

SOCF5112

Complex Practice Issues

Term 3, 2022



SOCF5112
Complex Practice
Issues

MCSW

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

| Name | Email | Availability | Location | Phone |
|------------|--|----------------|----------|------------------|
| Jane Mowll | j.mowll@unsw.edu.au | by appointment | MB156 | +61411286 997 |

Lecturers

| Name | Email | Availability | Location | Phone |
|--------------|--|----------------|----------|-------|
| Kerrie James | kerrie.james@unsw.edu.au | By Appointment | MB 134 | |

Tutors

| Name | Email | Availability | Location | Phone |
|--------------|--|----------------|-----------------|-------|
| Jessie Chung | jessie.chung@unsw.edu.au | By Appointment | Morven Brown | |

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Room 159

Morven Brown C20

email: soss@unsw.edu.au

phone: 02 9385 1807

Acknowledgement of Country

UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture Kensington and Paddington campuses are built on Aboriginal Lands. We pay our respects to the Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples who are the Custodians of these lands. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share, and pay respect to their unique values, and their continuing and enduring cultures which deepen and enrich the life of our nation and communities.



Image courtesy of the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous [UNSW's Indigenous strategy](#)

Course Details

Units of Credit 12

Summary of the Course

This is the final (capstone) course of the MCSW program and brings together the learning in the previous courses to critically engage you with the complexities of contemporary social work counselling. In the course, you will have the opportunity to identify and critically reflect on a range of theory and practice ideas that inform complex practice issues. These include issues such as therapeutic impasse and difficulties in the therapeutic relationship, cross-cultural contexts of counselling, working with trauma and / or abuse and violence, ethical issues pertaining to counselling, and issues pertaining to diversity. The course integrates learning from the program to enable you to further develop and consolidate counselling methods and practice analysis to explore and apply skills in complex client issues and presentations. Through a focus on case discussion and analysis, grounded directly in your own social work counselling practice, the course also provides an opportunity to integrate the theoretical and practice knowledge gained from other courses and to apply them in particular work and case contexts.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Interpret a range of theory and practices that inform complex counselling issues
2. Apply theories and frameworks to complex client situations and the counsellor client relationship
3. Understand counselling frameworks which inform integrated social work counselling practices.
4. Critically reflect on and evaluate interpersonal responses to challenging issues from counselling practice.
5. Employ coherent and succinct case presentation skills

Teaching Strategies

The teaching strategies selected in this course aim to engage you with course material and to assist you to integrate new knowledge and skills into your clinical practice. You will further develop your skills in counselling methods and practice by documenting and analyzing your own cases with a particular focus on challenges in the counselor-client relationship, and presenting your own work in small groups for clinical consultant led and peer group discussion. Your theoretical and applied learning will be facilitated through presented course content and discussion of content and readings in seminars with the whole group. This learning is further achieved through critical analysis of counselling practice as demonstrated in: excerpts (video/ online) of counselling sessions; case analyses and discussion of case vignettes; and exercises and role-play practice in the seminar. The assessment regime provides an opportunity to develop a substantial piece of work that reflects your own practice interests, and could form the basis for a future journal article or practice piece.

Assessment

We will discuss the details of the assessments during the course and specific assessment details are posted on Moodle. Q&A Forums are available on Moodle.

| Assessment task | Weight | Due Date | Course Learning Outcomes Assessed |
|-------------------------------|--------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Essay plan | 15% | 05/10/2022 11:59 PM | 1, 2, 3 |
| 2. Reflection | 25% | 24/10/2022 11:59 PM | 2, 4, 5 |
| 3. Counselling Practice Essay | 60% | 22/11/2022 11:59 PM | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |

Assessment 1: Essay plan

Assessment length: 800 words +/- 10% (excluding reference list)

Due date: 05/10/2022 11:59 PM

Students will submit an abstract and written plan (Max 800 words) for the final assessment task.

Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within ten working days of submission. The feedback sheet/rubric will be available to students at the start of the course so that they can work towards specified standards.

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Additional details

See Moodle for assessment details

Assessment 2: Reflection

Assessment length: 2200 +/- 10% (excluding reference list)

Due date: 24/10/2022 11:59 PM

Students will submit a critical reflection piece (max. 2200 words) on a practice issue(s) or issues drawn from their counselling case experience relevant to the course material.

Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within ten working days of submission. The feedback sheet/rubric will be available to students at the start of the course so that they can work towards specified standards.

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Additional details

See Moodle for details

Assessment 3: Counselling Practice Essay

Assessment length: 5000 +/- 10% (excluding reference list, figures, tables)

Submission notes: This Assessment builds on Assessment 1

Due date: 22/11/2022 11:59 PM

Students will submit a research essay (max. 5000 words) on a topic relevant to the course material.

The assessment is designed to allow students flexibility in choosing and constructing their own topic question, and it builds into the second assessment task. The assessment task allows students to demonstrate their capacity to identify and critically reflect on complex practice issues and to articulate a range of theory and practice ideas relevant to their chosen practice issue. The word count provides opportunity for students who so wish to later develop their piece for submission to a peer reviewed or practice journal.

Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within ten working days of submission. The feedback sheet/rubric will be available to students at the start of the course so that they can work towards specified standards.

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Additional details

See Moodle

Attendance Requirements

As a 12 Units of Credit course, SOCF5112 Complex Practice Issues requires more than 150 hours of study. This study includes:

- 40 hours of class time comprising intensives, consult groups, and Zoom seminars
- 8 hours Structured learning activities (e.g. forums, watching/listening to videos)
- Reading, personal study, and preparation of assignments

In order to meet the learning outcomes for this course active participation and attendance in all learning tasks, activities and classes is required in this course. You must attend all scheduled classes including face -to-face (in person) intensives on campus and the additional online (Zoom) seminars. Attendance records will be kept.

You are responsible for keeping track of your attendance and contacting Jane Mowll (convenor) immediately if you are concerned about your attendance record and its impact on your ability to complete your course successfully.

If you have any concerns about attending in person at intensives you should contact the course convenor Dr Jane Mowll j.mowll@unsw.edu.au to discuss your concerns as soon as possible prior to the relevant intensive and if necessary, may apply in writing to attend online. If remote attendance for intensives is approved a Zoom link will be provided to you. You must not share the Zoom link with other students.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

| Date | Type | Content |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|--|
| O week: 5 September - 9 September | Topic | Complete readings for week 1 see Moodle |
| Week 1: 12 September - 16 September | Intensive | See Moodle for course details |
| Week 2: 19 September - 23 September | Reading | |
| Week 3: 26 September - 30 September | Seminar | See Moodle for course details |
| Week 4: 3 October - 7 October | Intensive | Intensive on Saturday Small consultation Groups |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|---|
| | | See Moodle for course details |
| | Assessment | Essay plan |
| Week 5: 10 October - 14 October | Tutorial | Small consultation groups See Moodle for course details |
| Week 6: 17 October - 21 October | Tutorial | Small consult groups See Moodle for course details |
| Week 7: 24 October - 28 October | Intensive | Friday and Saturday See Moodle for course details |
| | Assessment | Reflection |
| Week 8: 31 October - 4 November | Tutorial | Small Consultation Groups |
| Week 9: 7 November - 11 November | Tutorial | Small Consultation Groups |
| Week 10: 14 November - 18 November | Seminar | Thursday seminar see Moodle for course details |

Resources

Prescribed Resources

There are no set textbooks for this course. A reading list is provided with access through the moodle site

Prescribed Resources Computer / technical Requirements

As part of this course is online (Zoom seminars) it is necessary to ensure you have the appropriate computer and technical equipment to adequately participate. Access to online seminars is via the Moodle page for this course.

UNSW Moodle supports the following web browsers: Google Chrome 50+ Safari 10+ (Internet Explorer is not recommended; Add-ons and Toolbars can affect any browser's performance). Operating systems recommended are: Windows 7, 10, Mac OSX Sierra, iPad IOS10 For further details about system requirements click [here](#) . Log in to Moodle [here](#)

For our Online Seminars you will require: A headset with a microphone A camera and via MYUNSW A broadband internet connection (256Kbit/sec or faster)

If you need further assistance with Moodle single sign on. For enrollment and login issues please contact: IT Service Centre Email: itservicecentre@unsw.edu.au Phone: (02) 9385 1333 International: +61 2 9385 1333 Support hours: Monday – Friday 8:00am – 8:00 pm Saturday & Sunday 11:00 am – 2:00pm For all other Moodle issues please contact External TELT Support Email: externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au Phone: (02) 9385 3331 International: +61 2 9385 3331 Support hours: Monday – Friday 8:00am – 10:00 pm Saturday & Sunday 9:00 am – 5:00pm

Recommended Resources

N/A

Course Evaluation and Development

This course has been informed by feedback received from previous students and from you during the course of your MCSW study.

Feedback from past groups have:

- Informed lecture topics
- Shaped the current assessment tasks

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au

Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin, you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support, you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone, you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, alternative submission details will be stated on your course's Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle:

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Late Submission Penalty

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request [Special Consideration](#) as early as possible before the deadline. Support with [Time Management is available here](#).

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- Copying: Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.
- Collusion: Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.
- Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.
- Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items. UNSW Library has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW, but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided).

Please see: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines> for essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Dean's List;
- review of results;
- credit transfer;
- cross-institutional study and exchange;
- examination information;
- enrolment information;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;

And other essential academic information.

Image Credit

Photo by Dan Grinwis on [Unsplash](#)

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