

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (MSocSc)

(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.

The degree of Master of Social Sciences (MSocSc) is a postgraduate degree awarded for the satisfactory completion of a prescribed course of study in one of the following fields: Behavioral Health; Clinical Psychology; Counselling; Criminology; Educational Psychology; Gerontology; Marriage and Family Therapy; Media, Culture and Creative Cities; Mental Health; Social Service Management and Social Work. These fields of study will not necessarily be offered every year.

Admission requirements

MSS1 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences, 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.

MSS2 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 in the fields as prescribed in the syllabuses if they demonstrate adequate preparation for studies at this level and satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination.

Qualifying examination

MSS3

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidates' formal academic ability or their ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent and may include a project report.
 - (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

MSS4 To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Social Sciences, candidates

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

MSS5 The curriculum shall extend over not less than one or two academic year of full-time study; or two to three academic years of part-time study, with a minimum of 300 hours of prescribed work and shall include examinations of courses in the manner as prescribed in the syllabuses.

MSS5.1 In the field of study in Marriage and Family Therapy, the curriculum shall extend to a maximum of 5 academic years of part-time study in which the candidates shall enrol in a minimum of two modules for every academic year.

MSS5.2 In the field of study in Criminology, the curriculum shall extend over not less than one and not more than two academic years of full-time study or not less than two and not more than four academic years of part-time study.

Completion of curriculum

MSS6 To complete the curriculum, candidates

- (a) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work and field work;
 - (b) shall complete and present a satisfactory dissertation in lieu of the specified number of paper(s) in the examination as prescribed in the syllabuses;
 - (c) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of examination.
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Title of dissertation

MSS7 Subject to the provisions of Regulation MSS 6(b), the title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval by not later than March 31 of the final academic year in which the teaching programme ends and the dissertation shall be presented by a date as prescribed in the syllabuses for each field of study; candidates shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents their own work (or in the case of conjoint work, a statement countersigned by their co-worker(s), which show their share of the work) undertaken after registration as candidates for the degree.

Examinations

MSS8

- (a) Where so prescribed in the syllabuses, coursework or a dissertation shall constitute part or whole of the examination for one or more courses.
- (b) An assessment of the candidates' coursework during their studies, including completion of written assignments and participation in field work or laboratory work, as the case may be, may be taken into account in determining the candidates' result in each written examination paper; or, where so prescribed in the syllabuses, may constitute the examination of one or more courses.

MSS9 Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners at their first attempt in not more than half of the number of courses to be examined, whether by means of written examination papers or coursework assessment, during any of the academic years of study, may be permitted

- (a) to present themselves for re-examination in the course or courses of failure, with or without repeating any part of the curriculum; or
- (b) to repeat a year of the curriculum and present themselves for examination in the courses prescribed for the repeated year.

MSS10 Subject to the provision of Regulation MSS 6(b), candidates who have failed to present a satisfactory dissertation/clinical paper may be permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation/clinical paper within a specified period.

MSS11 Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners in any prescribed field work/practical work/internship may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination in field work/practical work/internship within a specified period.

MSS12 Candidates who are unable because of their 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 the form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of the candidates' absence from the examination.

MSS13 Candidates who

- (a) are not permitted to present themselves for re-examination in any written paper or any course examined by means of coursework assessment, or in field work or practical work in which they have failed to satisfy the examiners and are not permitted to repeat a year of the curriculum under Regulation MSS 9; or
- (b) have failed to satisfy the examiners in any written paper or any course examined by means of coursework assessment, or field work or practical work at a second attempt; or
- (c) are not permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation under the provision of Regulation MSS 10; or
- (d) have failed to submit a satisfactory new or revised dissertation under the provision of Regulation MSS 10

may be required to discontinue their studies.

Examination results

MSS14 A list of candidates who have successfully completed all the degree requirements and are to be awarded the Master of Social Sciences shall be published. Candidates who have shown exceptional merit at 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 SCIENCES (MSocSc)

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The Department of Social Work and Social Administration offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in Behavioral Health. The programme provides systematic and comprehensive training in behavioral health with the integration of Eastern and Western holistic orientation for healthcare professionals such as medical doctors, nurses, social workers, psychologists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, counsellors, counselling teachers, sports and fitness instructors, dieticians, Chinese medicine practitioners and complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) practitioners.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Admission requirements for the degree of Master of Social Sciences have to be met. Candidates who have an academic or work background in a field related to healthcare are preferred. Related fields include medicine, nursing, social work, psychology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, counselling, education, sports and fitness instruction, dietary and nutritional science, Chinese medicine and CAM.

Candidates are normally required to have a minimum of two years of relevant post qualification experience.

EXEMPTION

Candidates may be granted exemption of up to three courses 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. Candidates with exemption granted are required to take an additional elective course to replace the exempted course to meet the degree requirements.

EXAMINATIONS

To complete the curriculum, candidates shall satisfy the examiners in the examination of courses and a practicum or a dissertation as prescribed in the curriculum. Candidates may be assessed by continual coursework assessment, written examinations, or a combination of both. The grading system follows the standard practice in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum shall extend over not less than one and not more than two academic years of full-time study; or not less than two and not more than three academic years of part-time study, inclusive of intervening vacations.

Candidates are required to complete eight taught courses, of which four are compulsory courses. Each course comprises the equivalent of at least thirty-six contact hours.

Candidates may be approved to enroll up to two courses offered by other postgraduate programmes of the Faculty as substitutes of elective courses in this programme. The substitute must be relevant to behavioral health and comprise the equivalent of at least thirty-six contact hours.

In addition, candidates are required to complete a practicum or dissertation. They are expected to devote 220 hours on the practicum or dissertation and are required to present a progress report on their practicum or dissertation. Candidates are allowed to opt for the dissertation only if they have at least three years of practical experience in healthcare and the ability to conduct research.

Compulsory Courses

Candidates shall complete the following courses.

MSBH6104	Spirituality in clinical practice
MSBH7001	Introduction to behavioral health
MSBH7004	Assessment of behavioral health
MSBH7005	Scientific inquiry and research methods in behavioral health

Elective Courses

Candidates shall complete four of the following courses.

MSBH6001	The body: health and illnesses
MSBH6101	Counselling and psychotherapy
MSBH6103	Chinese cultural health practices
MSBH6106	Abnormal psychology
MSBH6117	Working with special target populations
MSBH6118	Selected topics
MSBH6119	Special interventions: theories and techniques
MSBH7006	Play therapy in counselling
MSBH7007	Introduction to energy therapy methods
EXAT7101	Fundamentals of music therapy
EXAT7102	Fundamentals of drama therapy
EXAT7103	Fundamentals of art therapy
EXAT7104	Fundamentals of dance and movement therapy
SOWK6158	Critical issues in human development
SOWK6185	Qualitative research methods
SOWK6259	Contemporary perspectives on death, dying and bereavement
SOWK6274	Theory and practice of positive psychology and strength-based interventions

Practicum or Dissertation

Candidates shall complete one of the following courses.

MSBH6201	Practicum
MSBH6202	Dissertation

(Note: not all courses will necessarily be offered in a given year.)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

MSBH6104 Spirituality in clinical practice

Spirituality is usually considered as the human longing for a sense of meaning and fulfillment in life. It embraces but not limited to elements of religious beliefs and practices. It is often an expression for life perceived as higher, more complex or more integrated with one's worldview and commonly regarded as an essential part of an individual's holistic health and well-being. Proceeding from the theoretical knowledge of spirituality, this module is devoted to experiential learning through class exercises, visits, self-reflection and case reviews. Relevant topics across different religious and

spiritual practices will be covered and students will be able to practice spiritual-based counseling with solid theoretical foundation. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSBH7001 Introduction to behavioral health

The course aims at orientating the students to the arts and science of behavioral health as well as the integrative body-mind-spirit approach in holistic health care. It covers the history, rationale, research, development and policy in behavioral health. Developments in both the East and the West will be briefly reviewed. This course is intended to introduce graduate students to the variety of intervention approaches and techniques in behavioral health. The theoretical framework and clinical efficacy of the approaches will be examined. Implications and practical applications for helping professionals will be deliberated. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSBH7004 Assessment of behavioral health

The course critically examines assessment and testing in the context of mental health practice. Addressing the multidimensionality nature of mental disorders, emphasis will be on developing students' competence in conducting comprehensive history taking and developing multidimensional case formulation, from which strategic-holistic treatment plan can be derived. Focus of assessment is not limited to the illness itself, but is also about illness behaviors with special attention to cultural factors. In addition to precipitating and predisposing factors, the significance of maintaining factors is highlighted, especially in a systemic framework. To promote evidence-based practice, interpretation of research evidence for best practices, test sensitivity and specificity, scale reliability and validity for assessment and testing will be deliberated. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSBH7005 Scientific inquiry and research methods in behavioral health

This course covers the nature and logic of scientific inquiry, and fundamental concepts like truth, reality, ontology and epistemology. Basic quantitative and qualitative research methods are covered; advanced research methods and specific approaches in behavioral health i.e. biofeedback, use of images and movement in research etc will also be introduced. Students will learn to be critical consumers of the scientific literature. Towards the end of the course, students are required to prepare a research proposal in which classroom learning can be applied to practical examples in behavioral health. Assessment: 100% coursework

Elective Courses

MSBH6001 The body: health and illnesses

This course covers the basic biomedical aspects of health and illnesses; making the link between the physical body to the emotional and behavioral manifestations; common clinical encounters covering marriage, sexual health, family and conception, infertility, child health, adolescent period, men's and women's health, mental health, the elderly and palliative care. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSBH6101 Counselling and psychotherapy

This course introduces the student to counseling and psychotherapy. Topics covered include major approaches, prevention, values and professional ethics, cultural issues, communication, relationship-building strategies, problem identification, problem solving, goal setting and

implementation, self-help and self-growth. Basic principles of educational psychology will be followed.

Students are expected to be active seekers, not passive recipients, of knowledge and to participate actively in collective learning. Emphasis is placed on the cultivation of independent, critical, and reflective thought through reading, discussion, and experiential learning (e.g., role playing). Assessment: 100% coursework

MSBH6103 Chinese cultural health practices

In light of increasing emphasis on cultural competence, this course examines the merits and problems of importing western therapy modalities into the local scene. Attention is drawn to psychological wisdom in ancient Chinese religions and belief systems, including Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism. Basic ideas of health and illness in Traditional Chinese Medicine are also reviewed. Chinese health practices such as herbology, acupuncture, qi-gong, and health exercises are examined. The course also consists of an experiential component in which students are expected to learn the Tai Chi Qi-gong 18 Style or the Baduanjin. Students are encouraged to incorporate some of these elements into western counseling and therapy work to construct an indigenous treatment for the Chinese client. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSBH6106 Abnormal psychology

This graduate level course will expose students to past and current research regarding concepts of “abnormal” behaviour, and the processes of clinical assessment of various types of psychological disorders – particularly the neurotic, psychotic, and mood disorders. A variety of class exercises – including small group activities and video tapes are used to understand mental disorders. A number of controversial issues in abnormal psychology will also be explored and discussed in the course. The newest edition of the multi-axial *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5, 2013)* will serve as the explanatory basis for the description and analysis of these dysfunctional conditions. Although this is not a “therapy course”, we will also glance at accepted treatment strategies for particular diagnostic categories. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSBH6117 Working with special target populations

This course covers selected topics that pertain to special populations or problems (e.g., cancer, AIDS, smoking, addictive gambling). Assessment: 100% coursework

MSBH6118 Selected topics

This course covers selected topics that meet acute societal needs, or are of current interest or on the cutting edge of knowledge advancement in behavioral health. Examples are prevention and coping with pandemic crises; reproductive health; gender, sexuality, and well-being; domestic violence. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSBH6119 Special interventions: theories and techniques

This course covers intervention models that are of current interest in behavioral health. Examples are forgiveness therapy, narrative therapy, meaning-reconstruction interventions, and mindfulness-based therapy. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSBH7006 Play therapy in counselling

This course is intended as an introduction to the use of play therapy in working with individuals and families. The students will be presented with the essential elements and principles of play therapy, including history, theories modalities, techniques, working principles and basic skills of play therapy. This course is based on the educational standards set by the Association of Play Therapy (US) and is taught by a registered play therapist. Students who take this course are advised to take MSBH6101 also. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSBH7007 Introduction to energy therapy methods

This course introduces a new approach in managing emotional distress that has gained wide acceptance in America and Germany. Being part of the new field of Energy Medicine, this approach addresses the bioenergetics aspects of emotional distress and offer rapid relief through dissipating the maladaptive energy configurations. Energy Therapy methods incorporate affirmative self-statements in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and concepts of energy and meridians in Traditional Chinese Medicine. The course carries a practical component and students are expected to master the technique of muscle testing to diagnose the affected meridians and instruct the client to tap specific acupuncture points for therapeutic effects. Assessment: 100% coursework

EXAT7101 Fundamentals of music therapy

Through both listening to and actively making music, the intentional application of sound and music in therapy has been used for a variety of purposes. Expressive arts therapists who wish to use music in treatment have to become aware of how the properties of rhythm, pitch, and tempo affect all levels of healing from expression to relaxation. By increasing comfort with a variety of musical instruments, genres and styles, students can identify when to offer specific interventions to advance therapy and healing. In becoming secure in the history and foundational theories of the field of music therapy, practitioners can locate their work in a larger theoretical context, while being mindful of cultural variances and considerations. Students who take this course are advised to take MSBH6101 also. Assessment: 100% coursework

EXAT7102 Fundamentals of drama therapy

Theatre and dramatic activity have often been used to communicate essential truths and to express particular values. Within the context of therapy, drama allows clients to recreate life experiences, imagine new ones, and experiment with alternate endings and choices. Through re-enactment or witnessing others tell one's story, acting is essential modality of healing. Understanding the history of the fields of psychodrama and drama therapy while taking into consideration such activities as improvisation, pantomime and playback theatre, expressive arts therapy can learn to offer drama in therapeutic and educational settings. Developing cultural sensitivity, self-awareness and critical appreciation will allow students to be competent in offering drama activities with clients. Students who take this course are advised to take MSBH6101 also. Assessment: 100% coursework

EXAT7103 Fundamentals of art therapy

This course is designed for helping service professionals, educators, and artists to learn about the practice and profession of art therapy. Content area covered will focus on history, theories and application of art therapy with various populations. In addition to lectures and discussions, students will participate in experiential art workshops to facilitate their understanding of the expressive nature of art making. Although this course does not qualify students to practice art therapy, students will gain

awareness of art in therapeutic settings and how to ethically apply art making in their work settings. This course is based on the education standards of the American Art Therapy Association and is taught by a registered and board certified art therapist in the United States. Students who take this course are advised to take MSBH6101 also. Assessment: 100% coursework

EXAT7104 Fundamentals of dance and movement therapy

As one of the modalities engaged by creative and expressive arts therapists, dance and movement allow individuals to express, communicate, and engage in healing through their bodies. Engaged in a variety of clinical and educational settings, dance and movement can be engaged as effective nonverbal interventions. In order to be able to use it effectively, practitioners must be grounded in anatomy, comfortable with their own body awareness, and attuned to the artistic, social, and cultural influences that affect movement. By exploring the history of the field of dance and movement therapy and the various ways to involve the body in therapy, students will be able to use dance and/or movement as a way to help facilitate the process during interventions with clinical and non-clinical populations. Students who take this course are advised to take MSBH6101 also. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6158 Critical issues in human development

This course examines factors affecting human development through an exploration of the normal patterns of growth from infancy to old age. Individual, social, and familial conditions affecting growth at different stages in the life cycle will be studied, together with related problems of adaptation and adjustment, with particular foci on current thinking in the field of developmental psychology. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6185 Qualitative research methods

This seminar course is designed for post-graduate students with an interest in understanding different aspects of social life and social relations, especially those who will undertake a dissertation or thesis study. The focus is on introducing the general process of ethnographic research and the variety of methods for data collection and analysis including grounded theory, oral history, narrative analysis and action research, etc., Seminar will be organized around practical methodological issues, with the objective to help students proceed with their own research projects. Hands-on experience of a range of research techniques will also be provided. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6259 Contemporary perspectives on death, dying and bereavement

Death is an inevitable life experience for everyone. Death-related problem is one of the commonest issues that clients brought to counseling, but is also rated as the most uncomfortable scenario by beginning counselors. This course is aimed to orientate those in helping profession the updated knowledge and intervention on death, dying and bereavement. Reviewing major theories related to death, including end-of-life situation, suicide, trauma and bereavement, the students are expected to have a better understanding of the universality of impermanence, and the impact of death towards individuals and societies. Updated intervention strategies on end-of-life care and bereavement care will be introduced. It is hoped to equip those who are working with or going to work with clients facing death, dying and bereavement with both the knowledge and practical competence. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6274 Theory and practice of positive psychology and strength-based interventions

Traditionally counseling psychology and psychotherapy have focused on the assessment and intervention of problems and disorders. The recent development of positive psychology and strength-based interventions led by prominent psychologists such as Martin Seligman have revoked this prevalent pattern and made a revolutionary turn. Positive psychology emphasizes the discovery and cultivation of human strengths and potential, and strength-based interventions focus on positive goal setting and development of strengths such as resilience, hope, optimism, engagement, gratitude and positive emotions. This course will critically review the theory and practice of positive psychology and strength-based interventions including the constructs of happiness, wellness, optimism, resilience, flow, and hope, etc. Cultural factors in positive psychology and strength-based interventions in the local settings will be examined. Students will have the chance to develop an indigenous project of positive psychology in this course. Assessment: 100% coursework

Practicum or Dissertation

MSBH6201 Practicum

The practicum comprises 200 hours of prescribed work in healthcare settings under guidance by a supervisor, plus at least 20 hours of tutorials. A practicum report of not more than 10,000 words shall be submitted by not later than April 30 of the final academic year of study. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSBH6202 Dissertation

The dissertation shall demonstrate the student's ability to apply sound research methodology to investigate problems relevant to the field of study. It shall not exceed 20,000 words in length. The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval by not later than March 31 of the final academic year of study, and the dissertation shall be presented by not later than June 30 of the final academic year of study. Assessment: 100% coursework

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

The Department of Psychology offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Clinical Psychology. The programme aims to train competent and professional clinical psychologists and has an emphasis on science-based practices.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for admission to the programme, a candidate shall

- (a) comply with the regulations for the degree of Master of Social Sciences;
 - (b) hold a Bachelor's degree with Honours in Psychology or a recognized equivalent qualification; and
 - (c) pass a qualifying examination prior to admission, if required; and take other tests as may be prescribed, and have the score reports of such tests sent to the Programme Admissions Advisor.
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STRUCTURE AND EVALUATION

The curriculum shall extend over two years and the intervening vacations, or its part time equivalent. The full-time curriculum consists of a total of 60 credits. Candidates are required to complete 16 compulsory courses, including 14 taught courses each given three units of credit (a total of 42 credits), a 2-year practicum course with a total of 12 credits (PSYC6001 Practicum) and a dissertation research course given 6 credits (PSYC8006 Dissertation). Nine of the taught courses are normally taken in the first year and the remaining five in the second year. Each credit-unit is roughly equivalent to one hour of teaching per week. Whereas the first year of the curriculum shall focus on the theoretical foundations and basis skills training in Clinical Psychology, the second year shall extend to include the application of the theories and assessment and treatment models to special populations in various clinical settings. The courses are as follows:

First year

PSYC6001	Practicum
PSYC7002	Assessment of personality and psychopathology
PSYC7003	Individual psychotherapy I
PSYC7004	Individual psychotherapy II
PSYC7005	Psychopathology I
PSYC7006	Psychopathology II
PSYC7018	Cognitive assessment
PSYC7019	Research methods and statistics I
PSYC7020	Research methods and statistics II
PSYC7009	Clinical seminar I

Second year

PSYC6001	Practicum
PSYC8001	Clinical seminar II
PSYC8002	Community and health psychology
PSYC8003	Family and group therapy
PSYC8004	Clinical neuropsychology
PSYC8005	Ethics and professional issues
PSYC8006	Dissertation

The courses listed above may be offered at a different year of study.

EXAMINATIONS

Examinations of the courses followed by a candidate may be either by a written paper in the examination held in December or May of the academic year of study, or by continuous assessment of the candidates' performance in completing the requirements of these courses, or by a combination of these methods.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PSYC6001 Practicum (12 credits)

This course consists of a minimum of 220 days of clinical placement. Students will gain practical experience in working with a variety of client groups with different problems across the life span. They will have the opportunity to work in different settings such as hospitals, social services agencies,

and various government departments. The practical training includes supervised practice in assessment techniques, case formulation, and treatment planning/procedures. Students will also learn the work culture in different settings, and how to function effectively in different teams or structures. Activities such as case conferences, workshops and seminars conducted by the placement settings also form part of the training. The practical work of students will be subjected to continuous assessment by supervisors of each placement.

Assessment: 100% practicum

PSYC7002 Assessment of personality and psychopathology (3 credits)

This course covers offers a survey of basic principles and methods of personality and psychopathology assessment. This course aims to enhance students' practical skills in psychological assessment and to foster their ability to critically evaluate commonly-used assessment techniques from a scientist-practitioner perspective. Cultural issues relating to personality and mental health assessment will be explored.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7003 Individual psychotherapy I (3 credits)

This course introduces the common principles and skills of psychotherapies. In addition to reviewing the theoretical rationale and recent research and clinical literature, this course also focuses on the application of the empirically-supported therapeutic techniques to clinical and special populations.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7004 Individual psychotherapy II (3 credits)

The course focuses on the application of evidence-based psychotherapeutic approaches to the treatment of specific psychological disorders in both adults and children. Cultural issues in the practice of psychotherapy will be discussed when appropriate. Experienced clinicians are invited to introduce common treatment approaches applied to different populations in Hong Kong. In addition, new developments and contemporary issues in psychotherapy will be critically examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7005 Psychopathology I (3 credits)

In this course, students will learn important theoretical concepts in the definition and classification of mental disorders. They will study specific disorders of childhood and adulthood. Strong emphasis is placed on the conceptualisation of psychopathology with reference to current research findings. Issues in the diagnosis and etiology of specific disorders will also be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7006 Psychopathology II (3 credits)

This course aims to enhance the diagnostic and conceptualisation skills of students through the continuous study of adult and childhood disorders. Emphasis will be placed upon the integration of theoretical conceptualisation, clinical practice and research. Attention will also be given to special issues of concern in both the Eastern and Western contexts.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7018 Cognitive assessment (3 credits)

This course provides a basic introduction to the assessment of cognitive functioning. Students learn to administer, score, and interpret a number of commonly-used cognitive tests. Students also learn to integrate test results into professional psychological reports. Basic psychometric principles, codes of professional conduct, and cultural issues relating to psychological assessment will be discussed. Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7019 Research methods and statistics I (3 credits)

This course covers intermediate research methods and statistics. Issues on psychological measurement and experimental designs are presented. The course uses empirical examples in psychology to illustrate various research designs and statistical methods and to ensure that students become intelligent consumers of research findings. Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7020 Research methods and statistics II (3 credits)

This course covers advanced research methods and statistics. Multivariate techniques are introduced to address complex research questions in psychology. At the end of the course, students are expected to develop a viable research proposal in preparation for their theses according to the standards of the American Psychological Association. Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7009 Clinical seminar I (3 credits)

A series of skills-training workshops is offered. Each workshop provides practical training on clinical assessment and intervention skills. The workshops are designed to prepare trainees for supervised training in clinical placements. Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC8001 Clinical seminar II (3 credits)

The seminar provides in-depth clinical case discussions, with a focus on case conceptualization and treatment planning for a range of complex psychological problems. Emphasis is placed on integration of psychological theories and clinical practice, as well as training on therapeutic skills and treatment strategies. Students will get the chance to learn advanced knowledge and skills in specialist areas. Experienced clinical psychologists may be invited to share their expertise on specialized topics. Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC8002 Community and health psychology (3 credits)

This course overviews key theoretical concepts in community and health psychology. The course critically examines mainstream medical model of mental health and explores alternative ones from the lens of community and critical psychology. Another objective is to examine the role of psychologists in medical and health settings and psychological aspects of medical problems. The application of community and health psychology in the local context will be discussed. Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC8003 Family and group therapy (3 credits)

This course provides an overview of the theories and practice of family and group interventions. For Family Intervention, it covers fundamental concepts, theories and frameworks in working with families and couples. Students will be able to develop knowledge in the history and development of family therapy, systemic theories as early foundations of family therapy, and research in the application of family therapy. The course will be conducted in didactic lectures with case illustrations, videos and exercises.

The Group Intervention component aims to familiarize the trainees with the major theories, principles and techniques of group interventions through reading, discussion, videos and role plays. Group development, dynamics and different stages in the group processes will be examined. The empirical basis for efficacy of group interventions and group interventions for different populations and different psychological disorders will be addressed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC8004 Clinical neuropsychology (3 credits)

This course aims to provide an overview of basic functional neuroanatomy and clinical neuropathology. Literature in neuroscience and clinical neuropsychology will be reviewed and discussed.

Neuropsychological assessment approaches will be introduced.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC8005 Ethics and professional issues (3 credits)

The focus of this course is on the process of ethical decision making in the professional practice of clinical psychology. Models of ethical decision making will be introduced, discussed, and applied. In addition to the Code of Professional Conduct published by the Hong Kong Psychological Society, a number of ethical codes, guidelines, and standards of practice will be reviewed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC8006 Dissertation (6 credits)

While in residence, each student proposes and completes a substantive, scholarly work relevant to clinical psychology. The dissertation must represent a student's individual work. The examiners may also prescribe an oral examination on the subject of the dissertation. The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval on March 31 of the final academic year of study, and the dissertation shall be presented by June 30 of the final academic year of study.

Assessment: 100% coursework

COUNSELLING

The Department of Social Work and Social Administration offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Counselling for professionals in the human services, such as social workers, teachers, managers, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech and hearing therapists and other related professionals who are interested in counselling as a career. The curriculum shall extend over two academic years and the intervening vacations for part-time study.

PREREQUISITES AND REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for admission, candidates shall hold either a first degree with honours in a field related to human services, such as psychology, social work, nursing, management, or such other qualifications as may be accepted as its equivalent. Candidates may also be required to pass a qualifying examination. Candidates who do not hold a Bachelor's degree with honours or another qualification of equivalent standard may, in exceptional circumstances, be permitted to register if they satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination. Candidates will normally be required to have had a minimum of two years of post qualification experience in the relevant fields.

EXAMINATIONS

To complete the curriculum, candidates shall satisfy the examiners in the examination of courses and a practice-based project report as prescribed in the curriculum. Examinations of the courses may be assessed either by continuous coursework assessment, or by written examinations, or by a combination of both.

CURRICULUM

Candidates are required to complete five compulsory courses and three elective courses. These elective courses are so designed that they can provide a focused study in one of three service settings: welfare, education, and health care. By selecting a particular combination of courses, candidates may (1) specialize in one stream from these three service settings; or (2) choose a more broad-based curriculum; or (3) choose to complete one elective course with a dissertation (equivalent to two courses) if candidates are interested in advancing their research skills. Apart from lectures, candidates are required to complete a skills training laboratory and a practicum that includes a practice-based project report.

(A) *Compulsory courses*

Candidates shall complete the following courses.

SOWK6040	Practice research in human services
SOWK6158	Critical issues in human development
SOWK6159	Abnormal psychology
SOWK6160	Assessment and testing
SOWK6161	Theories and practices in counselling and professional ethics

(B) *Elective courses*

Dissertation option: Candidates shall complete one of the following courses.

Non-dissertation option: Candidates shall complete three of the following courses.

SOWK6022	Emotion-focused interventions: theory and practice
SOWK6098	Spirituality in counselling
SOWK6127	Cognitive-behavioral interventions
SOWK6162	Counselling in the welfare setting
SOWK6163	Counselling in the health care setting
SOWK6164	Counselling in the educational setting
SOWK6166	Substance abuse counselling
SOWK6168	Group counselling
SOWK6188	The fundamentals of art therapy
SOWK6204	Hypnotherapy
SOWK6206	Play therapy
SOWK6210	Family therapy
SOWK6220	Working with the elderly in primary health care
SOWK6224	Introduction to movement therapy

SOWK6240	Adventure programming in therapy
SOWK6274	Theory and practice of positive psychology and strength-based interventions
SOWK6276	Philosophy, science and art of fostering authentic and intimate connections

(Note: not all elective courses will necessarily be offered in a given year.)

(C) *Skills training (Compulsory)*

Candidates shall complete the following course.

SOWK6170 Skills training laboratory

(D) *Practicum (Compulsory)*

Candidates shall complete the following course.

SOWK6171 Practicum and practice-based project report

(E) *Dissertation (Elective)*

Candidates opt for dissertation option shall complete the following course.

SOWK6264 Dissertation (equivalent to two courses)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

SOWK6040 Practice research in human services

Social workers, teachers, nurses and counselors are guided by theories, research and practice wisdom in their work. It is important for students to be able to appraise, utilize, participate and contribute to research. In order to build evidenced and indigenous practice knowledge appropriate to local settings, this course aims to introduce students to principles and procedures of evidence-based practice. Specifically, it aims to help students in tracing research foundations in clinical practice, examining critical issues associated with evidence-based practice, accessing and evaluating new information related to practice and ultimately evaluating critically their practices. Through carrying out a mini-practice research as ongoing assignments, the students are expected to equip with hand-on experiences in planning, designing, implementing research and presenting its findings. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6158 Critical issues in human development

This course examines factors affecting human development through an exploration of the normal patterns of growth from infancy to old age. Individual, social, and familial conditions affecting growth at different stages in the life cycle will be studied, together with related problems of adaptation and adjustment, with particular foci on current thinking in the field of developmental psychology. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6159 Abnormal psychology

This course provides a broad exposure to both theory and practice in the understanding of mental disorders. A wide array of types of mental disorders will be examined. Important themes will be emphasized such as the continuum in behavior from normal behavior to mental illness, issues in diagnosis and classification, and the diathesis-stress and nature-nurture models of abnormal behaviour. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6160 Assessment and testing

This course surveys the major concepts and techniques in the field of psychometrics and provides students with some hands-on experience with commonly used tests. Topics covered include: the context of testing and measurement, the testing process, test standardization, reliability and validity, the nature of intelligence and its appraisal, personality assessment, special domain testing, occupational applications, and ethics in testing. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6161 Theories and practices in counselling and professional ethics

This course provides a theoretical foundation for the practice of counselling. Topics covered include the major approaches in counselling, counsellor dimensions, working with various clinical and non-clinical populations, professional ethics and limitations of counselling. Assessment: 100% coursework

Elective Courses

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 groupwork 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. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6098 Spirituality in counselling

This course examines the basic foundation of the helping process in the form of exploring the impact of religious faiths and beliefs of various kinds on human behavior. It examines the question of how belief systems grow and develop, and the role they play in the understanding of one's own behavior, whether as a counsellor, or as an individual in the quest of 'knowing oneself'. In the counselling process when helper and client meet, the issue of how human interactions is seen to be influenced by different understandings of the world, and how beliefs affect the healing of disturbed behavior will be studied. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6127 Cognitive-behavioral interventions

The course adopts a "case-study" format in which students are required to work with a client using cognitive-behavior interventions. Students will have to report in class the progress of their treatment sessions. Through seminars, students will learn the process and techniques of cognitive-behavior interventions. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6162 Counselling in the welfare setting

This course introduces the various macro and micro intervention approaches in working with disadvantaged individuals who are users of social services in Hong Kong. Through a systems

perspective, students will have the opportunity to examine various intervention approaches in helping disadvantaged groups, such as new arrivals, elderly people, at-risk youth, and mentally and physically handicapped persons to deal with their intra-personal, interpersonal and environmentally-induced difficulties. The course emphasizes the integration of micro and macro intervention approaches. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6163 Counselling in the health care setting

Counselling approaches used in health care, such as crisis intervention, grief work, cognitive behavioural intervention, support groups, art therapy, psycho-education skills, bereavement counselling, pastoral care and peer counselling, will be examined. Students will be provided with experiential training on skills/ techniques in working with patients in hospitals and in the community. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6164 Counselling in the educational setting

This course offers an understanding of the developmental characteristics, needs and struggles of students in schools (children and adolescents). To understand the counselling process and acquire necessary skills in offering counselling to students are the main foci, such that students may be helped to cope better with their school life. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6166 Substance abuse counselling

This course examines the drug scene in Hong Kong and gives an overview of the problem of substance abuse in society. The different theoretical conceptualizations of substance abuse and theories of addiction are then reviewed as a prelude to devising intervention approaches to help drug-addicted persons. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6168 Group counselling

This course provides an overview of the theories and practice of group counselling approaches. Applications include working with families, children, the elderly people, and medical/psychiatric patients. Cultural issues, current research and developments in group counselling will also be discussed. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6188 The fundamentals of art therapy

This course introduces students to the philosophy and practice of Art Therapy, and how Art Therapy activities can be modified and used with potential clients under careful working guidelines. Students will also experience different art activities/philosophies, which are designed according to the various needs of potential clients. Lectures, participation in group workshops, and video and case presentations will form a part of this course. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6204 Hypnotherapy

This course gives an overview of the historical development and domain of hypnosis, as well as contemporary approaches in hypnosis. A particular emphasis is placed on the fundamentals of hypnotherapy where particular skills will be of use in the counselling process. Lecture topics include the art of hypnotizing, styles of hypnotic suggestion, clinical applications, professional ethics and limitations of hypnotherapy. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6206 Play therapy

This course examines the historical development and basic principles of play therapy. Conditions for the practice of play therapy will be discussed, and therapy skills will be taught and practiced through lectures, demonstration tapes and role-plays, with specific applications to working with childhood problems such as children of divorce, sexual abuse, and other emotional disturbance in childhood. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6210 Family therapy

This course begins with an overview of the evolution of family therapy since the 1950s, with a major focus on specific family therapy approaches in working with children, youth, couples, and the elderly, such as conduct disorders in children, eating disorders in adolescents and depression in couples. Apart from an emphasis on theoretical and conceptual integration, this course draws heavily from case and video materials for discussion. Role-play and experiential activities will be used extensively for the training of family therapy strategies and skills. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6220 Working with the elderly in primary health care

This course focuses on dealing with various issues in working with the elderly in primary health care. It aims at understanding the characteristics of the elderly in managing chronic health and mental health problems, and the application of preventive, assessment and intervention strategies to achieve wellness. Topics include coping with medical conditions like stroke, hypertension, and dementia, psychological conditions like depression and suicide, and caregiver stress in managing these conditions. Teaching formats include paper presentation, role-play, case or work sample illustration, and health promotion project design. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6224 Introduction to movement therapy

This intensive, practice-focused course provides an opportunity for students to experience and discover first-hand an oblique and symbolic approach to whole-person growth, healing and change. Emphasis is on the natural and spontaneous use of the imagination within the art form of body movement. The experiential learning is consolidated by discussion of related psychological principles and relevant fieldwork, enabling students to gain theoretical and practical insights into personal or client-related issues as well as the potential of movement therapy as an allied health practice. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6240 Adventure programming in therapy

This course introduces the concepts and skills in employing physical and psychological challenges, including the controlling of subjective and objective dangers by individuals or groups for therapeutic purposes, either in outdoor or indoor settings, given the tackling of adventurous activities and challenges facilitates resolving physical and emotional difficulties. The course will be taught through lectures and experiential exercises. Students will be required to design projects in planning adventure programmes, and the experiencing and conducting of adventure therapy themselves. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6274 Theory and practice of positive psychology and strength-based interventions

Traditionally counseling psychology and psychotherapy have focused on the assessment and intervention of problems and disorders. The recent development of positive psychology and

strength-based interventions led by prominent psychologists such as Martin Seligman have revoked this prevalent pattern and made a revolutionary turn. Positive psychology emphasizes the discovery and cultivation of human strengths and potential, and strength-based interventions focus on positive goal setting and development of strengths such as resilience, hope, optimism, engagement, gratitude and positive emotions. This course will critically review the theory and practice of positive psychology and strength-based interventions including the constructs of happiness, wellness, optimism, resilience, flow, and hope, etc. Cultural factors in positive psychology and strength-based interventions in the local settings will be examined. Students will have the chance to develop an indigenous project of positive psychology in this course. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6276 Philosophy, science and art of fostering authentic and intimate connections

This course is for all who want to be emotionally and relationally competent in human interaction, be it in the family, at work, with friends, or with neighbors. The idea is not to have to seek psychological security behind a rigid mask, but capable to be present here and now in our strong and vulnerable, true and caring, confident and gentle selves, and capable also of developing mutually satisfying and meaningful relationships. This course is primarily experiential and practice oriented, integrating the philosophy, science and art of intra and interpersonal competence into real life applications. Recent thinking in philosophy, psychology, group work, and neuroscience will be applied to working with intense emotions, inner blocks and inconsistencies, dilemmas and relational conflicts that haunt human encounters. Through class demonstrations, paired and small group practice, students will come to acquire concepts and skills that will guide them in facing the daily test of human interaction, help them advance their listening skills, increase self-understanding, gain confidence in decision-making, achieve relational transformation, connect with their deeper spiritual self, and affirm a more attuned, grounded, steady, and creative presence. Assessment: 100% coursework

Skills training

SOWK6170 Skills training laboratory

This laboratory provides training on basic relationship building strategies and methods. Counselling relies on an establishment of therapeutic relationship. Characteristics and dimensions related to such counsellor-client relationship will be introduced, and strategies and methods for building rapport will be practiced in the laboratory setting. Further, the course will also cover basic skills related to case and group counselling. Teaching is done via an experiential learning approach. Students are required to participate actively in class and complete practice assignments. Assessment: 100% coursework

Practicum

SOWK6171 Practicum and practice-based project report

All students will have to be engaged in a total of 250 hours of clinical work, and to complete a practice-based project report of no more than 10,000 words. A practicum teacher will be assigned to supervise the student's clinical work and to facilitate his/her completion of the practice-based project report. The report should essentially be an evaluation of the clinical work performed by the student. Individual and group supervision will be provided. *Students must hand in their reports not later than June 30 of the same year when the practicum is undertaken.*

Students who have satisfied the examiners in the following courses

SOWK6158 Critical issues in human development

SOWK6159 Abnormal psychology

SOWK6160 Assessment and testing

SOWK6161 Theories and practices in counselling and professional ethics

SOWK6170 Skills training laboratory

are permitted to take the practicum and practice-based project report course. Assessment: 100% coursework

Dissertation

SOWK6264 Dissertation

The dissertation is offered to students who have proven record to show their ability to conduct research. The dissertation shall be a critical study that demonstrates the application of sound research methodology to the investigation of problem(s) relevant to the field of counselling. The proposed topic of investigation has to be substantially different from the issues or problems covered in the practice-based project report (SOWK6171). The dissertation option is subject to approval of the Head of Department and relevant dissertation supervisor. The dissertation must represent a student's individual work and should not exceed 20,000 words in length. The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than March 31 of the same academic year of study. The dissertation shall be presented by not later than **August 1** of the same academic year of study. Assessment: 100% coursework

CRIMINOLOGY

The Department of Sociology offers a postgraduate programme leading to a Master of Social Sciences degree in Criminology.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the admission requirements specified in Regulation MSS1 it would be to the candidate's advantage either (a) to have majored in the social sciences or humanities, or (b) to have some experience of working in the criminal justice system or social welfare agencies, or (c) to have done other work with offenders.

A candidate should hold a Bachelor's degree with honours from this university or other university in Hong Kong, or another international qualification of equivalent standard. If a candidate who does not hold a Bachelor's degree with honours may in exceptional circumstances be permitted to register subject to satisfying the examiners in a qualifying examination.

EXAMINATIONS

Candidates are assessed for each compulsory course by way of a 3-hour written examination that accounts for 40% of total marks and 60% by coursework assignments. However, candidates are assessed for each of elective course by 100% coursework and that may include presentations, projects, essays and written tests.

CURRICULUM

The degree programme extends over not less than one and not more than two academic years of full-time study or not less than two and not more than four academic years of part-time study. All courses are offered on both part-time and full-time basis. Classes are conducted during evenings and occasional weekends.

The compulsory courses provide candidates with a broad, integrated understanding of the social science approach to the study of crime and deviance. The elective courses, building upon that foundation, introduce the candidates to a variety of contemporary developments in criminology and related social policy issues.

To receive the award of Master of Social Sciences in Criminology, candidates must complete eight courses plus a dissertation. As a rule, full-time candidates are expected to do an individual dissertation, while part-time candidates are expected to do a group dissertation. The eight courses include four compulsory courses and four courses from the list of elective courses.

The curriculum structure is summarized as follows:

Duration of Study	Part-time	Full-time
Year 1		
Semester 1	SOCI7002 SOCI7009	SOCI7002 SOCI7009 2 Elective courses plus SOCI8021 Individual dissertation
Semester 2	SOCI7001 SOCI7004	SOCI7001 SOCI7004 2 Elective courses plus SOCI8021 Individual dissertation
Year 2		
Semester 1	2 Elective courses plus SOCI8022 Group dissertation	
Semester 2	2 Elective courses plus SOCI8022 Group dissertation	

Compulsory courses

Candidates shall complete all courses from the following list.

SOCI7001	Criminal justice: process and politics
SOCI7002	Methods of research for criminology
SOCI7004	Theoretical criminology
SOCI7009	Global and comparative criminology

Elective courses

Candidates shall complete 4 courses from the following list.

SOCI8002	Economic and organized crime
SOCI8003	Law and society
SOCI8004	Punishment and society
SOCI8006	Youth and delinquency
SOCI8008	Special topics in criminology
SOCI8011	Media and crime
SOCI8013	Gender, crime and social control

SOCI8015	Crime and deviance in PR China
SOCI8017	Cultural criminology
SOCI8018	Policing in comparative perspective
SOCI8019	Issues in police reform
SOCI8020	White collar and corporate crime

Dissertation (Compulsory)

Full-time candidates shall complete Individual dissertation and part-time candidates shall complete Group dissertation.

SOCI8021	Individual dissertation
SOCI8022	Group dissertation

Candidates should consult the Department of Sociology to find out what courses are being offered in any semester. The elective courses are offered depending on student interest and staff availability.

Candidates may apply to substitute for a listed course or courses in the MSocSc(Criminology) syllabus with a course or courses offered by another Department in the University. Candidates may: (a) select courses from a list of pre-approved courses issued by the Department of Sociology; or (b) apply to be granted permission to take other postgraduate courses which are not listed as pre-approved courses. In both cases, the courses will have been approved by the Faculty Curriculum Development Committee as being of equivalent standard to that of those listed for the MSocSc(Criminology) syllabus. Candidates shall normally be permitted to take not more than one course from another Department in the University. Permission normally will be granted only to take postgraduate courses, and only for those courses which can be shown to have relevance to the candidates' overall course of study. Permission shall not be granted to substitute any other course for a required course in the MSocSc(Criminology) syllabus.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

SOCI7001 Criminal justice: process and politics

This course critically reviews the process of law enforcement from initial contact with suspects through to prosecution and sentencing. The focus is on the ways criminal justice policies are developed and the problems and issues arising from the implementation of different approaches to crime control. Topics include: policing models (including private policing and crime prevention strategies); the effectiveness of policing; discretion and bias; due process and legal constraints in law enforcement; adjudication and sentencing; and policies toward victims. Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination

SOCI7002 Methods of research for criminology

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an overview of social research methods and to demonstrate how these methods can be applied to crime and criminal justice. The course aims to engage with key epistemological debates relating to the subject and object of criminological research, while equipping students with a strong practical foundation in specific research methods. The course will cover: the relationship between theory, method, and data; historical and contemporary trajectories of quantitative and qualitative research (including ethnography and participant-observation); debates on risk, ethics and reflexivity; practical guidance on developing a research project, conducting interviews for social research, and critically assessing criminological research methodologies. This

course will form an important foundation for the individual or group dissertation later in the programme. Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination

SOCI7004 Theoretical criminology

This course comprises an introduction to major historical and contemporary theories of crime and deviance. The course covers: classical and positivist theories of crime; biological and psychological influences; social structural and social process theories of crime; Marxist and neo-Marxist explanations of crime and law; the emergence of neoclassic theories of crime (e.g., rational choice and routine activities); postmodern and restorative approaches to crime control. Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination

SOCI7009 Global and comparative criminology

In recent years, increasing attention has been paid to the 'global' question in criminology. As people, money, culture and technology circulate and cross-cut the globe on a daily basis, so the traditional borders of criminology have become merged and blurred. Just as 'global' issues – human trafficking, the international drug trade, corporate harm and cyber-crime – must be understood in an international context, so too must traditionally 'local' arenas of criminological interest – youth gangs, policing, sex-work – be located within a comparative perspective, in particular those beyond traditional Anglo-American bases of power. This course discusses the concept of globalisation and its implications for the study of criminology, introducing students to key theoretical and methodological debates in the field of global and comparative criminology through analysis of both global and local case-study examples. Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

Elective Courses

SOCI8002 Economic and organized crime

The course focuses on a range of criminal activities that occur within an organizational setting or are in accordance with established organizational goals, and which harms individuals or society at large. More specifically, the course will devote attention to such topics as economic and organized crime and discuss the ways in which they are interrelated and frequently overlap with political crime. Special consideration will be given to the ways in which the state may organize crime. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8003 Law and society

This course will examine the relationship between law and society. It looks at the history and development of law in different cultures, examining the form and content of 'law' found in pre-industrial society, capitalist society and socialist society. Particular legal concepts such as the law of contract and the public/private distinction are placed in their socio-historic setting. Specific topics (e.g. law and domestic relations, rape in marriage, child abuse, homosexuality, artificial reproduction, and restrictions on pornography) are examined insofar as they are related to the application of these concepts. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8004 Punishment and society

The course aims to explain punishment and society in a comparative and historical context. Popular conceptions and professional evidence about punishment will be compared. The social institution of

punishment is in many ways a mirror of society and its norms. The course will look at the different functions of punishment, like retribution, deterrence, incapacitation, rehabilitation, and restoration. We will trace those functions historically and culturally, mapping vast cultural and social differences in the way in which punishment is practiced in America, Europe, the Islamic world, and in China. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8006 Youth and delinquency

The problem of juvenile delinquency has influenced the formation of law and social policy in many societies. This course will use a wide variety of historical and comparative materials to analyze the response of social service agencies and the criminal justice system to juvenile delinquency. It will also examine various theoretical approaches that have been used in studying juvenile delinquency. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8008 Special topics in criminology

A lecture and seminar programme designed to provide students with a course of study in current or newly emerging topics in criminology and criminal justice. The course enables, for example, new subject or sub-specialist areas to be offered. This may *inter alia*, include:

- cyber crime and e-commerce crime
- crime prevention
- criminal intelligence analysis
- criminal justice system administration and management
- computer forensics
- security and terrorism studies
- criminal profiling
- victimology (including trafficking, stalking and “hate” crimes)

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8011 Media and crime

The media plays an extremely influential role in the public’s conceptions of crime and order. This course aims to provide students with a better understanding of theories about the media’s impact on crime, the news making process in relation to crime, and how the media shapes our ideas and responses to crime. The course also focuses on the representation of crime in popular culture, particularly in films and novels. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8013 Gender, crime and social control

This course provides students with a comparative perspective of men and women's involvement in crime and punishment. The first part of the course focuses on the differential images and realities of men and women in relation to crime. This will lead us to a critical examination of the assumptions, tenets and explanations of traditional theories about men and women in crime. These theoretical frameworks are then compared with gendered theories about crime. The second half of the course explores the differential treatment of men and women under the law from the point of policing through to imprisonment. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8015 Crime and deviance in PR China

The course offers an overview and introduction to the developments of crime and deviance in China. The emphasis will be historical, comparative and contemporary. We look at Chinese definitions of deviance and crime from the past, the Communist period, and with a particular emphasis on the recent period of rapid modernization. The course will also review issues and problems in the control of crime and public order in the People's Republic of China. The content covers theories and practices of deviance, crime, discipline, policing, and punishment. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8017 Cultural criminology

Cultural criminology comes as a reaction and interpretive alternative to normative analyses of social problems. Rather than ask questions about root causes of crime, cultural criminologists seek to explore the processes through which ascriptions of crime and criminality, and reactions to these ascriptions are promulgated within particular social and cultural contexts. The course will offer a comparative perspective contrasting North American 'cultures of control', with other 'welfare' and 'disciplinary welfare' contexts, including Hong Kong. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8018 Policing in comparative perspective

This course examines policing in a broad social and cultural perspective. Our focus is the concept of the "police function": under what sorts of historical and socio-cultural conditions does the idea of the police function make sense? With this question as our guide, we will examine the maintenance of order in stateless societies, look at various historical moments in the emergence of police as an element of modern government, and finally take a survey of the novel policing formations emerging from the processes of decolonization, globalization and neo-liberalism. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8019 Issues in police reform

When, why and how do police forces change? This course takes up these questions through case studies of exemplary events of police reform, such as: Robert Peel's formation of the London Metropolitan Police in 1829; William Parker's reform of the Los Angeles Police Department in the 1950s; William Bratton's reform of the New York Police Department in the 1990s; post-apartheid policing in South Africa; and post-Maoist policing in the People's Republic of China. Through comparative study and in-depth analysis, students will draw lessons about the general dynamics underlying police reform. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8020 White collar and corporate crime

This course examines the topic of white-collar and corporate crime. Classic theoretical works will be considered as well as more contemporary writings. To illustrate these points we will explore important international case studies that shed light on how and why these offenses occur. We will begin with a general introduction to the field, including definitions, conceptual, and theoretical issues from the social sciences, law, and criminology regarding what has become known as white-collar, occupational, organizational, and corporate crime. Following this, we will discuss various forms of white-collar crime including: consumer crime, environmental crime, governmental crime, official corruption, computer crime, health care fraud, and financial fraud. The course will guide students in studying important questions, to critically think about issues, to research the topics discussed, and to become familiar with the literature on white-collar and corporate crime, through assigned readings, presentations, class discussion, a writing assignment and an in-class exam. Assessment: 100% coursework

Dissertation (Compulsory)

SOCI8021 Individual dissertation

The individual dissertation is a component of the curriculum designed to foster independent research for full-time students. Consequently, in addition to successfully completing eight taught courses, candidates must write a dissertation not exceeding 20,000 words on an approved topic. A dissertation topic is selected by the end of the first semester in the current academic year. The dissertation is prepared under the direction of a supervisor appointed by the Department. The final title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than March 31 of the same academic year and dissertation shall be presented not later than June 30 of the same academic year. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8022 Group dissertation

The group dissertation is a component of the curriculum designed to foster small group research for part-time students. Consequently, in addition to successfully completing eight taught courses, candidates must write a dissertation of a reasonable length (pending on actual group size) on an approved topic. A dissertation topic is selected by the end of the second semester in the first year. The group dissertation is prepared under the direction of a supervisor appointed by the Department. The final title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than March 31 of the second academic year of study and dissertation shall be presented not later than June 30 of the same year. Assessment: 100% coursework

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

The Department of Psychology offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Educational Psychology. The programme is designed to provide instruction and training in the theory and practice of educational psychology. To this end, emphasis will be placed on both academic studies and related practical experience in the field.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for admission to the programme a candidate shall

- (a) comply with the regulations for the degree of Master of Social Sciences;
- (b) hold a Bachelor's degree with honours in Psychology or a recognized equivalent qualification;
and
- (c) preferably have relevant working experience in educational or related settings.

If necessary, a candidate may be required to pass a qualifying examination prior to admission.

STRUCTURE AND EVALUATION

The period of study extends over two years full-time or three years part-time, commencing in September and including the intervening vacations. Throughout the programme, in both its theoretical and practical aspects, special attention will be paid to the needs and issues concerning educational psychology in the local setting.

The full time curriculum consists of a total of 60 credits. The quantitative value of a credit is equivalent to 15 hours of taught course or 120 hours of practicum, under supervision of an

experienced psychologist. Candidates are required to complete 18 compulsory courses, including 14 taught courses each given three units of credit (a total of 42 credits), 3 practicum courses with a total of 12 credits (PSYC6012 Practicum I, PSYC6013 Practicum II and PSYC6014 Practicum III) and a 2-year dissertation research course given 6 credits (PSYC6007 Dissertation research I & II). Nine of the taught courses are normally taken in the first year and the remaining five in the second year. Duration of each taught course is normally one semester and consists of three hours of weekly lectures, discussions, seminars or workshops. The courses are as follows:

First year courses

PSYC6002	Research methods & statistics I
PSYC6003	Research methods & statistics II
PSYC7010	Psychoeducational assessment I
PSYC7011	Psychoeducational assessment II
PSYC7012	Children with special needs I
PSYC7013	Children with special needs II
PSYC7014	Psychoeducational intervention I
PSYC7015	Psychoeducational intervention II
PSYC7016	Skills training seminar I
PSYC6007	Dissertation research I & II

Second year courses

PSYC6004	Curriculum and instruction
PSYC6019	Professional ethics and issues in educational psychology
PSYC7017	Skills training seminar II
PSYC8007	Applied developmental psychology
PSYC8008	Motivation and learning
PSYC6007	Dissertation research I & II
PSYC6012	Practicum I
PSYC6013	Practicum II
PSYC6014	Practicum III

The part-time curriculum consists of the same 14 compulsory courses, three practicum courses and a 2-year dissertation research course. Of the taught courses, seven are normally taken in the first year, four in the second and three in the third year. The courses are as follows:

First year courses

PSYC7010	Psychoeducational assessment I
PSYC7011	Psychoeducational assessment II
PSYC7012	Children with special needs I
PSYC7013	Children with special needs II
PSYC7014	Psychoeducational intervention I
PSYC7015	Psychoeducational intervention II
PSYC7016	Skills training seminar I
PSYC6012	Practicum I

Second year courses

PSYC8007	Applied developmental psychology
PSYC8008	Motivation and learning
PSYC6004	Curriculum and instruction
PSYC6019	Professional ethics and issues in educational psychology
PSYC6007	Dissertation research I & II
PSYC6013	Practicum II

Third year courses

PSYC6002	Research methods & statistics I
PSYC6003	Research methods & statistics I & II
PSYC7017	Skills training seminar II
PSYC6007	Dissertation research I & II
PSYC6014	Practicum III

The part-time programme may not be offered. An announcement would be made whenever it is available.

EXAMINATIONS

Examinations of the courses followed by a candidate may be either by a written paper in the examination held in December or May of the academic year of study, or by continuous assessment of the candidates' performance in completing the requirements of these courses, or by a combination of these methods.

A candidate's performance in the programme, whether full-time or part-time, is evaluated in three parts: (1) formal courses on the basis of written examination and/or continuous assessment of all written and practical work carried out during the year; (2) dissertation research and (3) practical training as set out below. Candidates must pass all three components of the programme.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PSYC6002 Research methods and statistics I (3 credits)

This course covers advanced concepts of measurement and psychometrics, research design, and data collection and analysis. Experimental, quasi-experimental, correlational and descriptive research methods are presented. The course uses empirical studies of educational and psychological issues based on quantitative and qualitative data to illustrate various research designs and statistical methods and to ensure that students become intelligent consumers of research results.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC6003 Research methods and statistics II (3 credits)

This course covers more advanced statistical techniques, including multivariate data analysis. Communicating about research both orally and in writing is stressed. At the end of the course, students will have developed a viable research proposal in preparation for their thesis according to standards of the American Psychological Association.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7010 Psychoeducational assessment I (3 credits)

This course provides students with theoretical foundations of psychoeducational assessment and basic concepts in measurement. Starting with standards related to professional conduct and ethics in assessment, the course introduces students to formal and informal techniques and instruments used most frequently in the local setting. Focus will be put on the assessment of intelligence, achievement, and learning disabilities. The assessment of infants and young children is a special topic. The integration of assessment data into a comprehensive psychological report with associated

recommendations for intervention is an essential component of this course.
Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7011 Psychoeducational assessment II (3 credits)

The focus of this course is on the assessment of behavioural and adjustment problems in children and adolescents. Using the problem-solving and systems approach as framework, students will be introduced to important concepts, procedures and instruments associated with the assessment of behaviour, personality, and social-emotional functioning in the school context.
Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7012 Children with special needs I: basic concepts (3 credits)

This course will introduce students with problems and issues related to children with special needs. The course will cover the following topics: Issues, definition and historical background; provisions for children with special needs; special education in Hong Kong; issues concerning integration of special needs children into mainstream settings; and effects of a handicapped child on family life. This course will also explore different types of special needs children including intellectually different students (the gifted and the mentally handicapped); children with learning disabilities, children with emotional and behavioural disorders, and those with communication disorders, sensory or health impairments. Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7013 Children with special needs II: diagnostic and remedial procedures (3 credits)

This course will focus on diagnostic and remedial measures used with special needs students in mainstream and special educational settings. Topics include different classification systems, individualized educational programmes, general remediation strategies and specific training programmes for different types of special needs students.
Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7014 Psychoeducational intervention I (3 credits)

The nature and basic principles of psychoeducational intervention are introduced. The first half of the course will cover the fundamentals of counselling and guidance. It focuses on the process and stages of counselling in a pan-theoretical way. The second half of the course will cover some of the major approaches in counselling and intervention (e.g., person-centred therapy and behavior modification). It aims at equipping the students with specific and useful techniques and procedures derived from these approaches. Students are expected to master both theories and practical skills. Practical training is an indispensable component of this course.
Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7015 Psychoeducational intervention II (3 credits)

Major approaches and different levels of psychoeducational intervention are covered. The course emphasizes both direct and indirect intervention. Students are encouraged to go beyond the remedial model and are expected to work as an active agent with broader perspective in preventive intervention. Practical training is an indispensable component of this course. The students are expected to apply the acquired knowledge and practical skills to their work in educational settings. Topics include cognitive-behavioural intervention, systems and ecological approaches, school consultation, family

work, psychodynamic approaches, alternative forms of therapy with children and adolescents, and career and vocational counselling.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7016 Skills training seminar I (3 credits)

This course provides an initial orientation programme immersing students into settings related to roles and functions of educational psychologists. Subsequently more intensive discussion and hands-on practice of assessment skills and intervention programmes are provided. Students observe and practise skills related to consultation and interviewing, observational techniques, testing procedures, reporting test results and recommending interventions. They also engage in practice related to intervention techniques such as stress management.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC6004 Curriculum and instruction (3 credits)

This course helps students understand and enact the principles of curriculum design, teaching, and assessment of learning, as they apply to the contexts and issues educational psychologists are likely to meet. A systemic view of children's learning problems will be emphasized. Curriculum and instructional issues for both mainstream and special schools in Hong Kong will be reviewed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC6019 Professional ethics and issues in educational psychology (3 credits)

This course prepares students for professional practice in educational psychology by examining the organizational, ethical, and legal considerations as well as current issues related to such practice in Hong Kong. Ethical and legal guidelines pertinent to the delivery of school psychological services will be introduced to enable students to make well-informed choices in resolving professional problems and ethical dilemmas when they occur. Students will also engage in discussion and analysis of contemporary issues related to educational psychology practice. Topics covered are broad and diversified and are highly relevant to the local context.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC7017 Skills training seminar II (3 credits)

This course is an advanced course in practical skill training. It is run parallel with the practicum courses. It provides a platform for the students to polish the micro-skills that are required in their fieldwork placement. These are the skills in assessment, counselling, consultation, inter-disciplinary collaboration, and systems-intervention. This course also provides a forum in which experienced educational psychologists from the field can share their specialities and expertise with the students.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC8007 Applied developmental psychology (3 credits)

This course focuses on an integrated study of human development across the life span with implications for educational psychology. It aims at familiarizing students with current state of knowledge and major theories of human development with particular emphasis on childhood and adolescence. The interrelationship among biological, cognitive, social, and educational factors that influence human development will be examined. In particular the influence of Chinese culture and context on development during the childhood and adolescence will be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC8008 Motivation and learning (3 credits)

This course aims at familiarizing students with theories, research, and practices in the field of motivation and learning. It focuses on how educational psychologists can use existing knowledge in motivation and learning to enhance teachers' instruction and students' learning. Topics include theories of motivation and learning; their application in educational settings; effects of social cognitions on motivation; instructional environment that fosters motivation; and biological, cultural and contextual factors of learning.

Assessment: 100% coursework

PSYC6007 Dissertation research I & II (6 credits)

The dissertation should be a critical study within the field, normally including an empirical element, and should not exceed 20,000 words in length. Where appropriate, studies involving qualitative methodology and other approaches may also be included. The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval on March 31 of the final academic year of study, and the dissertation shall be presented by July 31 of the final academic year of study. The candidate shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents his own work (or in the case of conjoint work, a statement countersigned by his co-worker, which shows his share of the work) undertaken after registration as a candidate for the degree. The examiners may also prescribe an oral examination on the subject of the dissertation.

Assessment: 100% coursework

- PSYC6012 Practicum I (4 credits)**
PSYC6013 Practicum II (4 credits)
PSYC6014 Practicum III (4 credits)

The programme considers field work placement an important and indispensable part of the training and whenever possible tries to integrate theories discussed at the University with that of fieldwork practice. All students are required to do fieldwork placement for a total of 180 days in three different settings.

The average duration of each practicum is 60 days. Adjustment of the length will be made according to the specific requirements of the settings. Each practicum aims at providing the students with:

- (a) exposures to a broad spectrum of work of an EP working in a particular setting;
- (b) adequate hands-on experiences at different levels (such as individual casework, group work, consultations to parents and teachers, in-service training for teachers, etc.) in the development of the necessary practical knowledge and skills;
- (c) knowledge of different types of provisions and systems accessible to children with special educational needs and referral procedures; and
- (d) opportunities for collaborative work with other professionals.

Assessment: 100% practicum

GERONTOLOGY

The Department of Social Work and Social Administration offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Gerontology. This programme is designed for professionals who are interested in developing a career specialized in working with the elderly and who engage in elderly-related policy research. Applicants from a variety of professional backgrounds may apply for the programme which is designed to meet the diverse training needs of different professional disciplines including social workers, nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and other health related workers who are interested in aged care policies and practices. The curriculum

shall extend over not less than one and not more than two academic years of full-time study; or not less than two and not more than three academic years of part-time study, inclusive of intervening vacations.

PREREQUISITES AND REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for admission, candidates shall hold either a first degree with honours in a related field, or such other qualifications as may be accepted as its equivalent. Candidates may also be required to pass a qualifying examination relevant to the curriculum. Candidates who do not hold a Bachelor's degree with honours or another qualification of equivalent standard may in exceptional circumstances be permitted to register if they satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination.

EXEMPTION

Candidates may be granted exemption of up to three compulsory courses 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. Candidates with exemption granted are required to take an additional elective course to replace the exempted compulsory course to meet the degree requirements.

STRUCTURE AND EXAMINATIONS

To complete the curriculum, candidates shall satisfy the examiners in the examination of courses and a dissertation or two additional elective courses as prescribed in the curriculum. Examinations of the courses may be assessed either through presentations required by course assignments or written examination or a combination of both methods.

CURRICULUM

Candidates are required to complete a total of 10 courses: six compulsory courses and four elective courses or two elective courses with a dissertation (equivalent to two courses). Candidates can take elective courses from elective courses in other fields of study under the Master of Social Sciences (Behavioral Health, Marriage and Family Therapy, Mental Health, Social Service Management, Social Work) programmes. Special approval from the respective Programme Directors for the compulsory/core courses in the above-mentioned fields of study is needed.

(A) *Compulsory courses*

Candidates shall complete the following courses.

- SOWK6139 Theoretical foundation of human service practices
- SOWK6193 Social gerontology
- SOWK6207 Social policy and ageing
- SOWK6258 Care management
- SOWK6265 Research methods in human service
- SOWK6266 Psychology of ageing

(B) *Elective courses*

Dissertation option: Candidates shall complete two of the following courses.

Non-dissertation option: Candidates shall complete four of the following courses.

- SOWK6119 Medical aspects of abnormal behaviors and mental health
- SOWK6201 Mental health problems in old age
- SOWK6259 Contemporary perspectives on death, dying and bereavement

SOWK6260 Financial gerontology
SOWK6267 Ageing in a global context
SOWK6282 Social work intervention with the elderly
and any other elective courses offered under Master of Social Sciences (Behavioral Health, Marriage and Family Therapy, Mental Health, Social Service Management, Social Work) programmes

(Note: not all elective courses will necessarily be offered in a given year.)

(C) *Dissertation (Elective)*

Candidates opt for dissertation option shall complete the following course.

SOWK9002 Dissertation (equivalent to two courses)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

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

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

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

SOWK6258 Care management

Gerontological assessment is the foundation in elder care, whereas care management is one of the major practice strategies to promote effective service delivery to diverse target populations in long term care. Students will be taught to manage and to carry out needs assessment in long term care cases, with reference to the comprehensive assessments developed by international recognized bodies. On

top of micro-level direct practice, the course also deals with the establishment of care management programmes in a macro-level, including programme design, development and evaluation. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6265 Research methods in human service

This course covers the whole research process from the development of research questions and hypotheses to the analysis of data as well as presentation of findings. Different data collection methods from qualitative method, survey, experiment, case study, interviews, to focus groups will be discussed. Data analysis on various types of data including secondary data will be discussed. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6266 Psychology of ageing

This course is designed to give students an accurate understanding of the psychological changes that people experience as they grow older. This will include both identifying specific types of psychological changes and examining the dynamic forces that underlie and produce change. Students will study research techniques, theoretical approaches, cognitive processes, control beliefs, personality, emotional processes, social cognition, age discrimination, intergenerational communication, family caregivers for frail elderly, and wisdom in old age. This course emphasizes both the role of empirical research and the central importance of developmental theory in producing a viable psychology of ageing. Assessment: 100% coursework

Elective Courses

SOWK6119 Medical aspects of abnormal behaviors and mental health

This course covers the various bio-medical models on the causes and treatments of different types of mental illnesses and mental health problems. It will also critically examine the strengths and limitations of the bio-medical models in accounting for the causes and treatments of persons with mental illnesses and mental health problems. Assessment: 100% coursework

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

SOWK6259 Contemporary perspectives on death, dying and bereavement

Death is an inevitable life experience for everyone. Death-related problem is one of the commonest issues that clients brought to counseling, but is also rated as the most uncomfortable scenario by beginning counselors. This course is aimed to orientate those in helping profession the updated knowledge and intervention on death, dying and bereavement. Reviewing major theories related to death, including end-of-life situation, suicide, trauma and bereavement, the students are expected to have a better understanding of the universality of impermanence, and the impact of death towards individuals and societies. Updated intervention strategies on end-of-life care and bereavement care will be introduced. It is hoped to equip those who are working with or going to work with clients facing death, dying and bereavement with both the knowledge and practical competence. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6260 Financial gerontology

This course introduces the fundamental sources of economic security that older adults receive, the major problems they face in retirement income security, and the impact of an ageing population on these schemes in local and international context. Topics include the history, development, and fundamental structure of the public and private retirement schemes. Discussion also covers baby boomer retirement, the financial situation of older women, reverse annuity mortgages, and employment of older workers. The preparation for retirement security over the life cycle will be discussed. In particular, the course shows how the asset accumulation and asset expenditure stages span and affect financial planning in life cycle. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6267 Ageing in a global context

This course is aimed to help students understand the implications of population ageing and increasing life expectancy in both developed and developing countries although countries in the Asia-Pacific region will be our focus. Cross-national examples will be selected from North America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and South America. Specifically, we will illustrate how population ageing varies across the globe and how it affects family support, living arrangements, and intergenerational transfer and relationships. Moreover, the policy and practice implications of population ageing in social, political, and economic dimensions will be discussed. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6282 Social work intervention with the elderly

This course focuses on intervention with older people at micro and macro levels. In macro level, it covers both administrative and community intervention strategies to engage older people in their communities, to empower older people and their communities for independent living, to promote choices, quality of care, and quality of life in elderly services. In micro level, it covers intervention strategies for intake, comprehensive assessment, treatment and termination involved in working with older clients and their families. It equips students with skills to reach out, engage reluctant or impaired elders, and work in a multidisciplinary team in elderly settings. Assessment: 100% coursework

Dissertation**SOWK9002 Dissertation**

The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than three months before the formal submission of the dissertation or not later than March 31 of the same academic year of study. The dissertation shall be presented by not later than **August 1** of the same academic year of study. The dissertation shall be a critical study that demonstrates the application of research methodology to the investigation of problems relevant to the field of study, and shall not exceed 20,000 words in length. Assessment: 100% coursework

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

The Department of Social Work and Social Administration is offering a modular postgraduate curriculum leading to a Master Degree of Social Sciences in Marriage and Family Therapy. This self-funded programme is designed for candidates interested in pursuing a professional career in marriage and family therapy. The programme is modeled after criteria and standards set by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). This innovative programme is

built on a trans-disciplinary approach with a strong focus on clinical practice and supervision. Applicants from a variety of professional backgrounds may apply for the programme which is designed to meet the diverse training needs of different professional disciplines including those from the fields of mental health, education, social services and other related areas.

PREREQUISITES AND REQUIREMENTS

Candidates for admission should hold either a Bachelor's degree with honors in a field related to human services, such as social work, psychology, nursing, education, medicine, or other equivalent qualifications, preferably with a minimum of two years of working experience in human services. Master degree holders working in human service sectors will be given priority. Candidates who do not hold a Bachelor's degree with honors or other qualifications of equivalent standard may be considered for admission only in exceptional circumstances.

EXEMPTION

Candidates may be granted exemption of up to two compulsory modules in recognition of studies completed in related area. 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.

EXAMINATIONS

To complete the curriculum, candidates shall satisfy the examiners in the examination of prescribed courses in the curriculum. Examinations of the courses may be assessed either by continuous coursework and clinical work, or by written examinations, or a combination of both.

CURRICULUM

The Master of Social Sciences in Marriage and Family Therapy programme comprises three major parts: (1) coursework, (2) clinical internship, and (3) clinical paper. The degree programme provides a total of 19 modules: 8 compulsory modules, 4 elective modules, 5 modules of clinical internship, and 2 modules of clinical paper. The curriculum can be extended from three to five academic years for part-time study. However, candidates are strongly advised to complete the curriculum in three years. Classes will normally be conducted on weekday evenings and/or on Saturdays. Special arrangements will be made when necessary.

(A) Coursework

Candidates are required to complete a total of eight compulsory modules and four elective modules. All courses are designed to fulfill the coursework requirement for AAMFT membership application.

Candidates may take no more than one module offered by another taught postgraduate programme of the Faculty of Social Sciences as an elective module. However, the module must be relevant or equivalent to those offered by the MSocSc(MFT) programme. All applications will be considered on an individual basis and prior approval has to be obtained from the Programme Directors concerned before enrollment. Candidates are encouraged not to enroll for elective modules offered by other programmes in the first year of study.

Compulsory courses

MSFT6001	Overview of marriage and family therapy (1 module)
MSFT6002	Cultural consideration and application of family therapy with Asian Chinese families (1 module)

MSFT6003	Working with welfare families and the larger system (1 module)
MSFT6004	Children and adolescents in the family (1 module)
MSFT6005	Marriage and sexuality (1 module)
MSFT6006	Family therapy with psychosomatic families (1 module)
MSFT6007	Practice research in human services (1 module)
MSFT6008	Ethics for marriage and family therapists (1 module)

Elective courses

MSFT6017	Adjustment issues in post-divorce families (1 module)
MSFT6022	Group psychotherapy (1 module)
MSFT6028	Sex therapy (1 module)
MSFT6033	Domestic violence (1 module)
MSFT6034	Working with couples (1 module)
MSFT6035	Special topics in marriage and family therapy 1 (1 module)
MSFT6036	Special topics in marriage and family therapy 2 (1 module)
MSFT6037	Special topics in working with specific target group 1 (1 module)
MSFT6038	Special topics in working with specific target group 2 (1 module)
MSFT6039	Essentials for systemic clinical practice (1 module)
MSFT6040	The psychodynamic foundation of psychotherapy (1 module)

(Note: not all elective courses will necessarily be offered in a given year.)

(B) Clinical Internship

Candidates are required to complete a minimum of 500 hours of clinical practice, which is divided into five placements consisting of 100 hours each. In addition, candidates will receive 100 hours of supervision (both individual/dyadic and group) provided by experienced supervisors, with AAMFT approved status or supervisor candidates. Candidate who fails in any one placement will have to repeat before progressing to the next one.

Five placements are:

MSFT6010	Clinical internship: applying theory to practice I (1 module)
MSFT6011	Clinical internship: applying theory to practice II (1 module)
MSFT6012	Clinical internship: applying theory to practice III (1 module)
MSFT6013	Clinical internship: applying theory to practice IV (1 module)
MSFT6014	Clinical internship: applying theory to practice V (1 module)

(C) Clinical Paper (2 modules)

Candidates are required to complete a clinical paper in 8,000 to 10,000 words on marriage and family-therapy related issues by June 30 of the final year.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

MSFT6001 Overview of marriage and family therapy

This course is a fundamental introduction to theoretical concepts in the field of marriage and family therapy. The course will provide an extensive review of the theoretical foundations of the various schools and paradigm shifts in the field of marriage and family therapy from modernism to post-modernism. Major theories such as cybernetics, general systems theory, and the theories for change will be examined in relation to different schools of thought and research findings. The focus will be to unify conceptual threads that integrate different approaches including Bowenian, structural,

and narrative. Techniques from various models that are applicable to marriage and family therapy with Asian families will also be addressed. This course should be completed within the first year of study. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSFT6002 Cultural consideration and application of family therapy with Asian Chinese families

How to apply a psychotherapy that originated from the West to families in the East has been one of the most important questions confronting both practitioners and trainers working on this side of the world. Using live-case demonstration and videotaped sessions covering a variety of trans-generational issues from children to elderly, this course will concentrate on the therapeutic encounter between therapists and families from different Asian regions, including Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, and Mainland China. The objective is to break down abstract clinical and cultural concepts into concrete movement and interactions as observed in each family session. Empirical data on the therapeutic process with Chinese families will be analyzed and explored. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSFT6003 Working with welfare families and the larger system

The Hong Kong society is undergoing a lot of demographic, social, economic and political changes. While a majority of families manages to cope with these adequately, other families, most of which come from the lower-economic strata, are unable to cope well with these changes and manifest problems of malfunctioning and disharmony. These call for professional intervention and present challenges to service providers and human service practitioners. In working with these families, it is important to address issues related to these families and to see how much they are affected by the larger system. Social service policies and related philosophy as well as roles of the various sector in implementing these services will be examined. Innovative modalities and approaches in service delivery will also be introduced. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSFT6004 Children and adolescents in the family

This course focuses on a family-oriented approach in working with children and adolescents who have behavioral and emotional problems. The course is divided into two parts: the first part will focus on theories of child development and its normal and abnormal manifestations, and the second part will concentrate on the clinical applications of these concepts in working systematically with children and adolescents and their families. The course aims to equip the practitioners with an understanding of various theories, including child development, attachment theory, object relations theory, and techniques to deal with a variety of problems that afflict children and adolescents. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSFT6005 Marriage and sexuality

The field of marriage counselling is developing rapidly due to changes in the life cycle such as increasing pressures of daily life, electronic communication, transformation of gender roles, and the increasing number of divorce rates, cross-cultural relationships, and same-sex couples. This course will examine historical developments to marital therapy and new approaches in couple work. Issues such as love, marriage, intimacy, growing old together, sex, and sexual dysfunction will be discussed. Biological, cognitive, social, emotional, and cultural influences on human sexuality will also be addressed within the context of couple relationships. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSFT6006 Family therapy with psychosomatic families

This course will specifically focus on families coping with psychosomatic illness as they relate to the Chinese culture as well as other cultures. Clinically relevant issues related to the conceptualization, assessment and treatment of psychosomatic conditions are introduced and critically examined in the context of family. The transactional patterns of families whose members suffer from eating disorders, anxiety attacks, school phobias, psychologically induced asthma, rheumatism or other psychosomatic complaints will be addressed. The treatment philosophy will be to make families members the healers for the patients by a process of family empowerment. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSFT6007 Practice research in human services

In order to build indigenous practice knowledge appropriate to the local setting, this course will offer students a range of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies. Approaches to intervention research, social research and development, clinical research with couples and families, single-subject design, case study, qualitative approaches, use of narratives, and process studies will be explored. The objective will be to equip the student with an understanding of research in general as well as research on marriage and family therapy. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSFT6008 Ethics for marriage and family therapists

This course will examine in depth the issues involved in confidentiality, legal responsibilities and liabilities, and professional ethics in the practice of marriage and family therapy. The role and functions of the professional organization, licensure or certification legislation will be covered. Issues involving independent practice and the importance of inter-professional collaboration will also be addressed. Assessment: 100% coursework

Elective Courses

MSFT6017 Adjustment issues in post-divorce families

With divorce rates currently on the rise, the need to effectively work with post-divorce families is also on the rise. This course will examine the many dynamics involved for families who have been through a divorce including child and parent adjustment problems, social isolation, and financial crises. Up-to-date research findings and clinical implications will be discussed throughout the course. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSFT6022 Group psychotherapy

This course aims at enhancing the practical skills and sensitivity in conducting group psychotherapy with different clientele in a variety of service settings. It will introduce the effects of group psychotherapy, insight-oriented group treatment and behavioural techniques involving the learning of communication and problem-solving skills in effectively conducting group psychotherapy. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSFT6028 Sex therapy

The objectives of this course are to equip trainees with:

(a) knowledge on sexual behavior, physiology and psychology changes of both sexes throughout the sexual arousal and mating process

- (b) knowledge on sexual orientation and sexual variations
- (c) knowledge on common sexual problems of men and women
- (d) skills in providing basic sex counseling and therapy to men and women with sexual problems at the primary care level and identifying couples in need of secondary/tertiary care so as to make appropriate referrals.

The topics covered will be: Normal genital anatomies of men and women; sexual physiology, psychology and behavior at different stages of life and the sexual arousal and mating process; an overview on sexual orientation and sexual variations; common sexual problems in men and women and their management and resources in the community for men and women with sexual problems. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSFT6033 Domestic violence

Violence and abuse in the family has become a growing concern in contemporary society. This course will compare studies in China as well as abroad that address issues relating to domestic violence and its effects on marriage and family dynamics. The course will also highlight counselling techniques for perpetrators and victims of domestic violence both in group and family sessions. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSFT6034 Working with couples

This course will introduce the basic process of couple therapy in the context of several major couple therapy models. It will further examine the interpersonal variables related to marriage and divorce, followed by an exploration of theories and current research on couple therapy, marital relationships and related interventions for dealing with a variety of marital and divorce issues. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSFT6035 Special topic in marriage and family therapy 1

The course helps students to think in systems terms across a diverse range of presenting issues. Topic areas may include family secrets in family therapy, child and adolescent depression, Chinese philosophy and psychotherapy, adjustment issues in post-divorce families, step parenting, transgenerational families etc. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSFT6036 Special topic in marriage and family therapy 2

The course helps students to think in systems terms across a diverse range of presenting issues. Topic areas may include family secrets in family therapy, child and adolescent depression, Chinese philosophy and psychotherapy, adjustment issues in post-divorce families, step parenting, transgenerational families etc. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSFT6037 Special topic in working with specific target group 1

The course focuses on systemic therapeutic interventions in working with a specific group of clients, such as gamblers, persons with mental handicap or autism, children with ADHD, etc. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSFT6038 Special topic in working with specific target group 2

The course focuses on systemic therapeutic interventions in working with a specific group of clients, such as gamblers, persons with mental handicap or autism, children with ADHD, etc. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSFT6039 Essentials for systemic clinical practice

This course focuses is designed to prepare students for taking the required 500 hours of supervised clinical practice in marriage and family therapy which they will start in the second semester of their first academic year. Students will be trained with the attitude, knowledge and skills necessary for their prospective work with clients from diverse backgrounds. This course is highly recommended for students with limited clinical experience. Assessment: 100% coursework

MSFT6040 The psychodynamic foundation of Psychotherapy

This is an elective course designed to enable students to acquire an understanding of individual dynamics while working with a systemic perspective. The course will include working with family of origin issues, psychoanalysis, Jungian analysis, and how they can be integrated into family therapy. Assessment: 100% coursework

Clinical Internship

- MSFT6010 Clinical internship: applying theory to practice I**
- MSFT6011 Clinical internship: applying theory to practice II**
- MSFT6012 Clinical internship: applying theory to practice III**
- MSFT6013 Clinical internship: applying theory to practice IV**
- MSFT6014 Clinical internship: applying theory to practice V**

Students are required to complete a minimum of 500 hours of supervised direct client contact. Direct client contact is defined as face-to-face (therapist and client) therapy with individuals, couples, families, and/or groups. Work with individuals and groups cannot exceed 250 hours.

In addition to 500 clinical practice hours, students are required to complete 100 hours of supervision (both individual/dyadic and group) provided by experienced supervisors, with AAMFT approved status or supervisor candidates. In order to fulfill this requirement, students must receive at least one hour of supervision for every five hours of direct client contact. They will receive individual supervision, group supervision, and supervision based on direct observation, videotape, or audiotape. Apart from working with designated supervisors, students are expected to participate in one of the specialized projects such as psychosomatic disorders, depression, mental handicap, eating disorders, behavioral and school related problems, domestic violence, suicide, substance abuse, social innovation project and etc.

The Master of Social Sciences in Marriage and Family Therapy programme has links with overseas placement agencies such as the Minuchin Center for the Family in New York, College of William and Mary in Virginia, and the Marlborough Family Service in London. Arrangements for overseas clinical placement can be made with these agencies at the student's own expense. This will give students the exposure and opportunity to gain practical training from renowned training institutes under the supervision of well-known international trainers. The clinical training and supervision hours that students receive overseas can be counted toward the programme requirement if they are properly validated by the agencies abroad. However, students will still need to complete the necessary coursework required by the programme and will therefore have to adjust overseas training accordingly.

Clinical Paper

MSFT9001 Clinical paper

Students are required to complete a clinical paper in 8,000 to 10,000 words on marriage and family-therapy related issues by June 30 of the final year. Students who have satisfied the examiners in MSFT6007 Practice research in human services, are eligible to register for the Clinical Paper.

The clinical paper should focus on clinical observations or findings related to the students' particular experience or on one of the projects they are involved in the Institute. The clinical paper should aim at being of publishable quality in either journals or chapters in books discussing clinical and cultural issues in working with families. In the process of working on the clinical paper, students are expected to have close interaction with their respective advisors, teaching faculty, and the Institute, including the selection of subject and sharing of data and involvement in projects. Assessment: 100% coursework

MEDIA, CULTURE AND CREATIVE CITIES

The Department of Sociology offers a postgraduate programme leading to a Master of Social Sciences degree in Media, Culture and Creative Cities.

EXAMINATIONS

Candidates are assessed for each course in the first year by way of a 2-hour written examination that accounts for 40% of total marks and 60% by coursework assignments. In the second year they are assessed by 100% coursework and may include written tests.

CURRICULUM

The degree programme extends over two years of part-time study. The first year curriculum provides candidates with a broad, integrated understanding of the social science approach to the study of media, culture, and creative cities. The second year, building upon that foundation, introduces the candidates to a variety of contemporary developments in creative industries and related media and cultural issues.

In the first year candidates are required to satisfy the examiners by written examination and coursework in each of the following compulsory courses:

SOCI7005	Theories of media, culture and creative cities
SOCI7006	Research methods in media, culture and creative cities
SOCI7007	Globalization and the cultural mosaic: an Asian perspective
SOCI7008	Critical issues of media, culture and creative cities

and in the second year candidates are required to satisfy the examiners by coursework in four of the following elective courses:

SOCI8023	Media and popular culture in Asian cities
SOCI8024	New media and digital culture
SOCI8025	Consumer cultures and everyday life
SOCI8026	Self-identity and late-modern society
SOCI8027	Body, intimacy and sexuality
SOCI8028	Cultural policies and global cities
SOCI8029	Creative industries and creative cities

and to complete:

SOCI8030 Capstone project (equivalent to two courses)

Candidates should consult the Department of Sociology to find out what courses are being offered in any given year.

Candidates may apply to substitute for a listed course or courses in the MSocSc(Media, Culture and Creative Cities) syllabus with a course or courses offered by other departments in the University. Candidates may: (a) select courses from a list of pre-approved courses issued by the Department of Sociology; or (b) apply to be granted permission to take other postgraduate courses which are not listed as pre-approved courses. In both cases, the courses will have been approved by the Curriculum Development Committee as being of equivalent standard to that of those listed for the MSocSc(Media, Culture and Creative Cities) syllabus. Candidates shall normally be permitted to take not more than two courses from other departments in the University. Permission normally will be granted only to take postgraduate courses, and only for those courses which can be shown to have relevance to the candidates' overall course of study.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

SOCI7005 Theories of media, culture and creative cities

This compulsory course introduces the key thinkers, traditions, and current debates in the sociology and cultural studies of media and culture in the world city context. It explores the centrality of the role of media, culture, and creativity in contemporary social life and its intricate relationships with the city at an advanced level. You will comprehend media and culture as an industry or institution with specific modes of production and ownership, consumption patterns and practices, and rules of control and regulation. You will examine media and cultural representations, as well as socially constructed identities. You will explore media and culture as a “way of life” comprised of social reflective practices that entail creativity and pleasure, as well as politics and resistance. In other words, this course will look into the key issues of political economy, representation, politics, and practices of media and culture, addressing the power dynamics and complexities of the city, and examining the importance of creativity in the context of globalization. This course serves as a roadmap to other courses in this programme. Assessment: 40% examination, 60% coursework

SOCI7006 Research methods in media, culture and creative cities

This course offers you the chance to look at different ways of researching media, culture, and creative cities through a range of disciplines, most notably sociology, anthropology, and media and cultural studies. It examines the whole research process, starting from research methodology, to research design, sampling and methods used, to data collection, data analysis and report writing. In particular, various methods will be introduced such as survey, content analysis, ethnography, in-depth interview, life history, reception studies, textual analysis, and deconstruction. Key debates in research methodology such as representation, legitimation, and reflexivity will be discussed. Students will learn the methods for analyzing the media, cultural industries and their products, studying audiences and consumers, charting broader cultural trends, and examining the cultural environment of creative cities. The course helps students put theory “to work” and trains students to become independent researchers who are well-informed at both the theoretical and methodological level. Assessment: 40% examination, 60% coursework

SOCI7007 Globalization and the cultural mosaic: an Asian perspective

Globalization refers to the increasing flow of people, goods, commodities, economic activity, technologies, media, values, and belief systems on a global scale. People are becoming more aware of the global connectivity of economic, cultural, political, and social activities in different parts of the world. Recent studies focus on the dynamics of this global flow in shaping the emerging world order. This course takes a serious look at this emerging global map by examining the social, cultural, and creative interface of global, domestic, and trans-border cultures in Asia, such as the rise of new political, economic, and cultural players; new patterns of work and employment in a pan-Asian line of division of labor; the growing importance of cultural “excavation” and “reposition” for cities and nation states; family, gender, and kinship relations; consumption and new cultural and creative capital; and migration, citizenship, and pan-Asian identity. Specific Asian cities such as Hong Kong, Beijing, Taipei, Seoul, Tokyo, and Singapore will be investigated. Assessment: 40% examination, 60% coursework

SOCI7008 Critical issues of media, culture and creative cities

This course examines critical issues of media, culture, and creative cities, with a particular focus on Hong Kong city. The purpose is to shed light on relevant issues of modern life by drawing on some of the key concepts and findings in the related fields. While the issues to be discussed will vary from year to year, they will all touch upon important facets of media operation, cultural dynamics, city regeneration, and creative development. In particular, the course will look at media regulation and freedom of speech, heritage and urban planning, time and collective memory, post-colonial identity and nationalist imaginations, youth cultures and lifestyles, global consumption and local community, new forms of intimacy, the beauty myth and diet culture, creative industries, city branding, the West Kowloon Cultural District, and Disneyland. Selected topics will be taught by different instructors with relevant special expertise. Students will form small groups to work on the presentation of a chosen topic. Emphasis will be put on using contemporary media, cultural, and urban theories to interpret and understand social and cultural phenomena in Hong Kong, and extend discussions to other Asian cities such as Beijing, Taipei, Seoul, Tokyo, and Singapore. Assessment: 40% examination, 60% coursework

Elective Courses

SOCI8023 Media and popular culture in Asian cities

This course addresses the social, political, cultural, and creative dynamics of the modern communication media – TV, film, music, radio, the press, and other new media technologies – and their impacts on popular culture in Hong Kong and other Asian cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Taipei, Seoul, Tokyo, and Singapore. It enables you to critically examine how media and popular culture construct our identities, shape everyday life, and generate public debates. Topics include the media; sex and violence; consumption and youth cultures, romance and gender identity; regimes of body management; desire and social identities; lifestyle distinctions and social hierarchy; on-line communication and cyber personas; media events and imagined communities; new media and technologies; and the commercialization of arts. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8024 New media and digital culture

This course explores the nature and impact of new media in the era of digital culture. Special attention is paid to the interactivity of media, particularly in regard to how the internet and mobile technology has changed the visions and practices of commerce, entertainment, work, social interactions,

news-making, artistic creation and distribution, group formation, the spread of knowledge, identity building, political participation, legal regulation, and global social movements. We shall examine questions such as: How do new media facilitate new creative ventures and cultural expressions? How do social media interact with political power? In what ways are activities on the Internet – blogging, Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, forums, online journalism, and open source movements – building a new form of “social self” and “public sphere”? In what ways does “cyberspace” function as a source of knowledge and wisdom, a network of connectivity and community, a new civil society, and a form of “trans-local” “globalization from below”? And what are the implications of this new digital world in terms of individualized entertainment, segregated communication, and current and potential power centers such as the state and multi-media corporations? The related conceptual debates will be assessed with reference to empirical findings from a burgeoning body of evidence-based studies in this field. Experiences from different global cities will be examined. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8025 Consumer cultures and everyday life

Consumption is an important part of modern life. This course examines the role of consumer culture in the modern commodity economy. It offers you a chance to revisit classical theorists in the context of consumption (e.g., Marx, Weber, Campbell, Veblen, Simmel), as well as some more contemporary thinkers (e.g., Marcuse, Bourdieu, Baudrillard). It will look at the changing roles of street culture, department stores and shopping malls, theme parks, and urban and suburban ways of life in the context of recent discussions regarding the interactive media and global consumption politics. In particular, the course will show how consumption in everyday life generates a fascinating mix of homogeneity, difference, hybridity, commerce, and democratization for modern people in major creative cities. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8026 Self-identity and late-modern society

This course traces the rise of the notion of self-identity in the modern era and follows it through to contemporary times. Various notions of identity and their relationships will be discussed: personal identity, social identity, cultural identity, collective identity, national identity, etc. We will explore the changing experiences and meanings of collective and personal identities in late modern culture in domains such as work, family, religion, society, and the nation. We pay particular attention to the emergence of various contemporary identities in relation to the formation of creative class and creative culture. This will enable us to rethink the distinction between the public and the private, explore the social construction of the life course, the notion of cultural identity, the relationship between identity and creativity, and the dynamics of identity politics and new social movements in terms of age, body, class, religion, gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, and more. The focus is on contemporary Hong Kong and Chinese experiences as well as other cities in the Asia/Pacific region, such as Singapore, Seoul, and Tokyo. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8027 Body, intimacy and sexuality

This course aims to investigate the significant changes happening in the private sphere of intimacy in late-modern times, paying particular attention to Chinese cities such as Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, and other Asian cities such as Seoul, Taipei, Tokyo, Bangkok, and Singapore. Drawn from various disciplines such as feminism, gay and lesbian studies, queer theory, and contemporary theory of body, this course critically reviews a number of key issues: the debate of biological drive/social force in shaping sexual identity, gender difference and intimate behavior; the dynamics of agency/structure in understanding sexual performances and body practices; the development of sexual politics and movements; mainstreaming of sexuality and media representation; and commercialization of desires. This course also pays more attention to the newly emerging scripts that seem to shape femininity/masculinity, romantic love, intimate relationship, and family patterns. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8028 Cultural policies and global cities

Local governments are actively restructuring their cities in order to promote economic growth and development. In this course, urban culture is identified as one of the main relevant forces in these local development strategies. Policies, involving both the government and civic organizations thus are formulated in order to enhance the competitiveness of these locales through various cultural projects. Global cities such as London, New York, Paris, Brussels, and Tokyo are seen to be capable of assuming a leading role in the cultural development and promotion of urban entrepreneurialism. This course examines how leading global cities redevelop their urban and cultural resources in order to sharpen their competitiveness in the context of the inter-city competition of a global economy, and explores how such experiences could be applied to Hong Kong. Topics to be covered in this course include entrepreneurial cities, strategies of urban redevelopment, urban culture, and urban competitiveness. Students will also reflect on the problems associated with cultural, urban and creative development. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCI8029 Creative industries and creative cities

This course explores the structures, processes, and cultural artifacts of the creative industries (performing arts, film and television, publishing, art and antique markets, music, architecture, digital entertainment, computer software development, animation production, fashion, and product design) and how they figure in the strategic repositioning of the city. It offers students a chance to critically examine the political economy and spatial organization of these industries of culture in different creative cities of the world. It also opens up debates generated by the intersection between culture, economy, and the city, such as high and low culture, innovation and standardization, capitalist dominance and democratic pluralism, authenticity and mechanical reproduction, power and resistance, the role of the creative class in city growth and regeneration, engineering and imagineering creative cities, cultural planning, and the city as a marketplace, sustaining the livable city. Assessment: 100% coursework

Capstone project (Compulsory)

SOCI8030 Capstone project

This course aims to teach students how to integrate and apply the knowledge and skills they acquired through the programme. Students will conduct a research project in close collaboration with community partners in the field of media, culture, and creative cities. Students select a topic from the list suggested by community partners and work on it over two semesters. The topics will relate to a variety of analytical, practical, and policy issues in the field. Sample topics may include: assessing the use of the web platform for preserving local history, the role of public engagement in cultural conservation projects, funding an international film festival, independent film making in the age of media convergence, radio broadcast after digitalization, gender identity and consumer culture in South China, the application of new media art in commercial settings, cultural clusters and art districts in Asia, a proposal for setting up a crafts museum in Hong Kong, and cultural policy after the West Kowloon Cultural District.

Students will work under the guidance of a manager in the community, as well as a designated academic supervisor from the Department. Students can work individually or in groups, depending on the nature and scale of the project. Assessment will be based on a final written report and an oral presentation. The capstone project shall be submitted and presented not later than July 31 of the second academic year of study. Assessment: 100% coursework

MENTAL HEALTH

The Department of Social Work and Social Administration offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Mental Health for social workers, nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and other health related workers who are interested in mental health issues and practices. The curriculum shall extend over not less than two and not more than three academic years of part-time study, inclusive of intervening vacations.

PREREQUISITES AND REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for admission, candidates shall hold either a first degree with honours in a related field, or such other qualifications as may be accepted as its equivalent. Candidates may also be required to pass a qualifying examination relevant to the curriculum. Candidates who do not hold a Bachelor's degree with honours or another qualification of equivalent standard may in exceptional circumstances be permitted to register if they satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination. Candidates will normally be required to have had a minimum of two years of post qualification practice in the relevant fields.

EXEMPTION

Candidates may be granted exemption of up to three compulsory courses 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. Candidates with exemption granted are required to take an additional elective course to replace the exempted compulsory course to meet the degree requirements.

STRUCTURE AND EXAMINATIONS

To complete the curriculum, candidates shall satisfy the examiners in the examination of courses and a dissertation or two additional elective courses as prescribed in the curriculum. Examinations of the courses may be assessed either through presentations required by course assignments or written examination or a combination of both methods.

CURRICULUM

Candidates are required to complete a total of 10 courses: six compulsory courses and four elective courses or two elective courses with a dissertation (equivalent to two courses). Candidates can take elective courses from elective courses in other fields of study under the Master of Social Sciences (Behavioral Health, Gerontology, Marriage and Family Therapy, Social Service Management, Social Work) programmes. Special approval from the respective Programme Directors for the compulsory/core courses in the above-mentioned fields of study is needed.

(A) *Compulsory courses*

Candidates shall complete the following courses.

SOWK6054 Social work with the mentally ill

SOWK6084 Intervention in health care settings

SOWK6139 Theoretical foundation of human service practices

SOWK6186 Community mental health: policies and practices

SOWK6199 Assessment and interventions in mental health: A clinical case management approach

SOWK6265 Research methods in human service

(B) *Elective courses*

Dissertation option: Candidates shall complete two of the following courses.

Non-dissertation option: Candidates shall complete four of the following courses.

SOWK6022 Emotion-focused interventions: theory and practice

SOWK6119 Medical aspects of abnormal behaviors and mental health

SOWK6127 Cognitive-behavioral interventions

SOWK6201 Mental health problems in old age

SOWK6214 Children and youth mental health

SOWK6259 Contemporary perspectives on death, dying and bereavement

and any other elective courses offered under Master of Social Sciences (Behavioral Health, Gerontology, Marriage and Family Therapy, Social Service Management, Social Work) programmes

(Note: not all elective courses will necessarily be offered in a given year.)

(C) *Dissertation (Elective)*

Candidates opt for dissertation option shall complete the following course.

SOWK9003 Dissertation (equivalent to two courses)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

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.

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.

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

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

SOWK6199 Assessment and interventions in mental health: A clinical case management approach

Students will be given the opportunity to examine various clinical issues regarding the assessment and interventions on persons with mental health problems such as Depression, Anxiety Disorders, Schizophrenia and Personality Disorders. Students are expected to actively participate in role plays and case discussions. A clinical case management approach will be adopted for this course. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6265 Research methods in human service

This course covers the whole research process from the development of research questions and hypotheses to the analysis of data as well as presentation of findings. Different data collection methods from qualitative method, survey, experiment, case study, interviews, to focus groups will be discussed. Data analysis on various types of data including secondary data will be discussed. Assessment: 100% coursework.

Elective Courses

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 groupwork 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. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6119 Medical aspects of abnormal behaviors and mental health

This course covers the various bio-medical models on the causes and treatments of different types of mental illnesses and mental health problems. It will also critically examine the strengths and limitations of the bio-medical models in accounting for the causes and treatments of persons with mental illnesses and mental health problems. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6127 Cognitive-behavioral interventions

The course adopts a "case-study" format in which students are required to work with a client using cognitive-behavior interventions. Students will have to report in class the progress of their treatment sessions. Through seminars, students will learn the process and techniques of cognitive-behavior interventions. Assessment: 100% coursework

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

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

SOWK6259 Contemporary perspectives on death, dying and bereavement

Death is an inevitable life experience for everyone. Death-related problem is one of the commonest issues that clients brought to counseling, but is also rated as the most uncomfortable scenario by beginning counselors. This course is aimed to orientate those in helping profession the updated knowledge and intervention on death, dying and bereavement. Reviewing major theories related to death, including end-of-life situation, suicide, trauma and bereavement, the students are expected to have a better understanding of the universality of impermanence, and the impact of death towards individuals and societies. Updated intervention strategies on end-of-life care and bereavement care will be introduced. It is hoped to equip those who are working with or going to work with clients facing death, dying and bereavement with both the knowledge and practical competence. Assessment: 100% coursework

Dissertation

SOWK9003 Dissertation

The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than five months before the formal submission of the dissertation **or** not later than March 31 of the same academic year of study. The dissertation shall be presented by not later than **August 1** of the same academic year of study. The dissertation shall be a critical study that demonstrates the application of research methodology to the investigation of problems relevant to the field of study, and shall not exceed 20,000 words in length. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCIAL SERVICE MANAGEMENT

The Department of Social Work and Social Administration offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Social Service Management. The curriculum shall extend over not less than two and not more than three academic years of part-time study, inclusive of intervening vacations.

PREREQUISITES AND REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for admission, candidates shall hold either a first degree with honours in related fields, or such other qualifications as may be accepted as its equivalent. Candidates may also be required to pass a qualifying examination relevant to the curriculum. Candidates who do not hold a Bachelor's degree with honours or another qualification of equivalent standard may in exceptional circumstances be permitted to register if they satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination. Candidates will normally be required to have had a minimum of two years of post qualification practice in the relevant fields.

EXEMPTION

Candidates may be granted exemption of up to three compulsory courses 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. Candidates with exemption granted are required to take an additional elective course to replace the exempted compulsory course to meet the degree requirements.

STRUCTURE AND EXAMINATIONS

To complete the curriculum, candidates shall satisfy the examiners in the examination of courses and a dissertation or two additional elective courses as prescribed in the curriculum. Examinations of the courses may be assessed either through presentations required by course assignments or written examination or a combination of both methods.

CURRICULUM

Candidates are required to complete a total of 10 courses: six compulsory courses and four elective courses or two elective courses with a dissertation (equivalent to two courses). Candidates can take elective courses from elective courses in other fields of study under the Master of Social Sciences (Behavioral Health, Gerontology, Marriage and Family Therapy, Mental Health, Social Work) programmes. Special approval from the respective Programme Directors for the compulsory/core courses in the above-mentioned fields of study is needed.

(A) *Compulsory courses*

Candidates shall complete the following courses.

- SOWK6079 Financial development and management for social service organizations
- SOWK6087 Managing people in human services
- SOWK6139 Theoretical foundation of human service practices
- SOWK6217 Current social welfare policy issues
- SOWK6265 Research methods in human service
- SOWK6275 Organizational analysis and strategic organizational management

(B) *Elective courses*

Candidates shall complete four of the following courses.

- SOWK6032 Legal issues and legislative processes
- SOWK6048 Social welfare in China
- SOWK6132 Economics for social welfare
- SOWK6150 Information and communication technology for human service organizations
- SOWK6154 Marketing social welfare programmes and promoting community relations
- SOWK6185 Qualitative research methods
- SOWK6218 Fund raising and proposal development

SOWK6221 Information technology and society
SOWK6263 Quantitative research methods and statistical analysis
SOWK6271 Social innovation and enterprise
SOWK6288 Dynamics of social policy planning and evaluation
and any other elective courses offered under Master of Social Sciences (Behavioral Health, Gerontology, Marriage and Family Therapy, Mental Health, Social Work) programmes

(Note: not all elective courses will necessarily be offered in a given year.)

(C) *Dissertation (Elective)*

Candidates opt for dissertation option shall complete the following course.

SOWK9004 Dissertation (equivalent to two courses)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

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.

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.

SOWK6139 Theoretical foundation of human service practices

The knowledge base of human service practice 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 practice. Assessment: 100% coursework

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

SOWK6265 Research methods in human service

This course covers the whole research process from the development of research questions and hypotheses to the analysis of data as well as presentation of findings. Different data collection methods from qualitative method, survey, experiment, case study, interviews, to focus groups will be discussed. Data analysis on various types of data including secondary data will be discussed. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6275 Organizational analysis and strategic organizational management

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

Elective Courses

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

SOWK6048 Social welfare in China

This course facilitates students to understand the nature and seriousness of current social problems in China such as ageing 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

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 ageing will also be examined. Assessment: 100% coursework

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

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

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. Assessment: 100% coursework

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 behavior (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

SOWK6263 Quantitative research methods and statistical analysis

This course covers various statistical analyses include single variable, bivariate, and multivariate analyses. Appropriate analyses for different types of data will be discussed and various techniques in

scale development including reliability and factor analysis will be introduced. Apart from various multivariate linear modeling and path analysis, non-parametric analyses will also be introduced. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6271 Social innovation and enterprise

The Hong Kong society and the world at large have unfolded multifarious new social phenomena that pose new challenges to professional social work practice. The social work professional community has to develop new insights in understanding the nature of such problems and challenges, and to accordingly devise timely and appropriate intervention to address these issues. This course aims at introducing the concept of social entrepreneurship and how it creates social change. We will examine the current global development of social entrepreneurship as well as local development and its development in Greater China and South East Asian countries. We will inspire our students to become an active agent in addressing the pressing social issues and making social change. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6288 Dynamics of social policy planning and evaluation

There are a number of theoretical perspectives in social policy planning and approaches in social policy evaluation. To obtain a more in-depth understanding of such theories and approaches, the recent and ongoing examples of social policy planning and evaluation in real life will be used. The processes of planning and evaluation are not hard-coded in our political system, but change over time and depend on the contextual circumstances of specific policy. The dynamics of the social, cultural, economic and political systems in the recent and ongoing examples will be analyzed in this course. Assessment: 100% coursework

Dissertation

SOWK9004 Dissertation

The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than five months before the formal submission of the dissertation **or** not later than March 31 of the same academic year of study. The dissertation shall be presented by not later than **August 1** of the same academic year of study. The dissertation shall be a critical study that demonstrates the application of research methodology to the investigation of problems relevant to the field of study, and shall not exceed 20,000 words in length. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOCIAL WORK

The Department of Social Work and Social Administration offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Social Work. The programme offers two specialist streams, namely: Family work; and Integrated practice with young people. Candidates shall take relevant core courses under the stream. The curriculum shall extend over not less than two and not more than three academic years of part-time study, inclusive of intervening vacations.

PREREQUISITES AND REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for admission, candidates shall hold either a first degree with honours, or such other qualifications as may be accepted as its equivalent. Candidates may also be required to pass a

qualifying examination relevant to the curriculum. Candidates who do not hold a Bachelor's degree with honours or another qualification of equivalent standard may in exceptional circumstances be permitted to register if they satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination. Candidates will normally be required to have had a minimum of two years of post qualification practice in the relevant fields.

EXEMPTION

Candidates may be granted exemption of up to three compulsory/core courses 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. Candidates with exemption granted are required to take an additional elective course to replace the exempted compulsory/core course to meet the degree requirements.

STRUCTURE AND EXAMINATIONS

To complete the curriculum, candidates shall satisfy the examiners in the examination of courses and a dissertation or clinical practice seminars and a clinical practice thesis or two additional elective courses as prescribed in the curriculum. Examinations of the courses may be assessed either by course assignments, or written examination, or a combination of both methods.

CURRICULUM

Candidates are required to complete a total of 10 courses: four compulsory courses, two core courses and four elective courses or two elective courses with a dissertation or clinical practice seminars and a clinical practice thesis (equivalent to two courses). Candidates can take elective courses from elective courses in other fields of study under the Master of Social Sciences (Behavioral Health, Gerontology, Marriage and Family Therapy, Mental Health, Social Service Management) programmes. Special approval from the respective Programme Directors for the compulsory courses in the above-mentioned fields of study is needed.

(A) *Compulsory courses*

Candidates shall complete the following courses.

- SOWK6139 Theoretical foundation of human service practices
- SOWK6216 Professional supervision in human service practices
- SOWK6219 Family policy and service planning
- SOWK6265 Research methods in human service

(B) *Core courses*

Candidates shall complete courses from one of the following streams.

Family work stream

- SOWK6277 Family systems and family therapy I & II (equivalent to two courses)

Integrated practice with young people stream

- SOWK6181 Models of working with young people
- SOWK6182 Psychosocial intervention for adolescent development

(C) *Elective courses*

Dissertation or clinical practice thesis option:

Candidates shall complete two of the following courses.

Non-dissertation or non-clinical practice thesis option:

Candidates shall complete four of the following courses.

- SOWK6022 Emotion-focused interventions: theory and practice

SOWK6062 The Satir model and family reconstruction
SOWK6078 Family as a resource: an intellectual and a personal examination
SOWK6102 Violence in intimate relationships
SOWK6145 Marital counseling
SOWK6175 Theory and practice of adventure counselling
SOWK6176 Issues and intervention in school context
SOWK6177 Working with natural groups of high-risk youth
SOWK6178 Integrative practice with juvenile offenders
SOWK6179 Working with young people in a family context
SOWK6180 Contemporary youth issues
SOWK6235 Separation, divorce and remarriage
and any other elective courses offered under Master of Social Sciences (Behavioral Health, Gerontology, Marriage and Family Therapy, Mental Health, Social Service Management) programmes

(Note: not all elective courses will necessarily be offered in a given year.)

(D) *Dissertation or Clinical practice seminars and a clinical practice thesis (Elective)*

Candidates opt for a dissertation or clinical practice thesis option shall complete one of the following courses.

SOWK9001 Dissertation (equivalent to two courses)
SOWK9005 Clinical practice seminars and a clinical practice thesis (equivalent to two courses)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

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

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

SOWK6219 Family policy and service planning

This course provides a framework of analyzing and formulating social policy in the current social, political and economic environment. Current issues of family policies and the planning of family services will be examined. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6265 Research methods in human service

This course covers the whole research process from the development of research questions and hypotheses to the analysis of data as well as presentation of findings. Different data collection methods from qualitative method, survey, experiment, case study, interviews, to focus groups will be discussed. Data analysis on various types of data including secondary data will be discussed. Assessment: 100% coursework

Core Courses

Family work stream

SOWK6277 Family systems and family therapy I & II

The practice of family therapy grew out of diverse influences within mental health, marital counseling and social sciences. The movement criticized "traditional mental health as placing too much emphasis on the individual as the site of the problem, too much emphasis on history to explain causality, too much emphasis on pathology to construct treatment strategies, and too much emphasis on objectivity." The history and classic family therapy models will be introduced in the first semester of this course. In addition to the general system theory, the postmodern movement continues to gain momentum within family therapy in early 90s. Solution-oriented brief family therapy and narrative therapy are the two major family therapy approaches deprived from the postmodern shift. In the second part of this course, the assumptions, concepts and hallmark techniques of these social constructionist family therapies will be intensively examined and drilled. The application and conceptual underpinnings of different family therapy approaches relevant to Hong Kong will also be examined. Assessment: 100% coursework

Integrated practice with young people stream

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

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 behavior 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

Elective Courses

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 groupwork 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. Assessment: 100% coursework

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

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, values 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 last emotional refuge in modern living. Assessment: 100% coursework

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.

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

SOWK6175 Theory and practice of adventure counselling

Adventure Counselling (AC) is a popular contemporary approach employed to work with people, especially young 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. This course aims to introduce the theories and practices of AC. Besides introducing the theoretical base of the approach, how to design and run sessions of AC will also be taught. Some micro skills in conducting AC sessions will be introduced. The quality of an AC facilitator and the ethical considerations in employing AC to work with people will be discussed in the course. The format of the course includes lectures, seminars and workshops for students to participate and experience the process. This course is co-organized with the Hong Kong Institute of Adventure Counselling. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6176 Issues and intervention in school context

It is believed that if the education function of schools is actualized, youth problems will be reduced and their well-being will be assured to a great extent. The overall objective of this course is to help students acquire knowledge on the issues and practice in youth work from the perspectives of various helping agents in the school context. The main emphasis is to examine current theories and practice in dealing with students' needs, such as study motivation, peer relationship, career guidance as well as whole person development. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6177 Working with natural groups of high-risk youth

The forming of natural groups of peers is quite normal especially for young people for fulfilling their identification and sense-of-belonging needs. But this kind of groups among high-risk youth can subject the young people to commit delinquency. In this course, the nature of natural groups of high-risk youth will be introduced. Besides introducing theories accounting for the occurrence of this kind of groups, different intervention approaches that can be adopted to work with these groups of young people will be taught. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6178 Integrative practice with juvenile offenders

This course will focus on developing micro counselling and groupwork skills to challenge and confront juvenile offenders on their delinquent attitude and behaviours. Special attention will be placed on analysis of the problems and development of intervention techniques from an integrative perspective. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6179 Working with young people in a family context

This course will strengthen students' understanding and management of youth problems from a family perspective. Young people's relationship with family members will be examined in the context of family beliefs, communication patterns, problem-solving and conflict resolutions skills, as well as family structure. Intervention strategies ranging from family social work to different models of family therapy will be introduced and reviewed critically. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6180 Contemporary youth issues

There are several contemporary youth issues that have elicited heated debates. These include education, employment, rave parties, drug taking, night drifting, etc. This course will examine some

chosen issues. Their causes, phenomena, impacts on young people, etc. will be investigated. Relevant guest speakers on different topics will be invited. Students will also form groups to conduct studies on different chosen issues and present in class for sharing with other classmates. Assessment: 100% coursework

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

Dissertation OR Clinical practice seminars and a clinical practice thesis

SOWK9001 Dissertation

The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than five months before the formal submission of the dissertation **or** not later than March 31 of the same academic year of study. The dissertation shall be presented by not later than **August 1** of the same academic year of study. The dissertation shall be a critical study that demonstrates the application of research methodology to the investigation of problems relevant to the field of study, and shall not exceed 20,000 words in length. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK9005 Clinical practice seminars and a clinical practice thesis

This course aims to help students polish their clinical counselling skills. While some classes will be devoted to discussions of clinical issues that are of interests to the students, other classes will focus on clinical supervisions of cases and/or groups that students are working on in their agencies. Alternatively, they may take cases or run groups at our Practice Centre. However, students are fully responsible for finding cases and groups for themselves. Students are also required to conduct an evaluation of their clinical works and present a clinical practice thesis of no more than 10,000 words by not later than **August 1** of the same year of study. This course extends over two semesters. Assessment: 100% coursework
