

# Course Outline (Higher Education)

<b>School:</b>	School of Arts
<b>Course Title:</b>	SOCIAL POLICY: DEVELOPMENT AND IMPACT
<b>Course ID:</b>	MSWPG7210
<b>Credit Points:</b>	15.00
<b>Prerequisite(s):</b>	Nil
<b>Co-requisite(s):</b>	Nil
<b>Exclusion(s):</b>	Nil
<b>ASCED:</b>	090501

## Description of the Course:

In a society marked by increasingly inequitable distribution of resources, social workers require skills and knowledge to interpret, critique, and shape social policy. This course provides students with foundational knowledge about how social policy influences the lives of individuals, families, communities, and how social workers and the social work profession are influenced by, and can influence, social policy. Specifically, the course focuses on competing definitions of social policy, social welfare, the role of political ideologies and values in shaping policy development, implementation and evaluation. This course introduces students to the 'social construction of problems' that influence the development, implementation of social policy using Carol Bacchi's critical social policy framework. The course will introduce students to social policy in action and apply theoretical frameworks of social policy to an area of social work practice, such as disability policy, housing and homelessness, family violence and poverty and welfare policy. Students will be required to develop skills to analyse discourses that underpin social policies, identify the political and ethical implications and advocate in macro settings.

**Grade Scheme:** Graded (HD, D, C, P, MF, F, XF)

**Placement Component:** No

**Supplementary Assessment:** Yes

Where supplementary assessment is available a student must have failed overall in the course but gained a final mark of 45 per cent or above and submitted all major assessment tasks.

**Program Level:**

Level of course in Program	AQF Level of Program					
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Introductory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intermediate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advanced	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Learning Outcomes:

#### Knowledge:

- K1.** Identify and analyse competing definitions and explanations of social policy, social welfare, and “the welfare state”;
- K2.** Examine and analyse historic and contemporary policy debates which influence social work practice, in a way which incorporates an understanding of the role of political ideologies and values;
- K3.** Examine how ‘social construction of problems’ is shaped by social norms and values and this impact on different fields of social work practice;
- K4.** Evaluate theoretical frameworks of social policy analysis and policy making processes;
- K5.** Apply theoretical frameworks of social policy analysis to a particular area of social work practice, including mental health policy, social and economic inequities related to First Nations People and Communities, family violence, aged care and;
- K6.** Apply relevant theoretical frameworks of social policy analysis to advocate for social policy reform in diverse practice settings.

#### Skills:

- S1.** Identify definitions, critiques, and criticisms of “the welfare state” and how these influence social policies shaping contemporary social work practice;
- S2.** Analyse how values, social norms and political ideologies shape ‘social problems’ and impact on social work practice;
- S3.** Determine the impacts the policy process has at the community, organisational, worker and service user levels;
- S4.** Develop skills to advocate for social policy reform in diverse practice settings and;
- S5.** Interpret social policy in relation to core social work values.

#### Application of knowledge and skills:

- A1.** Demonstrate an understanding of the key theoretical constructs which underpin social policy development
- A2.** Analyse the social construction of social problems;
- A3.** Understand the role of political ideologies and values in shaping social policy development;
- A4.** Apply relevant theoretical frameworks of social policy analysis to a particular area of social work practice and;
- A5.** Articulate the link between social work’s core values and social policy.

#### Course Content:

Topics may include:

#### The Social Construction of Social Problems

- Key theoretical constructs underpinning social policy
- The role of political ideologies and values in shaping social policy development
- How social policy influences the lives of individuals, families, communities, and how social workers and the social work profession are influenced by, and can influence, social policy.

### **Key Theoretical Constructs Underpinning Social Policy**

- Historical and Contemporary debates about the “welfare state”
- Political Ideologies and the welfare state
- Neo-liberalism and the post-welfare state.

### **Social Policy in Action: Macro Skills in Social Work Practice**

- Social advocacy and social policy reform with focus on royal commission case studies, including the Royal Commission into Victoria’s mental health system, the Royal Commission into Aboriginal deaths in custody, the Royal Commission into family violence and Royal Commission into aged care.

### **Values:**

- V1.** Examine the influence of the Social Work Code of Ethics and Practice Standards, and the value base of the social work profession, on social policy development and analysis;
- V2.** Explore individual beliefs and attitudes and consider the impact these have in shaping policy debates and potential social work practice in Australia and within the global context;
- V3.** Apply principles of self-directed learning in a co-operative education environment which demonstrates respect for themselves and others.

### **Graduate Attributes**

The Federation University FedUni graduate attributes (GA) are entrenched in the [Higher Education Graduate Attributes Policy](#) (LT1228). FedUni graduates develop these graduate attributes through their engagement in explicit learning and teaching and assessment tasks that are embedded in all FedUni programs. Graduate attribute attainment typically follows an incremental development process mapped through program progression. **One or more graduate attributes must be evident in the specified learning outcomes and assessment for each FedUni course, and all attributes must be directly assessed in each program**

Graduate attribute and descriptor		Development and acquisition of GAs in the course	
		Learning Outcomes (KSA)	Assessment task (AT#)
GA 1 Thinkers	Our graduates are curious, reflective and critical. Able to analyse the world in a way that generates valued insights, they are change makers seeking and creating new solutions.	K1, K2, K3, K6, S2, S4, A2, A4,	AT1, AT2, AT3
GA 2 Innovators	Our graduates have ideas and are able to realise their dreams. They think and act creatively to achieve and inspire positive change.	K5, K6, S3, S4, A1,	AT3
GA 3 Citizens	Our graduates engage in socially and culturally appropriate ways to advance individual, community and global well-being. They are socially and environmentally aware, acting ethically, equitably and compassionately.	K1, K2, K3, S1, S2, S5, A1, A2, A3, A5.	AT1 & AT3
GA 4 Communicators	Our graduates create, exchange, impart and convey information, ideas, and concepts effectively. They are respectful, inclusive and empathetic towards their audience, and express thoughts, feelings and information in ways that help others to understand.	K5, K6, S4, S5, A4, A5	AT1, AT2, AT3
GA 5 Leaders	Our graduates display and promote positive behaviours, and aspire to make a difference. They act with integrity, are receptive to alternatives and foster sustainable and resilient practices.	K6, S4, A4	AT2

### Learning Task and Assessment:

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Learning Tasks	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1, K2, K3, S2, A2-A3	Learning exercises will explore key concepts covered in the course using a range of written and/or oral activities.	Learning Portfolio	15%-30%
K1–K4, S1, S2-S5, A1, A4	Analyse key theoretical constructs which underpin social policy development in the context of social work practice.	Essay	25%-40%
K5, K6, S3-S5, A1, A2, A4- A5	Choose a contemporary social policy area important to social work practice and develop a policy brief to advocate for change.	Policy Brief	40%-50%

### Adopted Reference Style:

APA

Refer to the [library website](#) for more information

Fed Cite - [referencing tool](#)