

**REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK
(MSW)**

(See also General Regulations)

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to the University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

Admission requirements

MSW 1. To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Work, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;
- (b) shall hold
 - (i) a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University; or
 - (ii) another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
- (c) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

MSW 2. Candidates who do not hold a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University or another qualification of equivalent standard may in exceptional circumstances be permitted to register if they demonstrate adequate preparation for studies at this level and satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination.

Qualifying examination

MSW 3.

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test a candidate's formal academic ability or the candidate's ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent.
 - (b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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Award of degree

MSW 4. To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Social Work, candidates shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations; and
 - (b) complete the curriculum as prescribed in the syllabuses and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations as set out below.
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Length of curriculum

MSW 5.

- (a) The curriculum shall extend over
 - (i) two academic years of full-time study; or
 - (ii) three academic years of part-time study
- (b) A candidate with a postgraduate qualification in social work from another university or comparable institution of equivalent standard to this University may, on production of appropriate certification of having satisfactorily completed any of the courses as specified in the syllabuses, be exempted from those courses in the curriculum and permitted to enter the M.S.W. programme at the appropriate point, subject to the approval of the Head of the Department.

Completion of curriculum

MSW 6. To complete the curriculum, candidates shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed assignments and assessments of:

- (a) 6 core courses;
- (b) at least 3 elective courses;
- (c) 900 hours of field placement; and
- (d) a dissertation in accordance with MSW7 and MSW7.1.

as prescribed in the syllabuses.

Dissertation

MSW 7. Subject to the provision of Regulation MSW6(d), candidates shall submit the title of dissertation for approval by March 31 of the final academic year of study and shall submit the dissertation by not later than August 31 of the final academic year of study. The dissertation should not exceed 25,000 words. Candidates shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents their own work undertaken after registration as candidates for the degree.

MSW 7.1. Candidates who prefer not to complete a dissertation shall apply for approval from the Head of Department to complete alternative assignments as prescribed in the syllabuses. The application must be made by a date to be specified for the purpose.

Assessment

MSW 8.

- (a) Where so prescribed in the syllabuses, coursework, a dissertation or other assignments shall constitute part or whole of the examination for one or more courses.
- (b) Assessment of candidates' coursework during their studies may be taken into account in determining their result in each written examination paper; or, where so prescribed in the syllabuses, may constitute the examination of one or more courses.

MSW 9. Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners at their first attempt, whether by means of written examination papers or coursework assessment, may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination in the course or courses of failure.

MSW10. Candidates who have not satisfactorily completed any prescribed field placement may be permitted to undertake a supplementary period of field placement to be specified by the Head of the Department. Candidates who are not permitted to undertake the supplementary period of field placement or have failed to satisfy the examiners at their second attempt may be required to discontinue their studies.

MSW 11. Subject to the provision of Regulation MSW7, candidates who have failed to present a satisfactory dissertation may be permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation within an approved specified period.

MSW 12. Candidates who are unable because of illness to be present for one or more papers in any written examination may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination to be held before the beginning of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made on a form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of the candidates' absence from the examination.

- MSW 13. Candidates who
- (a) have failed in more than half of the number of written papers or courses in any one examination; or
 - (b) are not permitted to present themselves for re-examination in any written paper or any course examined by means of coursework assessment in which they have failed to satisfy the examiners under Regulation MSW 9; or
 - (c) have failed to satisfy the examiners in any written paper or any course examined by means of coursework assessment at a second attempt; or
 - (d) are not permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation under the provision of Regulation MSW 11;
- may be required to repeat the year of study or discontinue their studies.
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Assessment results

MSW 14. A list of candidates who have successfully completed all the degree requirements and are to be awarded the Master of Social Work shall be published. Candidates who have shown exceptional merit in the whole examination may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diplomas.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

A. PURPOSE

The degree is designed to provide a up-to-date and comprehensive professional training in the theory and practice of social work for those who intend to make this their career or who are already in the profession.

B. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

- (a) The programme is offered in full-time, and/or part-time modes, and extends over two academic years or equivalent.
- (b) The programme covers 6 core courses, at least 3 elective courses, 900 hours of supervised field placement and a dissertation. For exemption from courses or completing alternative assignments from a dissertation, formal approval shall be obtained from the Department in accordance with the conditions set out in the Degree Regulations.
- (c) The 6 core courses shall include

SOWK6002	Social policy and administration
SOWK6003	Social work research
SOWK6004	Theory and practice of social work
SOWK6233	Law and social work
SOWK7001	Human behaviour and the social environment
SOWK7002	Social science theories for social work
- (d) The minimum of 3 elective courses shall be chosen from any combination of the following 4 areas.

Area 1:	Clinical practice on family and children
Area 2:	Health and mental health
Area 3:	Policy and organization management
Area 4:	Common elective courses

- (e) Field placement (compulsory)
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| SOWK6225 | Field placement I |
| SOWK6231 | Field placement II |
| SOWK6232 | Field placement III |

- (f) Dissertation

A candidate shall be required to present a satisfactory dissertation or two additional elective courses in accordance with MSW7 and MSW7.1.

C. ASSESSMENT

Ongoing assessment will be conducted to appraise the students' individual performance and will be designed according to learning objectives. They may include essays, portfolios, oral presentations, learning journals or others prepared individually or in groups, as coursework or examinations.

D. SYLLABUSES

Core Courses

SOWK6002. Social policy and administration

This course focuses on the basic concepts of social policy and the evaluation of policy development. The contents of the course includes: the definition, scope and content of social policy; the formation and development of social policy; the evolution of aims and principles in relation to the growth of social welfare, and the role of government in the field of social welfare; concepts of need and social welfare; the assessment of the effects of the social services and social policies on individual and social need; and the contributions made by political, professional and charitable bodies to the development of collective action to promote social welfare.

SOWK6003. Social work research

Emphasis is given to the need for, and practical application of, research in the social welfare field. To illustrate the major concepts, methods and goals of social work research, this course is designed to provide a basic grounding in research methodology. The course syllabus will include: measurement and explanation in social work research; problem definition and the formation of hypotheses; techniques of data collection; observation, interviews, use of service records and documentary materials; data analysis and report presentation. Evaluation of social work methods and social welfare programmes will also be discussed, using selected research studies in the field of social work, social policy and social administration.

SOWK6004. Theory and practice of social work

This course introduces social work values and assumptions, and the basic processes of social work. Current trends and perspectives in theory and practice, and methods of social work are compared and discussed in the local context. Selected models and approaches of each method, and a critical study of social work intervention theories and their application in the local context are examined.

SOWK6233. Law and social work

On a practice level, the course aims to pass on legal analytical skills and knowledge to future front liners and administrators of welfare and human services so that clients (be it families in dissolution, children juvenile needing care protection and rehabilitation, labourers, the mentally ill and underdeveloped, those suffering under discrimination, public housing tenants, residents in urban renewal, consumers etc.) may be better served. On social policy level, the course aims to examine broad general social policy and human rights issues above mentioned and more (eg. the criminal justice system, privacy, bill of rights, the legal system and the Basic Law etc.) so that students may commit to improving the various systems including the legal system.

SOWK7001. Human behaviour and the social environment

This course focuses on a life-span development of human beings. Core contents of the course cover: normal patterns of growth and psycho-social development; socio-cultural influences in human behaviour, healthy personality and adjustment; life stresses and coping failures; introduction to concepts of health and disease, and concepts of mental health; perspectives on abnormal behaviour; and the implications for social workers.

SOWK7002. Social science theories for social work

This course starts with an examination of selected behavioural and social science theories relevant to the practice of social work. Emphasis will be on concepts of change, social and individual; social control, formal and informal; personality theories and the socialization process; and an examination of theories of social organization.

Field Placement**SOWK6225. Field placement I**

The field placement shall provide students with opportunities to learn, integrate and apply their practice skills. During such supervised practice students will carry out prescribed work in selected social agencies or institutions.

SOWK6231. Field placement II

The field placement shall provide students with opportunities to learn, integrate and apply their practice skills. During such supervised practice students will carry out prescribed work in selected social agencies or institutions.

SOWK6232. Field placement III

The field placement shall provide students with opportunities to learn, integrate and apply their practice skills. During such supervised practice students will carry out prescribed work in selected social agencies or institutions.

Dissertation

SOWK6021. Dissertation

Candidates shall present a dissertation on an approved topic which shall be either an account of empirical research or a critical exposition of existing knowledge. The title of the dissertation shall be presented for approval by March 31 of the final academic year of study and the dissertation shall be presented not later than August 31 of the final academic year of study. Candidates shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents their own work undertaken after registration as a candidate for the degree. The length of their dissertation should not exceed 25,000 words.

Elective Courses

Area 1: Clinical practice on family and children

SOWK6025. Family social work

This course helps the student to evolve a frame of reference for work within family situations. Various schools of thought for working in areas of parent-child, marital, and intergenerational exchanges are critically examined for their applicability to the local setting. The focus is on family structure and transactional processes. The course provides a working approach to the family's communicative, affective, relationship and role systems. Issues arising out of the course of the family life cycle as well as from family crises will be considered.

SOWK6062. The Satir model and family reconstruction

Human behaviour is heavily influenced by family upbringing and socialization. This course, based on a marathon experiential training mode, aims to help students to achieve an understanding of their family. Virginia Satir's concepts of family rules, communication patterns, family mapping and self-esteem will be used to guide students through a process of self-discovery. Active participation will be essential.

SOWK6065. Working with youth at risk and juvenile offenders

This course will focus on the various approaches in working with delinquents and young people experiencing emotional or behavioral problems. To facilitate skills development, emphasis will be placed on experiential learning through the use of simulated exercises, games and role-play. Throughout the course, case and group examples will be drawn from a variety of local practice settings-probation, residential facilities for juvenile offenders, correctional services, outreach work and school social work.

SOWK6078. Family as a resource: an intellectual and a personal examination

Socrates said "know thyself"; we say "know thy family". Based on theories of family systems and social studies on family roles and gender politics, this course examines the powerful forces of family and society in shaping our personality, value orientations, life goals, expectations about interpersonal relationships, and aspirations about future families. Through intellectual understanding of these dynamics and personal reflections, students will reexamine the impact of their families on them, to shape and reshape their current and future family life to their greater satisfaction, and to unlock the treasure of this great resource, which has become the first and the last emotional refuge in modern living.

SOWK6101. Understanding and working with young people

This course examines the developmental characteristics and needs of young people and their actualization in the local context. Special focus is put on understanding the contemporary local youth culture and how it reveals the needs of the young people. Major models and concepts in youth work are introduced. Working skills with young people implied from these models and concepts are also introduced. This course is especially suitable for students who intend to join the fields that work with young people.

SOWK6102. Violence in intimate relationships

The issue of violence in intimate relationships (e.g. domestic violence & violence in dating) is examined through multi-lenses. The course introduces the nature of the different kinds of violence in intimate relationships. The knowledge and skills necessary to understand the dynamics of violent behavior are taught. How to assess violence, how to identify appropriate intervention strategies, and how to apply such related skills are examined. A particular emphasis is given to the relationship between violence and gender issues.

SOWK6126. Group Treatment

This course will examine the use of small group to provide professional service to client populations manifesting various behavioral or relationship difficulties. Selected treatment approaches and their relevance will be examined in the context of students' work situations.

SOWK6136. Adventure-Based Counselling: theory and practice

Adventure-Based Counselling (ABC) is a popular contemporary approach employed to work with people in order to assist their building and/or promoting of a positive self-concept, improve their interpersonal relationship and enhance their problem-solving abilities. Although it is especially popular among working with young people, it can also be used in working with different age groups, families and couples. This course aims to introduce the basic theories and practices of ABC. Besides introducing the theoretical base of the approach, how to design and run sessions of ABC will also be taught. Some micro skills in conducting ABC sessions will be introduced. Last, but not least, the quality of an ABC facilitator and the ethical considerations in employing ABC to work with people will be discussed in the course. The format of the course includes lectures, seminars and ABC workshops for students to participate and experience the process.

SOWK6202. Systemic approach to marital therapy

This course utilizes a system perspective in the introduction of marital therapy, divorce therapy and mediation services in working with couples. An effective marital counsellor relies on a solid integration of knowledge, skills, philosophical reflection of the issues in intimacy and genuine human compassion. This course will cover the basic theoretical framework of marital therapy, divorce therapy and mediation services in working with couples in the local context. Simultaneously, the students will be stimulated to exercise active reflection on one's own values, personal experiences and philosophical stance in the treatment of marital problems. A synthesis of clinical wisdom in practice will be emphasized.

SOWK6234. Bullying, aggression and resilience

The issue of bullying and aggression in adolescents and adulthood is examined through multiple perspectives. An introduction to the prevalence of bullying, current theories and research on the etiology

of bullying and aggression in school and workplace will be discussed. A model of resilience is adopted to rebuild the vocabulary of strengths and the culture of support. Students will be trained to equip risk assessment and management, crisis intervention, counseling skills, group therapy and institutional management in handling bullying. Particular emphasis is given to gender issues.

SOWK6235. Separation, divorce and remarriage

This course aims at enhancing student's understanding of (1) the psychological and social implications of separation, divorce and remarriage; (2) the separation/ divorce/ remarriage decision making process and the considerations involved; (3) legal issues related to separation, divorce and remarriage (grounds for divorce, custody and maintenance, adoption, etc.); (4) the characteristics, dynamics and needs of single parent families and stepfamilies; and (5) intervention approaches relevant to working with divorced and remarried families.

Area 2: Health and mental health

SOWK6013. Aspects of handicap and rehabilitation

This course will consider selected aspects of handicap and rehabilitation and will cover such areas as: the nature of handicap; the experience of handicap; the handicapped person within the family; community attitudes and the problem of stigma; specific problems of handicapped people at different stages in the life cycle. The process of rehabilitation, its physical, social, psychological, educational and vocational aspects; habilitation versus rehabilitation; the holistic approach and the role of the social worker.

SOWK6022. Emotion-focused interventions: theory and practice

Social work practice recognizes the importance of the role of emotions in therapeutic change. This course will begin with a review of current theories and research on emotion-focused interventions before focusing on the application of these theories in the local setting. This is followed by an examination of the awareness, the arousal, and reorganization of the emotions in counselling and psychotherapy. Commonly encountered emotions in casework and group work practice like anger, fear, guilt, shame, sadness and grief will be examined. Moreover, the course aims to enhance students' self-awareness and competence in handling critical incidents in clinical practice.

SOWK6029. Human sexuality

Why is sex so fascinating and yet so difficult to talk about? To what extent is 'sex' a 'natural' drive? What does 'sex' have to do with 'love'? What makes a 'good' lover? How do ideas about gender, class, religion and ethnicity affect our decisions about who we should and should not have sex with? Why are there so many 'problems' with sex? And for whom are they 'problems'? What's the problem with being 'promiscuous', being 'gay', being 'top' or 'bottom'? Why are there so many moral and legal prohibitions on something so 'private'?

This course introduces students to different approaches of understanding sexuality from evolutionary theory to post-structuralism. It draws on current studies in anthropology, sociology, political philosophy, and cultural studies on sexuality to examine the changing meanings of sexuality in our society.

SOWK6034. Medical knowledge for social sciences students

Chronic illness, pain, accidents, and terminal illness are a major source of stress in contemporary society. It is important for students to be knowledgeable about the human body and its common illnesses. The objectives of this course include: to familiarize students with the disease patterns in local context, to study common diseases which present major health hazards, and to acquire a basic understanding of the medical language. No prior knowledge in medicine is required. A basic understanding of human biology will be an advantage.

SOWK6035. Oncology, palliative and hospice care

Professionals in the field of medical and health settings are expected to be competent in oncology care, palliative and hospice care. The students will learn about the medical, psychological, social, spiritual and policy aspects of care for cancer patients and persons with terminal illness. Cultural, sociological and traditional approaches to death and dying as well as bereavement will be explored through student projects.

SOWK6054. Social work with the mentally ill

The course would cover different theoretical orientations towards mental illness and its definition(s); the relationships between mental illness and environmental conditions; current models of service provision for persons with mental illness; the concept of professional 'teamwork' with particular relation to the mentally ill; the professional role and necessary skills for the social worker working with mentally ill people and their families.

SOWK6069. Aging and society

This course is to study the ways in which social and cultural factors enter into the aging process. The practical and immediate effects of aging on society are examined. The course provides a comprehensive description of the dimensions of aging. The goal is to provide a holistic view of aging and to point to the ways in which the personal, social and structural levels of the process interact to shape the daily life of the elderly. With these understandings, the ways to deliver appropriate services to the elderly are discussed.

SOWK6084. Intervention in health care settings

Social intervention approaches used in health care such as crisis intervention, grief work, self-help group, art therapy, community education skills, hospice, and home care will be examined. Students will be provided with experiential training on skills/techniques in working with patients in hospitals and in the community.

SOWK6236. Medical aspect of psychiatric illness

This is an introductory course on the medical aspect of psychiatric illness. The course covers an understanding of the various bio-medical models on the causes and treatments of different types of mental illnesses and mental health problems. It will also introduce to students the current mental health services in Hong Kong. A critical review of the strengths and limitations of the bio-medical models will be carried out as well.

SOWK6237. Use of creative arts in social work practice

Arts is a natural form of communication that offers a way to express feelings and thoughts in a manner that is less threatening than strictly verbal means. Creative arts have powerful healing potentials in self-discovery, expression of feelings, insight stimulation, relaxation and communication. Creative arts can be utilized as effective medium in social work intervention to develop people in a holistic connection of body, mind and spirit. This course will provide an opportunity for the students to experience the use of creative arts for personal growth and inner exploration. Theory will be introduced in lecture and then integrated with practice through experiential exercises and sharing of reflections. The application of creative arts in individual counseling and group work will be shared through case studies, life demonstration and video analysis. Different art media will be introduced in this course e.g. visual art, craft work, music, dramatic exercises, and body movement.

SOWK6238. Cognitive-behavioral therapies for people with mental illness

This course introduces the cognitive-behavioral perspectives in understanding the major types of mental illness such as depression, anxiety disorders and schizophrenia. The students will also learn about the process and cognitive-behavioral strategies for treating people with such illnesses. A process approach will be adopted which implies that students will have to work with a client using the cognitive-behavioral treatment process taught in the class and share their experiences concerning the progress of the treatment sessions.

*Area 3: Policy and organization management***SOWK6016. Comparative social administration**

The course is designed to introduce the comparative study of social policy in selected countries in the world, and to examine the provision of social development programmes and social services for analysis and evaluation in cross-country case studies.

SOWK6048. Social welfare in China

This course facilitates students to understand the nature and seriousness of current social problems in China such as aging population, widening income disparities, floating population, persistent poverty, women status, family breakdown, and unemployment, in the context of rapid market-oriented economic reforms. The course also provides an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the existing social welfare system.

SOWK6066. Young people in the juvenile justice system

This course will begin with a critical review of the current state of theory and research on youth problems and delinquency. It will then go on to evaluate existing policies and services directed at youth at risk and juvenile offenders in indigenous context. Finally it will explore current issues in the field of youth policy and juvenile justice, particularly the development overseas of new programme initiatives. Special emphasis will be given to the relevance of these issues and programmes within the local context.

SOWK6076. Evaluation of social services

This course will introduce students to a variety of approaches used to evaluate social services. Students will learn how evaluation techniques can help social service personnel respond to the growing demand for accountability, given that appropriate measures have been taken to collect and analyze data in order to inform decision making. These techniques include: evaluability assessment, designing goals and objectives, choosing an evaluation approach and developing process and outcome measures. Through the course materials, students come to understand the necessity of grounding evaluation approaches within an organization context and the practical issues that arise while implementing an evaluation and using evaluation results.

SOWK6079. Financial development and management for social service organizations

This course introduces and examines concepts and practices critical to good financial management of social service organizations. The focus is on preparing students to understand the financial activities and reports essential to management and to analyze and use financial information in planning, budgeting and measuring results to promote the organization's mission and goals. Fund-raising will also be discussed.

SOWK6082. Information and communication technology in human services

This course is designed to introduce students to the utilization of information and communication technology in human service settings. The major areas are (a) a review of the trends in the human service agencies' use of information and communication technology; (b) an exploration of software frequently used in the human services; and (c) the ethics of IT usage in the human services.

SOWK6086. Management in human service organizations

The aim of this course is to enable students to understand the recent business-oriented reforms in human service organizations. Human service organizations provide welfare, education and medical services to their users. The dynamics of quality improvements, strategic planning, monitoring and control, management information system, performance appraisal, supervision, stress management, teamwork, financial management and change are included.

SOWK6087. Managing people in human services

This course introduces concepts for the understanding of organization behaviour and emphasizes on the application of these concepts and the skills in managing people in non-profit making organizations. This course is particularly suitable for students who have not taken any management courses before but will be soon required to take up people management responsibility as a team leader or supervisor in the course of their own professional career development. The topics will include basic concepts on management functions, purposes of a managerial position and the roles of a manager; and skills in managing subordinates including motivation, morale, leadership, coaching, performance management and disciplinary actions.

SOWK6097. Social skills training for human service personnel

This course will consider the theoretical foundation of social skills training. The relevance of social skills training to different areas of human service practice including teamwork and staff training will be discussed. Skills in working with individuals and groups in human service settings will be practiced. The course will be run in form of lectures, demonstrations, class discussion and exercises.

SOWK6134. Current social policy issues

This course will examine the issues of current social policy including privatization of welfare services, the impact of ideology of welfare on welfare development, the issue of equity and equality in welfare provision, community care and service needs of the migrant population. Different theories of welfare will be discussed in relation to local welfare issues.

SOWK6157. Government and policies of social services

This course explores alternative approaches to understanding the political, economic, and social dynamics that influence social policy and the implications of these dynamics for social reform. The formation of political responses to human problems and the impact of such responses on social policy will be discussed with reference to the local context.

SOWK6172. Human service development, promotion, and evaluation

As society increasingly emphasizes accountability of human services, the organizations providing such services have to develop, improve and deliver these services in a more cost-effective and cost-efficient way to satisfy the changing needs of the citizens. This course examines the roles of social marketing and market research in the human services through application of the principles and practices learned. This course provides students with some essentials - values, knowledge and skills - in human service development, promotion, distribution and evaluation. The students will have the opportunity to develop and apply decision-making and analytical skills relevant to the functions of social marketing and market research within the human services.

SOWK6239. Mobilizing social capital for social inclusion

Social capital refers to the norms and networks that enable collective action. Increasing evidence shows that social cohesion- social capital- is critical for poverty alleviation and sustainable human and economic development. The course will investigate the literature on social capital, examine different practice models through case studies and help students to apply social capital strategies to achieve social inclusion objectives for different target groups. Examples of socially excluded groups include people with disabilities, low-income families, new arrivals, ethnic minorities and chronic patients. This course emphasizes both conceptual understanding and practical applications.

*Area 4: Common elective courses***SOWK6037. Personal development and interpersonal communication**

This course aims to help students discover and appreciate the individual uniqueness of every person. Through enhanced self-awareness and sensitivity, students can cultivate their personal strengths and learn to harness their own potentials. The course uses structured experiences, mini-lectures and group support to help the students acquire knowledge and skills facilitative of interpersonal communication.

SOWK6055. Special topics in social work - A

Any specific topics in social work that reflect current topical and changing needs in the community.

SOWK6056. Special topics in social work - B

Any specific topics in social work that reflect current topical and changing needs in the community.

SOWK6057. Special topics in social work - C

Any specific topics in social work that reflect current topical and changing needs in the community.

SOWK6058. Special topics in social work - D

Any specific topics in social work that reflect current topical and changing needs in the community.

SOWK6059. Special topics in social work - E

Any specific topics in social work that reflect current topical and changing needs in the community.

SOWK6185. Qualitative research methods

This course is designed for students with an interest in understanding all aspects of social life and social relations especially those who will undertake a dissertation study. Starting with the question “what is reality?”, the course begins with an introduction to different perspectives on approaching reality, followed by an assessment of the general strengths and weaknesses of qualitative research in comparison with other conventions such as quantitative surveys. The lectures will focus on introducing the general process of ethnographic research and the variety of methods for data collection and analysis including ethnography, grounded theory, observation, interviewing, focus groups and narrative analysis, etc. Various cases will be used to demonstrate how qualitative research helps make meaningful policy and social work practice. Seminars will be organized around practical methodological issues with the objective of helping students proceed with their own research projects. Hands-on experience of a range of research techniques will also be provided.