

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.

Time commitment to study

As well as scheduled contact hours for lectures, tutorial and seminars a considerable additional time commitment is needed to complete the academic requirements of each subject.

A subject-specific time commitment to study will be provided by your lecturer or tutor at the beginning of semester to help you schedule your workload and successfully manage your time during the semester. In addition, general estimates of the total time commitment required to study a 12.5-point single semester subject in the Faculty of Arts can be found on page 1.

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 and Social Environment 1 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

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

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr Louise Harms

Prerequisites: Admission into the Bachelor of Social Work or for Bachelor of Arts 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: A 1000-word essay 25% (due mid-semester) and a 3000-word essay 75% (due at the end of semester). A hurdle requirement of a minimum 75% attendance of tutorials required.

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

L Harms, *Understanding Human Development: A multi-dimensional approach*, Oxford University Press 2004.

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/BLitt 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr Janet Spink

Prerequisites: Admission into the Bachelor of Social Work or for Bachelor of Arts 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: A 2000-word essay 50% (due mid-semester) and a 2000-word essay 50% (due at the end of semester). A hurdle requirement of a minimum of 75% attendance of tutorials required.

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

L Harms, *Understanding Human Development: A multi-dimensional approach*, Oxford University Press 2004.

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/BLitt 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr Phillip Swain

Prerequisites: Admission into the Bachelor of Social Work or for Bachelor of Arts 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.

P Mendes, *Australia's Welfare Wars*, Allen & Unwin 2003. • A Greig, F Lewins and K White, *Inequality in Australia*, Cambridge University Press 2003. • P Saunders, *The Ends and Means of Welfare*, Cambridge University Press 2002.

196-004 Contemporary Social Policy

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

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: To be advised

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: An essay of 4000 words 100% (due at the end of the semester). A hurdle requirement of a minimum 75% attendance of tutorials required.

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 year, BA/BLitt 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr Phillip Swain

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

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

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; state intervention in the family; refugee rights and domestic violence.

Assessment: Assessment in this subject requires students to complete any two of the following four options each worth 50%: a written paper of 2000 words (due mid-semester), a written analytical paper following a court of tribunal visit totalling 2000 words (due mid-semester), a take-home examination (due at the end of semester), completion of a multi-media on-line case study and submission of a report totalling 2000 words (due at the end of semester). A hurdle requirement of a minimum 75% attendance of seminars required.

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

P A Swain, *In the Shadow of the Law 2nd edition*, Federation Press 2002. • Fitzroy Legal Service, *The Law Handbook*, 2005.