ways of understanding and asks to what extent these are mirrored in the way Australian welfare is currently delivered. 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: An essay of 2000 words 50% (due mid-semester) and an essay of 2000 words 50% (due at the end of semester).

Prescribed texts: Students should check with the subject coordinator prior to the purchase of texts as additional or alternative texts may be substituted for those listed below.

A McMahon, J Thomson & C Williams (eds), *Understanding the Australian Welfare State: Key Documents and Themes*, Tertiary Press 2000. • P Mendes, *Australia's Welfare Wars*, Allen & Unwin 2003.

196-004 Contemporary Social Policy

Availability: BSW 1st year, BA 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Phillip Swain

Prerequisites: 196-003 Theorising Social Inequality (*p.1*) or another relevant subject as approved by the subject coordinator. Students who have not completed TSI will be advised to undertake supplementary reading.

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

Description: This subject will critically examine policy making processes and a selection of Australian social policies in relation to debates about social justice, citizenship and social inequality. It will build upon the material covered in the subject Theorising Social Inequality (TSI).

Assessment: Assessment for this subject will total 4000 words. The assessment requirements will involve one or more pieces of written work and may involve class presentations. Details will be provided at the commencement of the semester. Attendance at a minimum of 75% of tutorials is a hurdle requirement for this subject.

Prescribed texts: Students should check with the subject coordinator prior to the purchase of texts as additional or alternative texts may be substituted for those listed below.

P Mendes, *Australia's Welfare Wars*, UNSW Press 2003.

196-213 The Legal Context of Human Services

Note: Formerly available as 196-011/420. Students who have completed 196-011 or 196-420 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: BSW 1st, 2nd or 3rd year, BA 2nd or 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Phillip Swain

Prerequisites: Admission into the Bachelor of Social Work or, for BA students, 100 points of first-year subjects.

Contact: A 1.5-hour lecture and a 1.5-hour workshop/seminar per week. Workshops contain complementary content not available in lectures. In addition, court visits and participation in multimedia exercises may be required (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject provides an 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 students' understanding of the major legal structures that impinge on welfare practice and the values and attitudes which underpin those structures. The subject makes use of video resources to explore the giving of 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: Students should check with the subject coordinator prior to purchase of texts as additional or alternative texts may be substitutes for those listed below.

P A Swain, *In the Shadow of the Law*, Federation Press 1995. • S Tarakson, *Everyday Law*, (2nd ed) Federation Press 2002. • S Charlesworth, N Turner & L Foreman, *Disrupted Families*, Federation Press 2000. • Fitzroy Legal Service, *The Law Handbook*, 2003.