The University of Newcastle  
Faculty of Education and Arts  
School of Humanities and Social Science  

Student Hubs are located at:  
Level 3, Shortland Union, Callaghan  
Level 2, Student Services Centre, Callaghan  
Ground Floor, University House, City  
Ground Floor, Administration Building, Ourimbah

SWRK2004: FIELD EDUCATION 2

Course Co-ordinator: Val Clark  
Room: W229  
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Fax: 4921 6933  
Email: Val.Clark@newcastle.edu.au  
Consultation hours: Wednesday 12-1pm and Thursday 4-5pm  
Other times by appointment.

Semester  
Semester 2 - 2006  
Unit Weighting  
10  
Teaching Methods  
Experience Based Learning  
Practicum  
Workshop

Brief Course Description  
The course consists of a placement of fifty days supervised by a qualified social worker. Staff of the BSW program locate and service placements and students are allocated a placement according to a number of pedagogical principles that take into account the needs of the student. The placement is assessed against a clearly stated set of learning goals. Students are well supported during the placement with group meetings on campus and a staff liaison person allocated to each student.

Policies, procedures and expectations relating to field education courses in the Bachelor of Social Work are detailed in the BSW Field Education Handbook.

Contact Hours  
Field Study for a minimum of 350 hours / 50 days  
Workshop for 21 hours per semester for the full semester

Learning Materials/Texts  
Faculty of Education and Arts Field Education Manual Bachelor of Social Work 2006 Edn 1  
University of Newcastle  

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1 Semester 2 2006  
CTS Download Date: 15th July 2006
Course Objectives
To work in a professional setting applying social work principles and standards, demonstrating problem solving capacities, working effectively with others and in teams, learning from feedback and able to devise appropriate social work interventions in the field of practice.

Students develop a learning contract incorporating specific goals relevant to their individual learning needs, required knowledge and skill development in social work and the unique learning opportunities available in the particular agency context.

Course Content
Fifty days supervised field placement and seven three hour campus classes.

Assessment Items
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Practicum</th>
<th>Completion of 50 days supervised field experience. This course is graded as either &quot;Ungraded Pass&quot; or &quot;Fail&quot;. All assessment items must be completed to a satisfactory standard to attain a pass grade.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Report</td>
<td>Field Placement Learning Contract.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Assumed Knowledge
All first year social work courses, SWRK2001 and SWRK2003.

Callaghan Campus Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SWRK2004 FIELD EDUCATION 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 2 - 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue: W301.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plagiarism
University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one's own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

- copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
- using another's ideas without due acknowledgment;
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs. Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty.

For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link - [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/academic/general/academic_integrity_policy_new.pdf](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/academic/general/academic_integrity_policy_new.pdf)

The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may:

- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking).
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking
Written Assessment Items
Students may be required to provide written assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.

Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations
Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date, as advised in the Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission of the item. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised.

Any student:
1. who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or
2. whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment;
must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer on the prescribed form.

Please go to the Policy and the on-line form for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you, at:

Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:
· Requests for Special Consideration must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the date of submission or examination.
· Requests for Extensions of Time on Assessment Items must be lodged no later than the due date of the item.
· Requests for Rescheduling Exams must be lodged no later than 5 working days before the date of the examination.

Your application may not be accepted if it is received after the deadline. Students who are unable to meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak to their Program Officer in the first instance.

Changing your Enrolment
The last date to withdraw without financial or academic penalty (called the HECS Census Dates) is:
For semester 2 courses: 31 August 2006
Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester and prior to the commencement of the formal exam period. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of semester will result in a fail grade.

Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of semester/trimester, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of semester/trimester must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with the Student Enquiry Centre.

To change your enrolment online, please refer to
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/changingenrolment.html

Contact Details: Faculty Student Service Offices
The Faculty of Education and Arts
Room: GP1-22 (General Purpose Building)
Phone: 02 4921 5314

The Dean of Students
Dr Jennifer Archer
Phone: 02 4921 5806
Fax: 02 4921 7151
resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au
Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit:  

Alteration of this Course Outline
No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.

Web Address for Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards  
Web Address for Rules Governing Postgraduate Academic Awards  
Web Address for Rules Governing Professional Doctorate Awards  

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS
The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness.
If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies, please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.
Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register please contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, or via email at:  
student-disability@newcastle.edu.au
As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester.
For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at:  
www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability

ASSESSMENT
Student performance in SWRK2004 is graded as Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory.
Assessment in field education is continuous. It begins with campus-based preparatory classes and continues until the student has left the agency and completed all agency and campus based tasks.
All assessment items must be completed to a satisfactory standard to attain a Satisfactory grade.
Assessment is based on satisfactory performance in the four areas of:

a) Placement written tasks.
b) Field practice.
c) Campus component.
d) Ethical and Professional Conduct.

a) Placement written tasks are:
   • Field placement learning plan.
   • Mid-placement student report.
   • End of placement student report.

(See Section B of this course guide and the Field Education Handbook for more detail on these written tasks).
b) **Field practice** is assessed by
   - Progress towards learning goals as specified in the learning plan.
   - Participation in agency-based mid and end of placement reviews.
   - End of placement Field Educator’s report.

c) **Campus component is:**
   - Attendance and participation in all campus-based field placement preparation classes and review sessions.

d) **Ethical & professional conduct** is assessed in accordance with:
   - The AASW Code of Ethics
   - University of Newcastle Student Discipline Rules.

The final grade is determined by the Course Coordinator, on the recommendation of the University liaison person following a review of performance in all assessment items outlined above. The course coordinator presents results to the School examiners meeting for final approval prior to submission to Faculty Board.

**Studentmail and Blackboard:** [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/](http://www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/)

This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

**Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details**

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date. Late assignments will be subject to the penalties described below.

**Hard copy submission:**

- **Type your assignments:** All work must be typewritten in 11 or 12 point black font. Leave a wide margin for marker’s comments, use 1.5 or double spacing, and include page numbers.
- **Word length:** The word limit of all assessment items should be strictly followed – 10% above or below is acceptable, otherwise penalties may apply.
- **Proof read your work** because spelling, grammatical and referencing mistakes will be penalised.
- **Staple the pages** of your assignment together (do not use pins or paper clips).
- **University coversheet:** All assignments must be submitted with the University coversheet: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/school/hss/studentguide/index.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/school/hss/studentguide/index.html)
- **Assignments are to be deposited at any Student Hub. Hubs are located at:**
  - Level 3, Shortland Union, Callaghan
  - Level 2, Student Services Centre, Callaghan
  - Ground Floor, University House, City
  - Ground Floor, Administration Building, Ourimbah
  - Any changes to this procedure will be announced during the semester.
- **Do not fax or email assignments:** Only hard copies of assignments will be considered for assessment. Inability to physically submit a hard copy of an assignment by the deadline due to other commitments or distance from campus is an unacceptable excuse. Assignments mailed to Schools are accepted from the date posted.
  
  **Keep a copy of all assignments:** All students must date stamp their own assignments using the machine provided. Mailed assignments to schools are date-stamped upon receipt. However, it is the student’s responsibility to produce a copy of their work if the assignment goes astray after submission. Students are advised to keep updated back-ups in hard copy and on disk.
Special Consideration/Extension of Time Applications
Students wishing to apply for Special Consideration or Extension of Time should obtain the appropriate form from the Student Focus.
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/index.html

No Assignment Re-submission
Students who have failed an assignment are not permitted to revise and resubmit it in this course. However, students are always welcome to contact their Tutor, Lecturer or Course Coordinator to make a consultation time to receive individual feedback on their assignments.

Remarks
Students can request to have their work re-marked by the Course Coordinator or Discipline Convenor (or their delegate); three outcomes are possible: the same grade, a lower grade, or a higher grade being awarded. Students may also appeal against their final result for a course. Please consult the University policy at:

Return of Assignments
Students can collect assignments from a nominated Student Hub during office hours. Students will be informed during class which Hub to go to and the earliest date assignments will be available for collection. Students must present their student identification card to collect their assignment.

Preferred Referencing Style
In this course, it is recommended that you use the the Harvard in-text referencing system (similar to the APA system) for referencing sources of information used in assignments. Inadequate or incorrect reference to the work of others may be viewed as plagiarism and result in reduced marks or failure.

An in-text citation names the author of the source, gives the date of publication, and for a direct quote includes a page number, in parentheses. At the end of the paper, a list of references provides publication information about the source; the list is alphabetised by authors' last names (or by titles for works without authors). Further information on referencing and general study skills can be obtained from:
• Infoskills: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/library/tutorials/infoskills/index.html

Student Representatives
We are very interested in your feedback and suggestions for improvement. Student Representatives are the channel of communication between students and the School Board. Contact details of Student Representatives can be found on the School website.

Student Communication
Students should discuss any course related matters with their Tutor, Lecturer, or Course Coordinator in the first instance and then the relevant Discipline or Program Convenor. If this proves unsatisfactory, they should then contact the Head of School if required. Contact details can be found on the School website.

Essential Online Information for Students
Information on Class and Exam Timetables, Tutorial Online Registration, Learning Support, Campus Maps, Careers information, Counselling, the Health Service and a range of free Student Support Services can be found at:
• http://www.newcastle.edu.au/currentstudents/index.html
SECTION B: FURTHER INFORMATION

FIELD PLACEMENT ALLOCATION
Students will be advised details of the social work field educator and the organisation where they will undertake their field placement early in semester 2. Students will also be advised of the social work academic staff member who will be the liaison person for the field placement. This is the person who students should contact to discuss issues or concerns that may emerge in the course of the field placement.

PLACEMENT DATES
The 2nd year field placement commences on Monday 7th August and finishes on Monday 27th November, 2006. Students must attend placement on 50 days. If any days are missed (eg. due to illness, family commitments etc.) students have the opportunity to continue at the placement organisation until the 50 days are completed.

COURSE GOALS
Students are expected to meet the following course goals through the field placement:

1. Social Work Values
   Students will:
   1.1 Demonstrate a commitment to social work values in professional life including:
   - honesty
   - ongoing professional development and lifelong learning
   - critical thinking
   - ethical decision making
   - self understanding
   - respect for and acceptance of others
   - the application of human rights and social justice principles within organizations, communities and other social structures
   - principles of anti-oppressive practice

2. Self Awareness
   Students will:
   2.1 Develop an awareness of the way in which their own history, values, experiences, gender and cultural background shape perceptions and analyses. This includes an awareness of how this background will impact on professional efforts to pursue social justice.

   2.2 Use supervisory processes to support development of greater self-awareness.

   2.3 Monitor and manage own stress to ensure self-care and safe practice.

   2.4 Demonstrate the ability to synthesize learning, eg. through use of a learning journal.

3. Communication Skills
   Students will:
   3.1 Demonstrate interpersonal skills within the context of a professional relationship. These include:
   - establishing rapport
   - listening
   - the use of accurate empathy
   - appropriate use of questions
   - presenting information clearly and concisely
   - providing feedback in a clear, balanced and constructive way
• adapting the means and language of communication to meet the needs of a specific situation.
• discussing with clients the legal and professional constraints of confidentiality and appropriate disclosure of information in accordance with statutory requirements.

3.2 Demonstrate written communication skills with an awareness of:
• legal or statutory requirements
• purpose, audience and organizational context
• different styles required in research reports, clinical records, submissions, media releases and other documents

3.3 Choose and use forms of language that are consistent with anti-discrimination and anti-oppressive practice.

4. Ethical and professional practice
Students will:
4.1 Possess knowledge of the core values, ethics and legal obligations of social workers including knowledge of the AASW Code of Ethics.

4.2 Identify, discuss and work through relevant ethical issues in social work practice.

4.3 Utilize a theoretical framework to inform ethical decision-making and processes.

4.4 Understand the concept of accountability and the legal, organizational and professional constraints to practice.

4.5 Demonstrate skill and ease with reflective and supervisory processes including:
• accurate reporting (verbally and in writing) what has occurred in a situation
• initiating discussion, asking questions and expressing opinions
• critical evaluation of own work and acceptance of constructive feedback from supervisor

4.6 Demonstrate assertiveness and sensitivity in self management in interaction with others, including:
• raising differences of opinion directly with the appropriate person
• subordinating personal needs to those of clients and client systems
• maintaining appropriate professional boundaries.
• taking responsibility for changing behaviour that impacts negatively on clients and colleagues.

4.7 Demonstrate time management skills including: meeting deadlines, being punctual and negotiating priorities.

5. Assessment, intervention and problem solving
Students will:
5.1 Demonstrate proficiency in using skills and knowledge relevant to the phases and processes of social work practice including:
• the preparation, beginning, exploration and initial aspects of assessment
• choosing and implementing social work interventions appropriate to the situation and agency context
• policy analysis and development as this relates to power relationships in society
• articulating what informs their assessments and decisions with reference to theory and research
• recognizing when social work intervention is appropriate and when it is inappropriate

6. Working with others and in teams
Students will:
6.1 Behave professionally within agencies including:
• showing sensitivity towards staff and clients
• being aware of agency auspices and constraints
• complying with agency rules, policies and protocols
• completing assigned tasks
• dressing appropriately

6.2 Demonstrate an ability to work as part of a team and produce work either independently or collaboratively.

6.3 Deal with conflict constructively.

6.4 Develop constructive relationships with supervisors and others in authority.

6.5 Engage in networking in the interests of achieving professional, agency and client goals.

6.6 Monitor interactions within the work environment and take responsibility for the impact one has on colleagues and team members.

7. Research and enquiry skills
Students will:
7.1 Explore and apply a range of theories to situations encountered in the field placement.

7.2 Demonstrate knowledge and skills in research relevant to the particular agency context and field of practice.

7.3 Use appropriate methods for evaluating one’s own professional practice.

STUDENT WRITTEN TASKS
The Learning Plan
The placement learning contract or learning plan is an agreement between the student and the field educator based on the learning goals for the course (listed above). The plan outlines specific strategies and tasks that the student can undertake within the agency to meet the learning goals. In addition the plan specifies the methods of assessment of progress towards learning goals and general working arrangements.

The University liaison person will review the learning plan and provide suggestions for any changes if deemed necessary. Progress towards the stated learning goals is assessed during mid and end of placement reviews and forms the basis of the Field Educator’s end of placement report. All learning goals specified in the plan, as revised at the mid-placement review, must be met.
The following is a checklist of areas to be covered in the learning plan:

- **Cover sheet** detailing student name, agency name, Field Educator name, agency contact details for both Field Educator and student, date of plan, and date proposed for formal review.

- **Placement learning goals** including:
  - learning goals based on course goals
  - goals arising from previous placements,
  - personal learning goals such as building confidence, further development of specific areas of strength or weakness
  - learning goals based on particular opportunities provided by the placement agency.

- **Learning strategies and tasks**, linked to learning goals.

- **Methods that will be used for evaluating progress toward meeting goals.**

- **Supervision arrangements** including session times, responsibilities, feedback and evaluation methods. (Note: it is envisaged that students will have at least 2 hours of supervision time per 5 placement days.)

- **Agreement on management of conflicts and difficulties.**

- **How student will work with and relate to other team members.**

- **Agency expectations** regarding time, place, professional behaviour, tasks, responsibilities of student and field educator.

- **Signatures** of both student and field educator.

While the plan needs to be a clear document, it should be flexible enough to allow the student to take advantage of any learning opportunities which develop throughout the placement and which are not initially covered by the plan.

The liaison person can provide useful guidance to help to sort out any difficulties encountered in developing the learning contract / plan.

**Due date**: The learning contract / plan should be submitted to the School Office, with an assignment cover sheet, by day 10 of placement. This copy will come to the Course Coordinator: Val Clark.

**In addition** students must email an electronic version of the learning contract to their University liaison person.

**Mid-Placement Student Report**

Reviewing placement occurs formally at the mid and end points of placement. The mid-placement review is the most significant reflection on what has happened to date, while the placement is proceeding. The learning plan should be the reference point for this discussion. Students and field educators are expected to set aside two hours to reflect on progress and what will happen in the second part of placement.

The review process is both a learning experience and an assessment. The goals of the mid placement review are to facilitate processing of learning that has happened to date, contribute to planning of the remainder of placement and renegotiate the learning plan, if necessary.

A visit to the agency by the University liaison person, with a three-way discussion on the learning process with the student and field educator, also occurs mid-way through the placement. Occasionally, a teleconference may replace the visit. Decisions and outcomes from this discussion should be incorporated into a mid-placement report prepared by the student.
The mid-placement student report should thus include the following:

- **Cover sheet** including details of agency, student and field educator name, date, report title, etc.
- **A summary of tasks** undertaken.
- **Progress towards achievement of learning goals, personal goals and tasks**, including any comments on agency constraints or opportunities.
- **Summary of issues** raised in the review process.
- **Plans** for the rest of the placement, including specification of what tasks or behaviours will need to be demonstrated.

**Due date:** The mid-placement report should be submitted to the School Office, with an assignment cover sheet, by 5 placement days after the mid-placement visit. This copy will come to the Course Coordinator: **Val Clark**.

**In addition** students must email an electronic version of the mid-placement report to their University liaison person.

**End of Placement Student Report**

An end of placement review by student and field educator provides the opportunity to reflect on the second part of placement and to identify future learning needs. There will also be a visit or phone contact at this time by the University Liaison person. A brief report (around two pages) is to be prepared by the student arising from this discussion. The report will pick up from where the mid placement report ended. The end of placement report is to include learning goals for any subsequent placements.

Following is a checklist of areas that are to be covered in the end of placement student report.

- **Cover sheet** including details of agency, student and field educator name, date, report title, etc.
- **Identification of student strengths**
- **Specific areas that need improvement**, to be expressed as learning goals for any subsequent placements.
- **Student reflections** on her/his development as a social worker and understanding of the social work role in this agency.

A statement that 50 days of placement have been completed.

**Due date:** The end of placement report should be submitted to the School Office, with an assignment cover sheet, by the **final day of placement**. This copy will come to the Course Coordinator: **Val Clark**.

**In addition** students must email an electronic version of the end of placement report to their **University liaison person**.

**NB.** All reports must be received by the School before a final grade will be awarded.