SOCW3006

Socio-Legal Practice in Social Work Settings

Term 3, 2022

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

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Dr Phillipa Evans	p.evans@unsw.edu.au	By appointment	115 Level 1 Morven Brown Building	+61 2 9065 3563

Tutors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
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School Contact Information

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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 6

Summary of the Course

In this course you will explore the legal, professional, and ethical opportunities and constraints of social work practice. Drawing on practice informed case studies, lectures and tutorials will provide the opportunity for you to consider the tensions and dilemmas of socio-legal practice through an examination of social work interventions in select settings. Attention is paid to legal systems, legal concepts, lawmaking processes, sources of socio-legal assistance and interactions between social workers and lawyers.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Explain a range of interactions between social work practice and the law.
2. Identify and analyse the differences and convergences between methods of conflict resolution in legal and welfare settings.
3. Evaluate the respective roles of values and ethics in socio-legal practice in social work settings.
4. Apply basic legal knowledge and apply social justice principles in the analysis of a range of socio-legal contexts.

Teaching Strategies

In accordance with UNSW Learning and Teaching Guidelines this course intends to engage students in learning by providing opportunities to directly observe legal processes via a visit to a court/tribunal and the examination of actual socio-legal practice examples in lectures and tutorials. In particular, methods of conflict resolution, such as advocacy, negotiation and mediation, and their associated skills will be contextualised in both legal and welfare settings. In tutorials, students are encouraged to discuss their experiences of Practicum/Volunteer and employed positions in relation to social work/welfare interventions in legal settings.

As course coordinators, we believe that students can maximise their learning in this course by attending both lectures and tutorials regularly, completing required reading before the tutorial class and by participating in discussion in both lectures and tutorials. A number of guest lecturers will provide expert information which is intended to increase student engagement and interest as well as ensuring a range of professional experiences and skills is presented for student consideration. Where possible, basic PowerPoint slides will be available after the lecture.

Assessment

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Short Reflective Writing	15%	30/09/2022 11:59 PM	1
2. Court Report	35%	31/10/2022 11:59 PM	1, 4
3. Analysis of Context and Practice	50%	25/11/2022 11:59 PM	1, 2, 3, 4

Assessment 1: Short Reflective Writing

Assessment length: 750 words
Due date: 30/09/2022 11:59 PM

A 750 assignment on topics relevant to the course. Students are given written feedback within two weeks of submission.

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

Assessment 2: Court Report

Assessment length: 1,200 words
Due date: 31/10/2022 11:59 PM

A 1,200 report on topics relevant to the course. Students are given written feedback within two weeks of submission.

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

Assessment 3: Analysis of Context and Practice

Due date: 25/11/2022 11:59 PM

A 2000-word assignment on a topic relevant to course material. Students are given written feedback within two weeks of submission.

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

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 12 September - 16 September	Lecture	Introduction to the Course and Assessment requirements Understanding the Role and Functions of the Law and the Socio-legal Relationship and Socio-Legal Interventions
	Tutorial	Identifying and exploring socio-legal interventions in preparation for the first assessment.
Week 2: 19 September - 23 September	Lecture	Tort law & negligence – Professional responsibilities Social Work Duty to Care, Duty of Care, Duty to Warn
	Tutorial	Interactive case study discussion linked to the lecture topic and informed by the set readings
Week 3: 26 September - 30 September	Lecture	Socio-legal Practice in Health Care Settings
	Tutorial	Interactive case study discussion linked to the lecture topic and informed by the set readings
	Assessment	Short Reflective Writing
Week 4: 3 October - 7 October	Online Activity	** No lecture this week** Online lecture: Working with involuntary clients
	Tutorial	Interactive case study discussion linked to the lecture topic and informed by the set readings
Week 5: 10 October - 14 October	Lecture	Criminal Law – Social Work Role and Responsibilities
	Tutorial	Interactive case study discussion linked to the lecture topic and informed by the set readings

Week 6: 17 October - 21 October	Reading	Flexibility week There are no scheduled classes this week. See Moodle for optional additional readings and video links
Week 7: 24 October - 28 October	Lecture	Mental health law Adult guardianship law
	Tutorial	Interactive case study discussion linked to the lecture topic and informed by the set readings
Week 8: 31 October - 4 November	Lecture	First Nations People and Communities and the Law
	Tutorial	Interactive case study discussion linked to the lecture topic and informed by the set readings
	Assessment	Court Report
Week 9: 7 November - 11 November	Lecture	Refugees, Asylum Seekers and the Law
	Tutorial	Interactive case study discussion linked to the lecture topic and informed by the set readings
Week 10: 14 November - 18 November	Lecture	Balancing confidentiality, advocacy, accountability and safety issues
	Tutorial	Interactive case study discussion linked to the lecture topic and informed by the set readings

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Course text

Chris Maylea, (2020) Social Work and the Law: a guide for ethical practice, Red Globe Press, London.

This can be purchased from the UNSW Bookshop in online or hardcopy format.

Hard copy: https://www.bookshop.unsw.edu.au/details.cgi?ITEMNO=9781352008364

Online: https://www.vitalsource.com/en-au/products/-v9781352008371

Weekly readings including several key chapters from the prescribed and recommended texts will be available on Leganto via Moodle.

Recommended Resources

Recommended Text

Simon Rice and Andrew Day [Eds.] (2018) Social Work in the Shadow of the Law Federation Press, Annandale.

Available in hard copy from the UNSW bookshop: https://www.bookshop.unsw.edu.au/details.cgi?ITEMNO=9781760021

You are expected to use the UNSW Library: http://www.library.unsw.edu.au .

You will benefit from using GoogleScholar (http://scholar.google.com) as a key search engine for academic publications and reports. You can set up the preferences to link to the UNSW Library even when you are not on campus.

Go to Google Scholar> settings> library links, and enter 'University of New South Wales' in the box for "Library":

You can sign up for Table of Contents (TOC) Alerts from the homepages of relevant journals, to receive an email whenever new articles are published in that journal. Journal websites will often carry information on the most viewed and most cited articles; these are likely to be interesting and often influential contributions. Google Scholar will also point you to articles that have cited a particular article and hence will be related to the topic.

In addition to the readings on Moodle there are a number of other resources that students may wish to consider for more detailed information and their assessments:

• The law handbook: your practical guide to the law in New South Wales
All chapters are from the 13th edition of The Law Handbook provided by Thomson Reuters for publication on the Find Legal Answers website. This edition is up to date as of October

2014. Available at: http://www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au/guides/law_handbook/

• The Australian Law Reform Commission and the NSW www.alrc.gov.au/ . The Federal Australian law reform body that has instrumental in recommending reforms to law since 1975. There are also different Law Reform Commission's in various State jurisdictions which also produce many interesting reports on legal matters.
• The Law Society of NSW produces a regular journal, The Law Society
Journal. https://www.lawsociety.com.au/resources/journal/index.htm
• The Alternative Law Journal, is published regularly by the Legal Service Bulletin
www.altlj.org
Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission - http://www.hreoc.gov.au/ - current
information about human rights issues and legal/policy responses in key areas
The State Library has a Legal Information Access Centre, which is an extremely useful source of legal and socio-legal information. (http://www.slnsw.gov.au/liac)
• Lawsearch ONLINE (www.lawsearch.gov.au) provides access to Commonwealth legislation and related materials.
• Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII) is an excellent source of current legal information (http://www.austlii.edu.au)
• Law Society Online (Assistance with common legal problems) – (http://www.lawsonsw.au/legalhelp)
• SCALEplus (Federal Attorney General's database of legal data on the internet) – (http://www.law.aps.gov.au)
• Indigenous Law Centre publishes Australian Indigenous Law and the Indigenous Law Bulletin – (http://www.unsw.edu.au)

• Australian National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) has an excellent collection of articles investigating legal issues in responding to violence against women www. anrows.org.au/

Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault has excellent resources in relation to gendered violence – www.aifs.org.au/acssa

Course Evaluation and Development

Feedback from students has helped to consolidate the choice of lecture topics covered this year as well as last year introducing more content on what constitutes a socio-legal intervention. Further feedback will be gathered periodically using, among other means, UNSW's Course and Teaching Evaluation process and through less formal channels such as email and small group feedback throughout the course. Student feedback is taken seriously, and continual improvements will be made to the course based in part on such feedback.

A significant change made was to replace the assessed student-led tutorial discussions with tutor led critical case study discussions. This has also enabled a small assessment to be set early in the Term so that students receive written feedback on their progress much earlier in the course.

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 Tingey Injury Law Firm on Unsplash

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