

## **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.

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### **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.

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### **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) Candidates may be granted exemption of up to one core course in recognition of studies completed in related areas. Exemption will only be considered in special circumstances and each application for exemption will be considered on its own merit. The exempted course should be replaced by an additional elective course to meet the degree requirements.

## **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) 10 core courses;
  - (b) 2 elective courses from the Electives in Practice Domain;
  - (c) 900 hours of field placement; and
  - (d) a dissertation in accordance with MSW7 and MSW7.1. as prescribed in the syllabuses.
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## **Dissertation**

**MSW 7.** Subject to the provision of Regulation MSW6(d), candidates shall complete a dissertation in the final academic year of study. 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 1 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.

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## **Assessment**

**MSW 8.** Where so prescribed in the syllabuses, coursework, a dissertation, written examination papers, other tests or any combination of these shall constitute part or whole of the examination for 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, coursework assessment or any combination of these, 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 half or more of the number of courses examined in any one academic year; or
- (b) are not permitted to present themselves for re-examination in any course in which they have failed to satisfy the examiners under Regulation MSW 9; or

- (c) have failed to satisfy the examiners in any course examined by means of written examination papers, coursework assessment or any combinations of these 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.

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## **SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK**

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### **A. PURPOSE**

The degree is designed to provide an 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.

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### **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 10 core courses, 2 elective courses from the Electives in Practice Domain, 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 10 core courses shall include
  - SOWK6002 Social policy and administration
  - SOWK6003 Social work research
  - SOWK6004 Theory and practice of social work
  - SOWK6233 Legal knowledge for social workers
  - SOWK7001 Human behaviour and the social environment
  - SOWK7002 Social science theories for social work
  - SOWK6241 Abnormal psychology
  - SOWK6242 Professional writing in social work
  - SOWK6243 Social services management
  - SOWK6244 Introduction to communication and helping skills
- (d) Two elective courses shall be chosen from the Electives in Practice Domain.
- (e) Field placement (compulsory)
  - SOWK6225 Field placement I
  - SOWK6231 Field placement II

(f) **Dissertation**

A candidate shall be required to present a satisfactory dissertation or two additional elective courses in either the Electives in Practice Domain or Electives in Analytical Domain in accordance with MSW7 and MSW7.1.

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**C. ASSESSMENT**

Ongoing assessment based on coursework will be conducted to appraise the candidates' 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. Written examination papers, tests, ongoing assessment, a dissertation or any combination of these shall constitute part or whole of the examination for one or more courses.

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**D. SYLLABUSES**

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**Core Courses**

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**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.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

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**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.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

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**SOWK6004. Theory and practice of social work**

This course introduces social work values and ethics, and the helping process of social work. Current trends and perspectives in theory and practice, and methods of social work are compared and discussed. 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. Important issues including human diversity, multicultural competence, and evidence-based practice are emphasized.

Assessment: 80% coursework, 20% examination.

### **SOWK6233. Legal knowledge for social workers**

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 candidates may commit to improving the various systems including the legal system.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

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### **SOWK7001. Human behaviour and the social environment**

This course provides a framework for understanding human behaviour in relation to the social environment. The life-span development of human beings and the interactions between individuals, systems and the environment will be emphasized. Core contents of the course cover: normal patterns of growth and psycho-social development; healthy personality and adjustment; life stresses and coping failures; psychological and socio-cultural influences in human behaviour; and the implications for social workers.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

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### **SOWK7002. Social science theories for social work**

Social workers have to work with people from various walks of life, having multifarious problems of different nature. The problems faced by the social work clients are basically rooted from personal as well as societal causes. This course covers a multitude of social science knowledge, such as sociology, social welfare, political science or economics that provide analytical frameworks for social work candidates to understand the possible factors leading to the emergence of problems faced by people in society. Candidates can then analyze problems against the context at the global, society and community levels, that can enable them to devise more appropriate intervention in their future practice.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

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### **SOWK6241. Abnormal psychology**

This course introduces the bases of clinical psychology through a broad survey of human abnormal behavior. The multiple causes of abnormal behavior will be viewed from a variety of theoretical perspectives. Current trends and research in the fields of mental health and psychopathology will be examined. Assessment, treatment and prevention will be discussed in the social work context.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

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### **SOWK6242. Professional writing in social work**

This course introduces English writing and communication skills for professional social work practice. It aims to enhance students' knowledge and practice of key linguistic features in professional social work writing with emphasis on the types of documentation required during placement. The course also focuses on the skills needed for effective participation in academic and professional discussion in English and fosters independent learning for language development. Students will engage in interactive cycles of practice, reflection and feedback from teachers and peers.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

### **SOWK6243. Social services management**

The aim of this course is to enable candidates to understand the management concepts, theories and practice in managing services and people in human service organizations. It discusses the dynamics of quality improvements, strategic planning, monitoring and control, management information system, performance appraisal, supervision, stress management, teamwork, financial management and change. Special reference is made to the recent reforms in social service sector and its management implications.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

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### **SOWK6244. Introduction to communication and helping skills**

This course focuses on the development of basic communication and helping skills used in direct social work practice. It emphasizes the theory and skills needed to conduct a successful interview and group session in a helping situation. The course demands self-reflection, active experimentation, and the integration of theory into practice. Candidates will learn basic concepts, skills and methods in the conscious, disciplined use of self within a purposeful intervention framework.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **Field Placement**

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#### **SOWK6225. Field placement I**

Fieldwork practice is an integral part of social work education with the emphasis on learning through practicum. In this course, students are placed in real life work situations to deliver services commensurate with social work professional requirement under the guidance of Field Instructors. Students have to acquaint with social work values and assumptions, develop continuous self reflection on learning, and demonstrate the application of basic social work service skills in practice. For professional accreditation, the Social Workers' Registration Board requires the fulfillment of 800 placement hours plus 100 hours for placement preparation. Students taking this course have to fulfill at least 450 placement hours.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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#### **SOWK6231. Field placement II**

Field work placement II serves as a transition practicum for student social workers to move towards becoming a full-fledged social worker. Students are trained to be responsible, able to cope with pressure and crisis, as well as to work independently. They should be aware of their strengths and weaknesses, and be ready to make continuous efforts to further develop in professional competence after graduation. For professional accreditation, the Social Workers' Registration Board requires the fulfillment of 800 placement hours plus 100 hours for placement preparation. Students taking this course have to fulfill at least 450 placement hours. Successful completion of SOWK6231 is a pre-requisite to this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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## **Dissertation**

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### **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 1 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.  
Assessment: 100% coursework.

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## **Electives in Practice Domain**

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### **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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **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 candidates' self-awareness and competence in handling critical incidents in clinical practice.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK6025. Family social work**

This course helps the candidate 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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

**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 candidates 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 candidate projects.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6055. Special topics in social work - A**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6056. Special topics in social work - B**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6057. Special topics in social work - C**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.



**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, candidates 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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**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. Candidates will be provided with experiential training on skills/techniques in working with patients in hospitals and in the community.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**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 candidates who intend to join the fields that work with young people.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

### **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 candidates' work situations.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **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 candidates to participate and experience the process.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK6140. Social work with family violence**

The issue of violence in intimate relationships is examined through multiple lenses. An introduction to the history of domestic violence, current theories and research on the causes of violence in intimate relationships, interventions and prevention models to addressing this worldwide problem will be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK6145. Marital counseling**

This course will examine the various issues brought up by couples as they work towards conciliation or reconciliation in their marriage. The psychodynamic, social learning and system approaches will provide the basic foundation concepts. These will be examined for their assessment and intervention focus and strategies, for their contribution in work with marriage difficulties whether they arise from personal vulnerabilities, reciprocal and intergenerational concerns and clashes, communication impasses or intimacy issues.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK6181. Models of working with young people**

The practices of youth work are governed by different models with different beliefs and assumptions on young people. Examples of these models are deficit model, positive development model, resilient model and integrated model, etc. This course will examine the beliefs and value base of these different models. The practices of youth work under these models will be studied. A main focus of this course will be on investigating youth work practice under the integrated model which is a popular and favoured model in delivering youth services in contemporary Hong Kong. Strengths and limitations in adopting this model will be critically examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6182. Psychosocial intervention for adolescent development**

Young people face many developmental challenges when they are getting mature into adulthood. Employing a psychosocial and developmental approach, this course will address issues such as body image, self-esteem, sexuality, illness, high-risk behaviour and mental health commonly encountered by young people. Some approaches of experiential intervention will be employed to enhance students' self-awareness and sensitivity. Exploration of a range of creative interventions, such as experiential games, meditation, psychodrama, encounter group and art therapy, in working with young people will be carried out.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6186. Community mental health: policies and practices**

Community care is a widely accepted principle and practice of care for persons with mental illnesses and mental health problems. This course will critically examine the theoretical, practice and policy issues relating to mental health care. Concepts and issues such as psychiatric rehabilitation, prevention in mental health and empowerment will be explored. The course will also review the strengths and limitations of some of the major community mental health services in Hong Kong.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6195. Therapeutic art intervention for older adult**

The use of artistic intervention to improve the quality of life of the elderly persons has gained attention from health care professionals quite recently. The course will introduce the theoretical perspectives and applications of art orientations in service delivery. Advanced skills of using different artistic and non-verbal communication means to enhance expression of those with dementia and neurological impairment will be taught by progressive and experiential methods.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**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 candidates 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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6208. Bereavement and end-of-life care**

End of life care exists on a continuum that includes palliative care and hospice care. Focus will be on the needs and the experience of the person who is ill and the family members. The course will examine the challenges individuals, families and service providers face surrounding life threatening illness and death. The course will cover ways that current and future approaches to care and services attempt to address these key concerns.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

**SOWK6209. Practice issues in mental health care**

Practitioners working with persons with mental health problems often face issues such as (1) finding ways of motivating persons with chronic mental health problems, (2) handling suicide, (3) dealing with emotional problems and disturbing behaviors of the persons, and (4) involving family members and other professionals in the helping process. This course will explore the theoretical and practical concerns revolving around these and other issues. Practical skills in handling the above issues will be role-played during classes.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6211. Counselling older adults and their families**

Students will explore theories and applications of assessment and intervention techniques with older persons and their families. The course introduces a range of counselling techniques, intervention strategies, psychotherapy, ethical and legal issues.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6216. Professional supervision in human service practices**

This course offers to students the knowledge and skills for practicing supervision in human services to meet the need of the beginning professionals in developing their knowledge and skills. This course focuses on the supporting and training functions of supervision. Students are expected to participate actively in class using their own experience to integrate the knowledge and skills in class.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**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. Candidates 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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6235. Separation, divorce and remarriage**

This course aims at enhancing candidate'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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**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 candidates 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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **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 candidates 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 candidates 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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK6245. Working with ethnically diverse communities in Hong Kong**

The 2006 Population By-census found (by way of self-identification) that there were about 342,000 non-Chinese people in Hong Kong, or about 5% of the population. Historically, people arrived in the territory from across the globe as colonisers, merchants, soldiers, low paid manual workers, domestic workers, professionals or for family reunion thus starting at different rungs of the social ladder. This gave rise to its multicultural flavour and justifiably becoming 'Asia's world city'. However, not all migrants have benefited from this miraculous growth. Some were pushed to the margins, excluded or made invisible. This course will benefit those who work with members of ethnic minority communities, intending to do so or who are curious about racial discrimination and multiculturalism in Hong Kong. Topics discussed include stigma, discrimination and prejudice in the context of history, gender, culture and religion of members of ethnic minority communities, new arrivals or immigrant families. Lectures, group and panel discussions as well as field visits will constitute the learning process.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK6246. Working with people with disabilities**

Social workers who work with people with disabilities nowadays should have critical mind and self-reflective attitudes to meet the challenges from the changing field of disabilities. To enhance quality of life of people with disabilities, social workers should have sensitivity to understand situations of individuals with disabilities, and have substantial knowledge of intervening in different levels of environments. Providing candidates an insightful learning process, this course uses interactive and experiential activities besides traditional one-way lectures. Guests, including friends with intellectual disabilities, friends with physical handicap, their carers and social workers, will be invited to come to the class to share their life experience. This course introduces candidates the paradigm shift in the field, the evolution of services affecting people with disabilities, and contemporary approaches to provide services to people with disabilities.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

### **SOWK6247. Counselling for older adults and their families**

This is a practice course for candidates who are interested in gaining knowledge and skills of counseling older people and their families. A multidimensional framework including the bio-psychosocial, developmental, family, ecological and spiritual perspectives will be adopted for assessment and intervention. The challenges and coping of the individual older adults and their families in face of the common 3Ds – depression, dementia and death will be examined in the context of care giving. Concepts about intimacy and connectedness in the dynamics of aged couples and also those between the adult children and their aged parents will be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK6249. Frontiers in interventions around death, dying and bereavement**

There are more than a hundred deaths each day in Hong Kong, but death is a taboo for most for us. The unfamiliarity towards death induces a sense of anxiety when this topic is brought up to us. Death-related problem is one of the commonest issues that clients bring to counseling, but is often rated as the most uncomfortable scenario by beginning counselors. This course is designed for students with an interest in understanding death, dying and bereavement. It offers a close examination on the challenges individual, families and service providers face surrounding life-threatening illness and death. Theories and intervention strategies on end-of-life and bereavement care are reviewed. The course aims to increase students' competence in working with clients facing death, dying, loss and trauma.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK7004. Experiencing drama and movement therapy**

This course gives students an opportunity to a self exploration journey through drama and movement therapy and a basic understanding of the Sesame approach. This incorporates the philosophies and theories of certain key psychologists and psychotherapists, namely C.G. Jung, R. Laban, P. Slade and M. Lindkvist. Through lectures, group presentations, session facilitations and experiential workshop, students can reflect on how this approach has worked for them and the application of drama and movement techniques in the social work setting. It also provides students a picture for further academic development in this profession, as well as other related approaches.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK7005. Theory and practice of employment assistance services**

Employment assistance service (EAS) has become one of the major social work interventions in Hong Kong. Billions of resources have been invested in enhancing the work capacity as well as employability of Hong Kong's workforce every year through various departments (e.g. Vocational Training Council, and Employees Retraining Board) and NGOs. A significant portion of social workers are actively engaging in employment related services such as development of a return to work action plan for the CSSA recipients, sharing labour market information and improving job search skills for the trainees of ERB's placement-tile programmes and so on. This course helps to provide basic training in theory and practice to social work students so that they can be equipped to become a competent social worker in providing employment assistance services soon after they are recruited into the employment related departments or agencies.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

**SOWK6251. The counseling process and models**

An overview of the process of counselling, the major theories/models in counselling and their applications will be introduced in this course. The politics of counselling, the therapeutic relationship and ethical issues will be examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6252. Conflict resolution and mediation**

This course will examine the nature of interpersonal conflicts and the strategies of conflict resolution . The course reviews key elements of negotiation and mediation from different perspectives. The essence of mediation is to achieve a 'win-win' situation of concerned parties. Students will be able to master the basic skills of negotiation and mediation. The course is designed for intended practitioners who are interested in undertaking mediation in various settings.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6253. Essentials in counseling practice**

Profession counseling helps individuals to identify and strengthen their capacity in resolving developmental issues, situational demands and crisis as well as working through inner and interpersonal conflicts. The objective of this foundation course is to equip students with the basic knowledge and skills of counseling, so as to enable them to undertake counseling at a beginner's level. The course will cover the following areas : the attributes of an effective counselor; counseling theories; basic counseling skills; and ethical issues in counseling; roles and focus of counseling in different settings, including schools, social services, private organizations, medical and health settings.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6254. Advanced practice in group work**

This course examines the nature and dynamics of the small group as a mode of social work intervention, as it relates to the treatment of a range of behavioral and interpersonal problems. The course reviews selected group work models, group development, and group dynamics. This course is designed for those students who have already obtained some fundamental group work knowledge and skills in other courses and is tailored to enable students to apply relevant knowledge and skills in relation to their fieldwork experiences.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6261. Social work in school settings**

The objective of school counseling is to enhance students' whole person development through the provision of remedial, preventive and developmental services in school settings. Phenomena such as students' suicide, physical and sexual abuse, mental health issues, study problems and school violence pose great challenges to a school counselor. Adopting the ecological perspective, this course will examine: the service provision of school guidance and counseling service in Hong Kong, the multiple roles of a school counselor, the establishment of collaborative relationship with school personnel, the application of practice theories and intervention strategies to individual and school-based family counseling, and the implementation of comprehensive school guidance and counseling programmes. By participating in this course, social work students will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to be a competent school counselor.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6262. Counselling in human resource development and training**

Concepts and strategies in human resource development and training will be introduced. Students will be equipped with the techniques in conducting need assessment, team building, effective communication, problem solving and decision making, crisis management and customer relationship management. Experiential approach is emphasized in this course to enhance students' experience and competence in implementing human resource development and training.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**Electives in Analytical Domain**

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**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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6032. Legal issues and legislative processes**

This course critically examines the legal system in various Chinese communities and some of the legislation that applies particularly to social work practice. The social worker's role and advocacy on behalf of clients' rights, legislative changes and their implications will also be addressed.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.



**SOWK6058. Special topics in social work - D**

Any specific topics in social work that reflect current topical and changing needs in the community.  
Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6059. Special topics in social work - E**

Any specific topics in social work that reflect current topical and changing needs in the community.  
Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**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.  
Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6069. Aging and society**

Hong Kong society, like other developed countries, has been facing the challenge of an aging population. The elderly people are having special needs in health care, financial arrangement, housing, social recreation, consumption, etc. The society should devise appropriate policies, practices, facilities, etc. accordingly to meet with the challenge of an expanding elderly population. This course provides analytical frameworks for candidates to understand the multifarious needs of the elderly and the relevant practice models in the various policy domains, to enable candidates to engage in related fields of practice in various professions.  
Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**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 candidates 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.  
Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**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 candidates 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.  
Assessment: 100% coursework.

### **SOWK6132. Economics for social welfare**

This course aims to help students examine the use of concepts and theories from the economics discipline in analyzing social policies. As working knowledge of economic concepts and theories is essential for most professional roles in social administration, this course seeks both to convey the framework and concepts with which economists approach issues and to increase the likelihood that students will incorporate these in their own thinking about policy. Topics discussed will include the relationship between economic growth and social development, the role of the public sector in human service, the financing of social services, and the economic effects of social spending. Current topics such as the economics of aging will also be examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK6139. Theoretical foundation of human service practices**

The knowledge base of human service practices comes from a wide spectrum of social science disciplines including psychology, sociology and political science. This course will provide the philosophical and conceptual basis for analyzing social problems and issues and translating these theoretical constructs into human service practices.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK6150. Information and communication technology for human service organizations**

Information and communication technology is becoming an indispensable machinery in any organization. This course examines the utilization of information technology and computers in social service agencies. Major areas of study include (1) a review of the trends in the human service agencies' use of computerized information; (2) an exploration of software frequently used in the human services; and (3) the ethics of using information technology and computers in the human services.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK6154. Marketing social welfare programmes and promoting community relations**

As social welfare organizations increasingly adopt the business model of practice, they have to significantly promote their relationship and communication with their "customers" or service users through marketing their "products" and improving the community relations. This course provides students with some basic techniques in marketing and community relations with special emphasis on the social service sector.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6156. Financial planning and management for human service organizations**

The course introduces and examines concepts and practices critical to good financial planning and management. The objective is to enable students to learn skills and strategies for budgeting. Emphasis will be given to the understanding of the financial activities and reports essential to management, as well as analysis and use of financial information in planning, budgeting and measuring results to promote the organization's mission and goals.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6185. Qualitative research methods**

This course is designed for candidates 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 candidates proceed with their own research projects. Hands-on experience of a range of research techniques will also be provided.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6193. Social gerontology**

This course provides a comprehensive, holistic view of ageing that considers the implications for an older person's interactions with their social and physical environments, including the immediate environment of family, friends, and home, as well as the larger social structure of community, organizations, and society. It also aims to impart knowledge to students about the most important social theories on ageing and the time dimension in the ageing process and its relation to the evolution of larger society.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6201. Mental health problems in old age**

This course explores the types of mental illnesses among the elderly in Hong Kong. Attention will be put towards the understanding of the causes and treatments of mental illness in the elderly population. A critical review of medical, psychological and social services for the elderly with mental illness will be conducted.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

### **SOWK6207. Social policy and ageing**

The course is designed to examine the concepts of social policy and ageing, and the various models available for the analysis of social policy. By analyzing local and foreign services and policy regarding the elderly people, students will become familiar with the roles of government and non-government organizations in implementing public policies. This should further the understanding of the development of social services to meet the needs of the elderly in the context of economic and social change. Basic concepts of social planning, problem identification and programme implementation will be examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK6213. Organizational analysis and strategic management in human service organizations**

This course aims at helping managers of human service organizations to be equipped with the knowledge in strategic management to deal with the current challenges arising from the rapidly changing public and social service scene. Topics may include strategic planning, quality management, risk management, change management, business process re-engineering, etc.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK6214. Children and youth mental health**

This course focuses on an understanding of the mental health issues found among children and youth in Hong Kong. While it will introduce the developmental perspectives on child and adolescent development, it will also provide an overview of the prevalence and general features of different childhood and adolescent mental health problems. The course will also bear a practice focus and introduce to students the assessment, treatment and skills in engaging children and youth suffering from various mental health problems.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK6217. Current social welfare policy issues**

This course provides a framework of analyzing and formulating social policy in the current social, political and economic environment. Current social welfare policy issues including social welfare planning mechanisms, welfare blue print, strategic framework for social welfare, district planning, and other relevant issues will be examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK6218. Fund raising and proposal development**

Securing funds for social services have become more and more competitive. Reducing reliance on any single source of income, NGOs have attempted to diversify sources of funding. Raising funds and writing proposals have been regular activities of NGOs. This course covers topics such as the concepts of philanthropy, the understanding of giving behaviour (including annual giving and capital giving), cost-effectiveness of various fund raising activities, use of volunteers, building prospect relationships, stewardship (accountability and reporting), ethical issues of fund raising, making a business case for new initiatives, obtaining grant and project support, etc.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

**SOWK6221. Information technology and society**

This course examines the various issues related to the impact of the development of information and communication technology on modern society. Such issues range from family and interpersonal relationship, organizational changes, social organization, digital divide and politics. Relevant theories, researches, social interventions and social policy will be covered in this semester course.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6226. Adaptation and integration in ageing**

This course examines the process of ageing with reference to the biological, psychological, social changes on the life course of an individual. The course also facilitates participants to explore the different key ageing theories that may account for the ageing process. It focuses on topics related to perceptual, cognitive, personality, and interpersonal social development and an individual's adaptation to these responses.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**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 candidates 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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6248. Addictive behavior**

This course introduces the growing body of knowledge on pathological addictive behaviours. Topics to be covered include drug abuse, alcoholism, computer addiction, and compulsive buying. Various models on the biological, psychological, and social factors related to the course of addiction will be explored. Assessment, treatment, and prevention strategies will also be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6250. Comparative social policy**

The course will examine social security, health, housing, and education policies in Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan in comparison to industrialized countries. It will focus on alternative programme designs and their implications so as to highlight the potential and limitations of different policy alternatives.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK7003. Basic medical knowledge for social work students**

Medical Social Work is a very important component in our health care system. It is a crucial interface between health care and social welfare sector. Medical education and social work education however have not been developed from the same vein historically. Their fundamental outlooks and values are often different. There is a need to bridge the two. This course is designed to help social work students to understand the perspectives of medical practitioners and enhance their communication with the medical team.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

**SOWK6255. Insight and discovery in life journey**

Professional counselors have to make good use of the ‘self’ as the most important tool for facilitating changes in clients in the counseling process. This human dimension of one’s values, needs, and personality trait will greatly influence the helping process. To lay a solid foundation for students to appreciate the essence of counseling, this course invites the students to start the journey from within themselves. Through reflective exercises, discussions, and assigned readings, the students will go through a self-discovery journey, visiting issues of body, gender, love, work, and death. This courses will enhance the students’ understanding of their values and philosophy of life. Throughout the an active-learning and experiential approach will be adopted.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6256. Civil society organizations and social development**

The course examines theories and concepts related to the development of civil society. The important role of civic society organizations (CSOs) in developing civil society in Hong Kong and internationally will be examined. CSO’s that work upon relevant public policy areas, including urban development, housing, social welfare, home affairs, sustainable development, etc., would be examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**Not all elective courses will necessarily be offered in a given year.**

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