

Bachelor of Social Work (Honours) 4033 Program Summary

LEVEL 1	<p>Rethinking the Social—ARTS1870 Subject Area: Sociology and Anthropology</p> <p>This course can also be studied in the following specialisation: Development Studies. This course is an introduction to sociological and anthropological perspectives on the nature of the social. It raises central questions such as What is the social? What is the relation between the individual and society? How is the social lived and experienced? How do we understand the everyday? Through themes such as biography and selfhood, love and care, identity and difference, sanity and insanity, seeing and knowing, power and freedom, nature and culture, memory and time, and state and nation we examine the limits and possibilities of the social. On completion of the course, students will have a general understanding of the key concepts underpinning sociological and anthropological perspectives to the study of social life. The course will provide opportunities to reflect on the relevance of these themes and topics to other disciplines of study.</p>	<p>Understanding Cultural Experience - ARTS1871 Subject Area: Sociology and Anthropology</p> <p>This course examines the concept of culture and considers the ways in which culture shapes how we relate with the world. We will study systems of signs, communication and the generation of meaning. In doing so, we will confront a central issue in anthropology and sociology: if culture shapes how we think, how can a person from one cultural background understand someone from a different background? The course will consider the practical methods that researchers use to deal with this issue, including ethnographic fieldwork and interviews. On completion of the course, students will have a general understanding of the social and cultural basis of human experience, a familiarity with anthropological and sociological techniques and frameworks, and an appreciation of some major contemporary concerns of these disciplines.</p>	<p>Psychology 1A - PSYC1001 Subject Area: Psychology</p> <p>This course introduces the content and methods of psychology as a basic science, with emphasis on the social bases of behaviour. After an initial review of the historical foundations for the scientific study of human behaviour, several specific topics related to the social aspects of human behaviour are discussed. Specific topics covered in this course include: development, theories of personality, theories of consciousness, and social influences on behaviour.</p>	<p>Introduction to Social Work - SOCW1001 Subject Area: Social Work</p> <p>Provides an overview and rationale for the BSW curriculum. Students are introduced to the scope and parameters of the social work profession, the diversity of levels and contexts of intervention, the range of theory and knowledge that informs social work practice, and the code of ethics that guides professional intervention. A variety of case studies and scenarios are used to illustrate this material. To reinforce the links between conceptual knowledge and practical application, contact will be made with a range of relevant agencies.</p>	<p>Lifespan, Health and Resilience - SOCW1004 Subject Area: Social Work</p> <p>Drawing on a biopsychosocial framework of human development this course will examine the experience of health and wellbeing over the lifespan. Developmental theory and perspectives on coping and resilience are used to illuminate individual and ecological factors that promote or inhibit the physical, psychological and social wellbeing of individuals over the life course.</p>	<p>Policy and Society - SRAP1000 Subject Area: Social Research and Policy</p> <p>In this course students will examine some of the key ideas, debates and issues within the social sciences. Students will also be introduced to some of the key issues in policy-making. In addition the links between social science, research and policy are examined. Students will also investigate some key policy areas - housing, social security and students policy.</p>	<p>Social Research and Society - SRAP1001 Subject Area: Social Research and Policy</p> <p>This course introduces the methods and processes available to social scientists in researching in the social world. It explores the processes involved in locating and making sense of information used in the policy process and in generating new information through research. It introduces and examines a range of technologies to assess the use of information and provides skills in the use of such technologies and in the design, conduct and analysis of social research.</p>
	LEVEL 2	<p>Social Work with Sole Clients and Groups - SOCW2003 Subject Area: Social Work</p> <p>This course introduces students to direct practice methods and is a pre-requisite for SOCW2009 Social Work with Sole Clients and Families. Students will learn communication skills, rapport building with clients and core interviewing skills including attending, reflective listening, empathy and asking questions. These relationship-building skills constitute the bedrock of social work practice with clients regardless of the practice method used. In the group work component, the course explores different types of social work groups: social action, self-help, reciprocal or 'mutual-aid'; therapy and psycho-education approaches. In relation to these models, students will learn how to observe and work with 'group process' in each stage of a group's development.</p>	<p>Social Work Practice - Community Work - SOCW2006 Subject Area: Social Work</p> <p>This course introduces students to community work concepts and practice in national and international social work contexts. Drawing on human rights and strengths based approaches students will analyse the changing political contexts in which community work is located. It aims to develop knowledge of the theories and skills students will need to engage in effective community work practice. Applied field examples will be used to assist students to understand and examine the difference between working at the grass roots level, national and international levels, with diverse groups of people.</p>	<p>Culture, Identity and Diversity - SOCW2008 Subject Area: Social Work</p> <p>This course considers the context of social work in a multi-ethnic and diverse society. First, identity is examined as having biographical, psychological, cultural, social and economic dimensions. Second, the course considers the ways in which a multi-ethnic and diverse society creates challenges for social work goals and methods. This part of the course introduces the practice and theory of "anti-oppressive" social work. Third, the course explores the multiplicity of ways in which diversity and belonging are to be understood (for example in terms of age, disability, gender, sexuality, health and ethnicity) and considers the implications for social work of the intersections between identities and issues of marginality.</p>	<p>Social Work with Sole Clients and Families - SOCW2009 Subject Area: Social Work</p> <p>This course introduces students to social work multi-dimensional assessment, case management and interventions from contemporary, counselling frameworks. It develops skills in engaging and interviewing clients while introducing contemporary models of practice: task-centred, solution-focused, narrative, cognitive-behaviour therapy, psychodynamic and family therapy. The course examines how knowledge and skills from different approaches are used in selective and integrative ways in different social work contexts. Practice knowledge and skills develop through observing counselling DVDs, participating in role plays and being given constructive feedback.</p>	<p>Aboriginal People and Social Work - SOCW2100 Subject Area: Social Work</p> <p>This course examines the history and current legacy of colonisation and government policies for Indigenous Australians and their position in contemporary Australian society. Social movements and actions relevant to Indigenous Australians' social experience will be discussed. Addresses in particular the skills social workers need to work with Indigenous clients and what role social work can play in progressing equity and social justice for Indigenous Australians.</p>	<p>Policy Analysis - SRAP2002 Subject Area: Social Research and Policy</p> <p>This course provides students with experience in dealing with 'real world' policy problems through a series of case studies on topics drawn from current policy issues. Aims to develop skills in problem analysis, working in groups and oral and written communication (including submission writing) and to develop an understanding of the practical constraints faced by social scientists working in applied policy settings. Brings academic knowledge to bear on practice, and calls on students to master the analytical and theoretical material in the academic literature, and to bring it to bear on real life policy case studies.</p>
LEVEL 3		<p>Social Work Practice - Level Three Placement - SOCW3011 Subject Area: Social Work</p> <p>SOCW3011 is the first of two placements that students will undertake as part of the Degree. Students are allocated to a human services agency to undertake field-based learning under the supervision of a Field Educator employed by that agency. The placement comprises 70 attendance days (500 hours) and is generally undertaken full time throughout Semester 1.</p>	<p>Ethics and Reflective Practice - SOCW3009 Subject Area: Social Work</p> <p>This course introduces students to the key ideas in applied and professional ethics as these inform and are integrated with social work practice and theory. It addresses the Australian Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics (2010) and enables students to develop a critical understanding of the underlying ideas that inform the ethical principles behind the Code. It prepares students to engage with ethics as a key element of their future role as a professional practitioner. To achieve this, the course is integrated with the learning from SOCW3011 Social Work Practice: Field Education 1, and must normally be taken alongside that course.</p>	<p>Socio-Legal Practice in Social Work Settings - SOCW3006 Subject Area: Social Work</p> <p>SOCW3006 builds on earlier Social Work Practice courses and on SRAP 2002, Social Policy Case Studies. When taken alongside Policy and Social Theory SRAP 3000, this course provides complementary knowledge of policy processes in socio-legal contexts. SOCW3006 is also open to other UNSW undergraduate students as an elective.</p>	<p>Organisational Practice - SOCW3010 Subject Area: Social Work</p> <p>This course provides a critical and practical examination of social work practice in organisations. It introduces organisational and management theories and considers their relevance for social work settings. Students will examine the tensions inherent in professionalism and contemporary ideas about management and the management of change in organisations and the importance of planning and evaluating for change. The course explores and examines strategies for effective and ethical practice in organisations. Issues-based and experiential learning provides a basis for the development of organisational skills, such as skills in negotiation, advocacy, teamwork, program planning, supervision and the management of information.</p>	<p>Policy and Social Theory - SRAP3000 Subject Area: Social Research and Policy</p> <p>This course introduces some of the key social theories / theorists in the social sciences and illustrates how they can be used to obtain a better understanding of the impact of modernity, the workings of contemporary society and the development and implementation of policy. The first part of the course focuses on the three key classical social theorists, Karl Marx, Max Weber and Emile Durkheim, and the remainder of the course on modern social theory.</p>	
	LEVEL 4	<p>Social Work Practice - Selected Studies 2 - SOCW4003 Subject Area: Social Work</p> <p>Students take a second selected studies component to complement that taken in SOCW3008.</p>	<p>Evidence and Practice Based Research - SOCW4011 Subject Area: Social Work</p> <p>This course focuses on the connections between social work practice and research: evidence-based practice (EBP) and practice-based research. Students will learn the potentials and limitations of the EBP in social work and the process of conducting the EBP. This course also provides students with opportunities to extend their understanding of different research methodologies, to obtain skills and knowledge related to the research process, to learn the importance of conducting research well-grounded in practice, and to understand ethical and political issues related to social work research. These skills and knowledge will facilitate students' learning in other courses, field practicum, and future professional practice.</p>	<p>Mental Health, Trauma in Social Work Practice - SOCW4012 Subject Area: Social Work</p> <p>This course explores trauma and mental health issues and their intersections from biological, psychological and social perspectives. This course will equip students to identify and respond to the mental health and trauma experiences of social work clients. It addresses contemporary approaches to both mental health problems and trauma while encouraging a critical analysis of the approaches covered. Students will develop abilities in responding to mental health and trauma issues across a range of intervention methods and contexts. As such, emphasis is given not only to those practice approaches that respond to individuals including biological and psychological therapies, group work and family therapy, but also approaches that engage communities and social networks in responding to trauma and mental health issues.</p>	<p>Child and Family Welfare Practice - SOCW4013 Subject Area: Social Work</p> <p>This course emphasises family, childhood, child wellbeing, children's developmental needs, children's rights, child maltreatment and ecological contexts. The course will examine professional practice in early intervention and family support, child protection, and protective care interventions for children at risk, including out of home care, permanency and adoption. Skills in assessment and case management will be addressed.</p>	<p>Social Work Practice - Level Four Placement - SOCW4014 Subject Area: Social Work</p> <p>SOCW4014 is the second of two placements that students will undertake as part of the Bachelor of Social Work Degree. Students are allocated to a human services agency to undertake field-based learning under the supervision of a Field Educator (supervisor) employed by that agency. The placement comprises 70 attendance days (500 hours) and is generally undertaken full time throughout Semester 2..</p>	<p>Honours Research Thesis - SOCW4015 Subject Area: Social Work</p> <p>SOCW4015 is the central focus of Level 4 Honours in Social Work for those students who select to undertake Honours via a Research Thesis. This course is based on a sustained, in-depth study of training in research methods and design integrated throughout the BSW (Honours) program. Students will be individually supported by an academic supervisor to undertake a 12,000 word independent empirical or conceptual research project in their area of interest either alongside their Fourth Level Placement or subsequent to the completion of the Placement in Summer semester.</p>