

Course Title: **Responding to Childbirth Complexities**

Course Code: **MIDW705**

Descriptor Start Date: **02/01/2026**

POINTS: **15.00**

LEVEL: **7**

PREREQUISITE/S: **MIDW617, MIDW703**

COREQUISITE/S:

RESTRICTION/S:

LEARNING HOURS

Hours may include lectures, tutorials, online forums, laboratories. Refer to your timetable and course information in Canvas for detailed information.

Total learning hours: 150

PRESCRIPTOR

Consolidates student's understanding of the impact of social complexities on perinatal outcomes and maternity care in Aotearoa New Zealand. Ethics and ethical principles are introduced as a framework to support the analysis of factors influencing decision making in midwifery care.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Critically analyse social complexities and the impact on perinatal outcomes and midwifery care in Aotearoa New Zealand.
2. Describe the impact of racism on whanau and perinatal outcomes.
3. Apply ethical principles to inform decision making in midwifery practice.
4. Demonstrate behaviours and communication which are legal, ethical and culturally safe.

Disclaimer: Course descriptors may be amended between teaching periods/semesters

CONTENT

- Decolonisation and equity transformation in maternity care
- Whanau centred care
- Cultural safety
- Racism and decision-making bias
- Maternal mental health, including drug and alcohol use and addiction
- Family disruption, including trauma and violence
- Service provision, access and funding models
- Poverty
- Homelessness
- Ethics and ethical frameworks
- Health literacy
- Global issues in maternity care

LEARNING & TEACHING STRATEGIES

A range of blended learning and teaching strategies will be used in this course. Linking theory and practice will be facilitated through learning and teaching strategies such as interactive learning activities, discussion forums, online and recorded lectures and group discussion.

ASSESSMENT PLAN

Assessment Event	Weighting %	Learning Outcomes
Written Assessment (1750 words)	40.00	LO1, LO2,LO3,LO4
Verbal Assessment (9 mins)	60.00	LO1, LO2,LO3,LO4

Grade Map

MAP1

A+ A A- Pass with Distinction
B+ B B- Pass with Merit
C+ C C- Pass
D Fail

Overall requirement/s to pass the course:

Students must achieve an overall average grade of at least C- across all summative assessments to pass this course.

LEARNING RESOURCES

Kiddle, R. (2020). *Imagining Decolonisation*. Bridget Williams Books. Te Tatau o Te Whare Kahu / Midwifery Council of New Zealand. (2026). *Whānuitanga o te mahi midwifery: Scope of practice*. <https://www.midwiferycouncil.health.nz/sites/default/files/for-midwives/Gazette%20Notice%202010%20-scope%20%26%20quals%20new%20form.pdf> Tupara, H., Tahere, M., & Kupenga-Tamarama, K. (2022). Locating Māori as tangata whenua of Aotearoa (New Zealand) in the midwifery partnership. In S. Pairman, S. K. Tracy, C. Thorogood, & J. Pincombe (Eds.), *Midwifery Preparation for Practice* (5th ed., pp. 210–230). Elsevier.

For further information, contact: Te Ara Hauora A Putaiao - Faculty of Health & Environmental Science

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Principal Programme: **AK1035, Bachelor of Health Science (Midwifery)**

Related Programme/s: **AK1035 Bachelor of Health Science (Midwifery)**

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