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 degree.

These subjects are suitable for credit towards undergraduate Social Work qualifying programs 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

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

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr Louise Harms

Prerequisites: Admission into the Bachelor of Social Work for BSW students or for Bachelor of Arts students, 37.5 points of second/third-year arts 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 2005.

196-002 Human Risk and Vulnerable Populations

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

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr Louise Harms

Prerequisites: Admission into the Bachelor of Social Work for BSW students or for Bachelor of Arts students, 37.5 points of second/third-year arts 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 2005.

196-003 Winners? Losers? Inequality in Australia

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

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr Winsome Roberts

Prerequisites: Admission into the Bachelor of Social Work for BSW students or for Bachelor of Arts students, 37.5 points of second/third-year arts subjects.

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

Description: This subject examines the multiplier effect of advantage and disadvantage in the current neoliberal political economy. It starts by analysing how earning a living distributes privilege before moving on to look at the structuring of prestige and power and how this is experienced in everyday life through classism, sexism and racism. The second half of the subject focuses on inequality in Australia from a political perspective and examines practices designed to redress inequality. It looks at history of the welfare state and the ideal of building a common wealth to create equality of conditions. It concludes by looking at legislative and administrative actions to achieve equality of opportunity and what is entailed by affirmative action.

Assessment: There will be two assignments of 2000 words each, worth 50% each (due mid semester and end of semester). A hurdle requirement of a minimum 75% attendance of tutorials applies.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available from the Bookroom at the beginning of semester

196-004 Contemporary Social Policy

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

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr Winsome Roberts

Prerequisites: Admission into the Bachelor of Social Work for BSW students or for Bachelor of Arts students, 37.5 points of second/third-year arts subjects.

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

Description: This subject introduces students to the principles and concepts by which they can decipher and read contemporary social policy so as to understand the way government decision making changes the distribution of supports and opportunities to different groups in society and how this ultimately affects human lives. The subject highlights the value basis of policy decisions and the inherently political nature of social policy analysis, practice and advice. In addition, the subject demonstrates the unique role of social work for social policy development both because of its professional commitment to the principles of social justice as well as its integrated practice methods that allow it to keep in touch with the impacts of the broader policy environment as well as working within that policy environment.

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: A subject reader will be available from the Bookroom at the beginning of semester

196-213 The Legal Context of Human Services

Note: Previously available as 196-011/420. Students who have completed 196-011 or 196-420 are not eligible to enrol in this subject. The subject dates and HECS/course fee census date for this subject change each year. Check your enrolment record for the correct census date for this subject.

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

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: To be advised

Prerequisites: Admission into the Bachelor of Social Work for BSW students or for Bachelor of Arts students, 37.5 points of second/third-year arts subjects.

Contact: A 1.5-hour lecture and a 1.5-hour seminar per week from 31 August to 16 November *(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; 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 or tribunal visit totalling 2000 words (due mid-semester), a take-home examination (due at the end of semester), completion of a 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.