



Course Outline (Higher Education)

School:	School of Arts
Course Title:	SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH GROUPS AND COMMUNITIES
Course ID:	MSWPG7108
Credit Points:	15.00
Prerequisite(s):	Nil
Co-requisite(s):	Nil
Exclusion(s):	Nil
ASCED:	090501

Description of the Course:

Students of this course will be introduced to the place of community work in social work practice. Students will gain an awareness of theories and frameworks for practice at the community-level, such as community development, community capacity building, co-design and collective impact, and begin to acquire the knowledge and skills required to integrate these with practice. Students will be introduced to social work ethics and values inherent in community work and reflect on their application to practice. Using case-studies, students will formulate and critically analyse different methods and processes of engaging and working with communities in disaster contexts. Students will be introduced to common problems and tensions and ethical dilemmas that arise in community work and strategies for addressing these. Students will be introduced to eco-social work and begin to acquire the skills to integrate environmental justice and decolonising approaches to community work.

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	■	■	■	■	✓	■

Level of course in Program	AQF Level of Program					
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Intermediate	■	■	■	■	■	■
Advanced	■	■	■	■	■	■

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge:

- K1.** Identify the place of community work in social work practice and examine social work ethics and values in the context of community work;
- K2.** Demonstrate knowledge of theories and frameworks utilised in community work;
- K3.** Examine processes and methods of engaging and working with communities in disaster contexts;
- K4.** Demonstrate an awareness of principles of mutual aid and group work and their application to community work processes;
- K5.** Develop knowledge of eco-social work, environmental justice and decolonising approaches to community practice
- K6.** Identify potential role conflicts, tensions and ethical dilemmas when working with communities and strategies for addressing these and
- K7.** Explore community organising, social action and activism as dimensions of community practice.

Skills:

- S1.** Identify and apply social work ethics and values to community work practice;
- S2.** Develop knowledge of theoretical models and frameworks that inform community-level practice;
- S3.** Apply appropriate processes and methodologies for engaging and working with communities in disaster contexts;
- S4.** Use appropriate communication, interpersonal and group work skills;
- S5.** Recognise complexity and uncertainty in community work and develop appropriate strategies to address common problems and ethical issues within the community development context;
- S6.** Integrate eco-social work, environmental justice, social action and activist approaches into community practice and;
- S7.** Reflect on and review practice as part of the process of developing a personal and professional practice framework with communities.

Application of knowledge and skills:

- A1.** Explain appropriate theoretical models/frameworks of social work community practice and apply them to simulated settings;
- A2.** Engage and work with communities in a collaborative manner which reflects social work ethics and values and;
- A3.** Demonstrate an ability recognise complexity and uncertainty in community work and develop appropriate strategies to address common problems and ethical issues within the community development context.

Course Content:

Topics may include:

Introducing Community Work in Social Practice

- The place of community work in social work practice.
- Values and ethics in community work: Critical reflection re: social work identity and community work
- Community work approaches in contemporary social work ie. co-design, community development, collective impact
- Principles of group work and mutual aid in community work
- Community development collaborative processes and methodologies

Disaster Social Work and Eco-Social Work

- The role of social work in disasters
- The place of eco-social work in social work practice
- Environmental justice and decolonising approaches

Community Work: Values and ethics

- Conflicts and ethical dilemmas when working with communities
- Strategies to address problems and ethical issues in community work
- Advocacy and social action, including closet activism

Values:

- V1.** Understand the way in which theoretically grounded practice is underpinned by Social Work values, and the AASW Codes of Ethics and Practice Standards
- V2.** Explore common dilemmas that arise in the application of different theory and practice approaches within group work and community development
- V3.** Demonstrate, throughout group and community based activities, a high level of respect for participants which is reflective of Social Work values

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.	K2, K3, K4, K5, K6, K7, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, A1, A3	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.	K3, K5, K6, K7, S3, S5, S6, S7, A1, A3	AT2, 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, K3, K5, K6, K7, S1, S3, S5, S6, A2, A3	AT1, AT2, 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.	K1, K2, K3, K4, K6, S3, S4, S5, A2	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.	Not applicable	A3

Learning Task and Assessment:

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Learning Tasks	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1, K2, K4, S1, S2, , S7	Critical learning exercises that cover key concepts and prepare students for community-level social work	Learning Portfolio	15% - 30%
K1, K2, K3, K4, K6, S1, S2, S3, S5, S7, A1, A2, A3	Using a case study, analyse community practice approaches and explore the potential dilemmas and challenges arising from their application.	Case-study analysis	25% - 40 %
K1, K2, K3, K4, K5, K6, K7, S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, A1,	Examine eco-social work theories and community work approaches to develop a group response to a disaster.	Group project to be developed in consultation with staff	35%-45%

Adopted Reference Style:

APA

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

Fed Cite - [referencing tool](#)