SOCX322
Human Services in the 21st Century: Care, Gender and Institutions
S1 OUA 2017
Dept of Sociology

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Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit provides an opportunity to examine the personal, sociological and policy issues associated with a range of different human service areas, including community care, child care, child protection, disability services, aged care and mental health. A starting point for these discussions is an examination of the ideas of care. Drawing on these ideals, the unit will guide you through the exciting world of research and theory on the operation of human services, and will give you firsthand experience reviewing research, evaluation, policy materials and other information on services. All enrolment queries should be directed to Open Universities Australia (OUA): see www.open.edu.au

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://www.open.edu.au/student-admin-and-support/key-dates/

Learning Outcomes
1. A critical understanding of the different meanings attached to the concept of care and of changing patterns in the need for care across the life course.
2. A capacity to analyse the characteristics of care in intimate interpersonal relationships, as well as in contexts in which professional relationships require the provision of care to strangers.
3. Recognition of the contribution of a range of sociological, economic, demographic and other perspectives to developments in care and human services.
4. An ability to work with a range of policy documents concerned with the planning, provision, regulation, and funding of human services.
5. Experience in considering the application of a number of research perspectives to the study of human services.
6. Capability in working as part of a social research or policy development team in the human services field.
7. A demonstrated understanding of the key issues involved in undertaking social analyses of policies and programs for the development of human services.

**General Assessment Information**

*Assignment Submission*

All written assignments will be submitted using the turnitin link for each assignment. These can be accessed via the iLearn page for the assignment.

*Academic Honesty*

Academic honesty is an integral part of the core values and principles contained in the Macquarie University Ethics Statement (http://www.mq.edu.au/ethics/ethical-statement-f.html). Its fundamental principle is that all staff and students act with integrity in the creation, development, application and use of ideas and information. This means that:

- All academic work claimed as original is the work of the author making the claim.
- All academic collaborations are acknowledged.
- Academic work is not falsified in any way.
- When the ideas of others are used, these ideas are acknowledged appropriately.

The link below has more details about the policy, procedure and schedule of penalties that will apply to breaches of the Academic Honesty policy.

http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

*Special consideration*

If, due to illness or unavoidable disruption, you are unable to complete all assessment requirements satisfactorily; if you miss the final assessment item or your assessment performance is seriously prejudiced in some way, you must report the circumstances in writing to the Registrar through the Student Centre for your case to receive special consideration. Include a medical certificate or other documentary evidence. The Registrar’s Office will advise the unit convenor you are enrolled in. You do not need to advise the unit convenor directly, although it is a good idea to let us know if you are having problems. The link for application for Special consideration can be found at http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/policy.html
Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Services Briefing Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>End Week 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation review</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>End Week 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Answer Test</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Week 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Human Services Briefing Paper

Due: End Week 6
Weighting: 30%

Prepare a short briefing paper on the services (or programs), facilities, budget and numbers of clients in one human service sector in Australia. Focus on one of the following areas of service provision: aged care; disability support services; child care; child protection services; mental health care; or supported accommodation services. In your briefing paper, provide a critical overview of services across Australia and include as far as possible, a comparison of interstate variations. Use tables to present comparative data where applicable.

Word count: 1,000 words.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- A critical understanding of the different meanings attached to the concept of care and of changing patterns in the need for care across the life course.
- A capacity to analyse the characteristics of care in intimate interpersonal relationships, as well as in contexts in which professional relationships require the provision of care to strangers.
- An ability to work with a range of policy documents concerned with the planning, provision, regulation, and funding of human services.
- Experience in considering the application of a number of research perspectives to the study of human services.

Innovation review

Due: End Week 12
Weighting: 40%

Students will be required to identify one recent innovation in human service delivery in Australia or one overseas country and critically examine its characteristics, the logic for its introduction, and its current or potential contribution to policy. The review should also discuss links between
the service development and broader processes of social, demographic and political change. The review should be with reference to one (and only one) of the following fields of human services: aged care; disability services; mental health; child protection; child care; health care; or supported accommodation. Some of the innovations that could be considered include case management; consumer-directed care; service contracting arrangements; improvements in the coordination of services; or the development of innovative servicing arrangements for a particular client group.

Word count: 2,000 words.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Recognition of the contribution of a range of sociological, economic, demographic and other perspectives to developments in care and human services.
- An ability to work with a range of policy documents concerned with the planning, provision, regulation, and funding of human services.
- Experience in considering the application of a number of research perspectives to the study of human services.
- A demonstrated understanding of the key issues involved in undertaking social analyses of policies and programs for the development of human services.

**Participation**

**Due:** Weekly  
**Weighting:** 20%

Students will be assessed by their active engagement in the discussion forums each week. Each week students will be required to engage in a discussion task and demonstrate their knowledge of the lectures and the readings. Additionally, students will be assessed on their active engagement with other student postings.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Recognition of the contribution of a range of sociological, economic, demographic and other perspectives to developments in care and human services.
- Experience in considering the application of a number of research perspectives to the study of human services.
- Capability in working as part of a social research or policy development team in the human services field.
Short Answer Test
Due: **Week 13**
Weighting: **10%**

Students will undertake a short, ten question multiple choice test undertaken in Week 13. The examination will be undertaken on-line and cover topics in the lectures.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
- Recognition of the contribution of a range of sociological, economic, demographic and other perspectives to developments in care and human services.
- A demonstrated understanding of the key issues involved in undertaking social analyses of policies and programs for the development of human services.

**Delivery and Resources**

**Unit Requirements and Expectations**

The teaching program consists of:
- A two hour lecture each week. These will take the form of recorded lectures made available to you through the Echo lecture system, with accompanying lecture notes available online. The lecture slides and recorded lectures are available through the SOCX322 iLearn site.
- Weekly readings;
- Discussion forum participation; and
- Related reading and research development tasks over the course of the unit.

As this is an advanced course in the uses and development of sociological analysis, it is vital for students to participate in all components of the unit. The lectures provide the conceptual basis for the course, examining the theory and much of the relevant evidence for each topic. The online discussions are designed to complement this by providing the opportunity to exchange ideas, discuss research, and develop a critical and collaborative approach.

Readings for each week’s topics are listed in the course outline and you are expected to have read them before contributing to the online discussion. Active participation is a requirement of the course.

**Course Texts**
While there is no required texts for the unit, we will be extensively using the following resources:


(This can be downloaded free from: http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129552015)

Other recommended texts for this unit include:


A number of other recommended readings and texts are listed in the weekly overview. You are also encouraged to seek out others through the electronic databases available through the library and from other sources.

**Unit Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Introduction: Care and Human Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Understanding care: Contested definitions and perspectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Families or organisations? The substitutability of care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Care and organisations: Bureaucracies and alternative models</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Total Institutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Reinventing Human Services: The social market for care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>The Human Services Workforce</td>
</tr>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>New organisational logics and the political economy of globalised service provision</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Human services site visit. No lecture.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Care around the world: Care and welfare state regimes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>New perspectives on human services: Individualisation, the body and risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Conclusion- The Future of Human Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>No classes – Quiz week</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Policies and Procedures

#### Late Submission

Unless otherwise stated, late submission of written work will result in a **deduction of 10% of the mark awarded** for each week or part of a week beyond the due date, or date to which an extension has been granted.

#### Extension Request


The University recognises that students may experience disruptions that adversely affect their academic performance in assessment activities.

The **disruption to studies policy** ([http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html)) applies only to serious and unavoidable disruptions that arise after a study period has commenced.

#### Serious and unavoidable disruption

The University classifies a disruption as **serious and unavoidable** if it:

- could not have reasonably been anticipated, avoided or guarded against by the student; and
- was beyond the student's control; and
- caused substantial disruption to the student's capacity for effective study and/or completion of required work; and
- occurred during an event critical study period and was at least three (3) consecutive days duration, and/or
- prevented completion of a final examination.
If you feel that you’ve been impacted by a serious and unavoidable disruption to study situation, submit an application as follows:

1. Visit Ask MQ (https://ask.mq.edu.au) and use your OneID to log in via 'Current student domestic and international'
2. Under 'Forms' select 'disruptions' and fill in your relevant details.
3. Attach supporting documents by clicking 'Add a reply', click 'browse' and navigating to the files you want to attach, then click 'submit form' to send your notification and supporting documents
4. Please keep copies of your original documents, as they may be requested in the future as part of the assessment process

Review

Once your submission is assessed, recommendations are sent to your unit convenor to ensure an appropriate solution for affected assessment(s) is organised.

OUA Specific Policies and Procedures

OUA Special Circumstances Process

Special Circumstances refers to late withdrawal from a unit and your request to have your circumstances taken into account for a possible refund of fees and removal of a "fail" result.

Applications for Special Circumstances are to be submitted to Open Universities Australia directly:


Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.
In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the **Learning and Teaching Category** of Policy Central.

**Student Code of Conduct**

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

**Results**

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in *eStudent*. For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au).

**Student Support**

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/support/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

**Learning Skills**

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- **Workshops**
- **StudyWise**
- **Academic Integrity Module for Students**
- **Ask a Learning Adviser**

**Student Enquiry Service**

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

**Equity Support**

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](http://studentcentral.mq.edu.au/disability) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

**IT Help**

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.
Graduate Capabilities

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- A critical understanding of the different meanings attached to the concept of care and of changing patterns in the need for care across the life course.
- A capacity to analyse the characteristics of care in intimate interpersonal relationships, as well as in contexts in which professional relationships require the provision of care to strangers.

Assessment tasks

- Human Services Briefing Paper
- Innovation review

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Assessment tasks

- Innovation review
- Participation

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:
Learning outcome

• An ability to work with a range of policy documents concerned with the planning, provision, regulation, and funding of human services.

Assessment task

• Innovation review

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• A capacity to analyse the characteristics of care in intimate interpersonal relationships, as well as in contexts in which professional relationships require the provision of care to strangers.
• Recognition of the contribution of a range of sociological, economic, demographic and other perspectives to developments in care and human services.
• Experience in considering the application of a number of research perspectives to the study of human services.
• A demonstrated understanding of the key issues involved in undertaking social analyses of policies and programs for the development of human services.

Assessment tasks

• Human Services Briefing Paper
• Innovation review
• Short Answer Test

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.
This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Experience in considering the application of a number of research perspectives to the study of human services.
- A demonstrated understanding of the key issues involved in undertaking social analyses of policies and programs for the development of human services.

**Assessment tasks**

- Human Services Briefing Paper
- Innovation review

**Effective Communication**

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Assessment tasks**

- Innovation review
- Participation

**Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens**

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- A critical understanding of the different meanings attached to the concept of care and of changing patterns in the need for care across the life course.
- An ability to work with a range of policy documents concerned with the planning, provision, regulation, and funding of human services.
- Capability in working as part of a social research or policy development team in the human services field.
Assessment tasks

- Innovation review
- Participation

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- A capacity to analyse the characteristics of care in intimate interpersonal relationships, as well as in contexts in which professional relationships require the provision of care to strangers.
- Experience in considering the application of a number of research perspectives to the study of human services.
- Capability in working as part of a social research or policy development team in the human services field.
- A demonstrated understanding of the key issues involved in undertaking social analyses of policies and programs for the development of human services.

Assessment tasks

- Innovation review
- Participation
- Short Answer Test

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Recognition of the contribution of a range of sociological, economic, demographic and other perspectives to developments in care and human services.
• An ability to work with a range of policy documents concerned with the planning, provision, regulation, and funding of human services.