

WELF 7019 POWER AND MARGINALISATION

Credit Points 10

Legacy Code 102393

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

Description This subject complements theoretical frameworks introduced in Difference and Diversity to explore issues of power and marginalisation through the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, mental health consumers, children and young people, and people with disability. Practice and policy responses that challenge or reinforce power and marginalisation are explored.

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/) page.

Level Postgraduate Coursework Level 7 subject

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. Critically apply theoretical frameworks to analyse the construction and processes of marginality.
2. Analyse the impact of powerlessness, marginality, stigma and disadvantage, on individuals, families and communities.
3. Analyse the history and contemporary debates in policy and practice relating to marginality and empowerment of children and families, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, mental health consumers, and people with disability.
4. Evaluate social work's role in mediating power.
5. Critically apply social work knowledge to respond effectively within a human rights and social justice framework at the individual and systemic level.

Subject Content

- Frameworks of power and empowerment
- Contemporary debates in policy and practice relating to marginalisation and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, mental health consumers, children and young people, and people with disability.
- Mediating power: the history of Australian social work in marginalisation and empowerment
- Understanding, contesting and privileging marginalised peoples
- Designing strategies for contesting policies and practices that marginalise
- Theories of Power
- Intersectionality and Marginality - Resistance, Activism and Storytelling
- Social Work Applications

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	10 minutes	40	N	Individual	N
Presentatio	20 minutes	30	N	Group	N
Reflection	1,000 words	30	N	Individual	N

Prescribed Texts

- Bennett, B., Green, S., Gilbert, S., & Bessarab, D. (Eds.). (2013). Our voices : Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social work. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Huisman, D. M. (2023). Social power and communicating social support : how stigma and marginalization affect our ability to help. Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.
- Tascon, S. & Ife, J. Disrupting Whiteness in Social Work

Teaching Periods

Autumn (2025)

Parramatta City - Macquarie St

On-site

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

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=WELF7019_25-AUT_PC_1#subjects)