

WELF 1014 INTRODUCTION TO YOUTH WORK: HISTORY, THEORIES & APPROACHES

Credit Points 10

Coordinator Howard Sercombe ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Howard Sercombe/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Howard%20Sercombe/))

Description This subject introduces learners to the theories and concepts of youth work from multiple perspectives. Discover the origins and development of youth work as a distinct profession, globally and in Australia. Gain an understanding of current youth work code of ethics, with a focus on social justice and human rights. The subject introduces varied approaches to understanding youth, exploring their depictions across time, space, and cultures.

School Social Sciences

Discipline Youth Work

Student Contribution Band HECS Band 4 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees (https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/) page.

Level Undergraduate Level 1 subject

Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this subject, students will be able to:

1. Identify the ways in which diverse perspectives, such as biopsychosocial and developmental theories, anthropological approaches, sociocultural approaches, and Indigenous perspectives, understand youth development.
2. Describe the historical evolution of youth work as a distinct profession, both globally and within Australia.
3. Discuss the ethical principles that underpin effective youth work practice.
4. Apply critical thinking and decision-making skills for effective engagement with young people.

Subject Content

- Social constructions of young people.
- Different approaches to understanding young people within youth work (such as biopsychosocial and developmental theories, anthropological approaches, sociocultural approaches, and Indigenised perspectives on youth development)
- Definition and history of youth work as a profession in Australia and globally.
- Ethics and code of practice of youth work.

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
Quiz	6 x Quizzes, 20 multiple questions per quiz	20	N	Individual	N
Essay	1,000 words	40	N	Individual	N
Case Study	1,500 words	40	N	Individual	N

Teaching Periods

Autumn (2025)

Online

Online

Subject Contact Howard Sercombe ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Howard Sercombe/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Howard%20Sercombe/))

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=WELF1014_25-AUT_ON_2#subjects)

Parramatta - Victoria Rd

On-site

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