

# WELF 7007 CRITICAL SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

**Credit Points** 10

**Legacy Code** 102395

**Coordinator** Linda Briskman ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Linda Briskman/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Linda%20Briskman/))

**Description** This subject focuses on the application of critical theories, models and methods of social work practice through the exploration of diverse fields of practice including: child wellbeing and protection; mental health; working with older people; disability; housing and homelessness; LGBTQI social work; and rural and remote practice. The emphasis will be on the contribution of various critical perspectives (Feminist, Post-colonial, Postmodern, Marxist, Green, Critical Race, etc) to social work theory and to the development of alternative forms of practice.

**School** Social Sciences

**Discipline** Social Work

**Student Contribution Band** HECS Band 4 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees ([https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/fees/](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/)) page.

**Level** Postgraduate Coursework Level 7 subject

**Pre-requisite(s)** WELF 7023 AND WELF 7024

**Restrictions**

Students must be enrolled in 1792 Master of Social Work (Qualifying)

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Compare and contrast critical social work practice theories, approaches and models analysing their application in organisational, social and cultural contexts.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of critical practice skills and of the different ways they can be applied across the spectrum of indirect and direct practice areas, including interpersonal engagement, assessment, professional writing, counselling, health promotion, advocacy and team work.
3. Engage in critical reflection on the use of self in practice, identifying strengths and areas for further development.
4. Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the experience of marginalised individuals, groups and communities within a range of different fields of practice, settings, client groups and geographical locations.

## Subject Content

- Examination of various theoretical contributions to critical social work, including:

Human rights  
Feminist analysis  
Postcolonial and critical whiteness studies  
Indigenous world views  
Postmodernism  
Marxist analysis  
Green political theory and environmentalism

- These will be examined across a number of different fields of social work practice, such as:

Child wellbeing and child safety ? including child protection risk assessment  
Mental Health- including mental health assessment  
Disability ? inclusive and accessible practice  
Working with individuals, groups and communities from rural and remote locations  
Working with older people  
Community Justice  
Social work in health settings ? including skills for team and family conferences  
International social work ? social work in a global context  
LGBTQI social work practice  
Housing and homelessness

## Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task	Mandatory
Essay	2,000 words	40	N	Individual	N
Presentation	Up to 15 minutes presentation and 5 minutes student discussion	30	N	Group	Y
Reflection	1,000 words	30	N	Individual	Y

Teaching Periods

## Autumn (2025)

**Parramatta City - Macquarie St**

**On-site**

**Subject Contact** Linda Briskman ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Linda Briskman/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Linda%20Briskman/))

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject\\_code=WELF7007\\_25-AUT\\_PC\\_1#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=WELF7007_25-AUT_PC_1#subjects))