School of Social Sciences course summary
Semester 1, 2016

SOCW4013 Child and Family Welfare Practice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course convenor</th>
<th>Elizabeth Fernandez</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email/ phone</td>
<td><a href="mailto:e.fernandez@unsw.edu.au">e.fernandez@unsw.edu.au</a> / 51865</td>
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</tbody>
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Summary of the course

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.

This course examines practice and policy in the area of family and child welfare. It acquaints students with key practice and policy issues related to working with children and families in special need and provides the opportunity to critically examine the underlying assumptions of practice and policy. It will include content on the historical context of child welfare practice including the legal, political and social conditions that have influenced policy and practice. Throughout the course the impact of theoretical orientations, current debates, policy initiatives and research findings on policy and practice will be examined. Discussion of the ethics and values inherent in child welfare services will provide the rationale for principles that guide practice. Emphasis will be placed on developing skills to critically analyse the context, issues and constraints that shape family and child welfare practice. The primary focus will be on families and children for whom social work has made a historic and enduring commitment and whose primary recourse to help has been through publicly funded service provision.

Specific areas of focus will include:

- Theories and research on the causes and consequences of maltreatment.
- Frameworks for assessment, intervention and case management.
- Legal and political structure of child welfare services and the extent which the system provides a continuum of care and prevents or perpetuates the oppression of children, women and disadvantaged groups.
- Issues of cultural and gender sensitivity.
- Micro and macro level practice issues and empirical findings in the areas of child protection, prevention and...
Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate comprehension of the theories of the etiology of various forms of maltreatment, and research on their prevalence, developmental sequelae and risk and protective factors.
2. Demonstrate entry level skills in assessment and case management in protective care situations of families and children.
3. Analyse and evaluate approaches to delivering family based, in home services that enhance the functioning of families and wellbeing of children.
4. Analyse and evaluate the legal, social and psychological ramifications of protective services, foster care, adoption and permanency planning on children at risk and empirical evidence of their outcomes.
5. Analyse the consequences of oppression and discrimination on the lives of children and families and the effects of their history within the child welfare system, and apply empowerment principles in their practice.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TASK</th>
<th>LENGTH/ DURATION</th>
<th>WEIGHT</th>
<th>LEARNING OUTCOMES ASSESSED</th>
<th>DUE DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minor Assignment</td>
<td>1000 words</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>1, 4</td>
<td>Week 5 (6th April 2016)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Presentation</td>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>2, 3, 4, 5</td>
<td>Various Weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major Assignment</td>
<td>2000 words</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</td>
<td>Week 11 (18th May 2016)</td>
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For the purpose of attendance monitoring, the final assessment for this course is worth [enter % weighting] of your overall grade for this course. This is the assessment item that will be graded at zero if you do not meet the attendance requirement for this course (see https://socialsciences.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/policies-guidelines/).

The full course outline will be available in Moodle in Orientation (O) Week, from Monday 22 February 2016.