

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

*These regulations apply to candidates admitted to the Master of Social Work in the academic year 2019-20 and thereafter.*

*(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)*

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

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### **Admission requirements**

**MSW1** To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Work, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (b) shall hold
  - (i) a Bachelor's degree of this University; or
  - (ii) another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
- (c) for a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to higher degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b); and
- (d) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

**MSW2** Candidates who do not hold a Bachelor's degree of this University or another qualification of equivalent standard may in exceptional circumstances be permitted to register if they demonstrate adequate preparation for studies at this level and satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination.

**MSW3** An application for exemption from the above requirements shall be considered on a case by case basis.

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### **Qualifying examination**

**MSW4**

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

**MSW5** To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Social Work, candidates shall

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

## **Period of study**

**MSW6** The curriculum shall normally extend over two academic years of full-time study or three academic years of part-time study. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of three academic years of full-time study or four academic year of part-time study, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

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## **Advanced Standing**

**MSW7** Advanced Standing may be granted to candidates in recognition of studies completed successfully before admission to the curriculum. Candidates who are awarded Advanced Standing will not be granted any further credit transfer for those studies for which Advanced Standing has been granted. The amount of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing shall be determined by the Board of the Faculty, in accordance with the following principles:

- (a) a candidate may be granted a total of not more than 20% of the total credits normally required under a curriculum for Advanced Standing unless otherwise approved by the Senate; and
  - (b) credits granted for Advanced Standing shall not normally be included in the calculation of the GPA unless permitted by the Board of the Faculty but will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate.
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## **Exemption**

**MSW8** Candidates may be granted exemption from not more than one compulsory course in recognition of studies completed in related areas. Exemption will only be considered in special circumstances and each application for exemption will be considered on its own merit. The exempted course should be replaced by an additional elective course to meet the degree requirements.

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## **Progression in curriculum**

**MSW9** Candidates may, with the approval of the Board of the Faculty, transfer credits for courses completed at other institutions during their candidature. The number of transferred credits may be recorded in the transcript of the candidate, but the results of courses completed at other institutions shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA. The combined total number of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing and credit transfer shall not exceed half of the total credits normally required under the curricula of the candidates during their candidature at the University.

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## **Completion of curriculum**

**MSW10** To complete the curriculum, candidates shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula, and follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed assignments and assessments of:

- (a) 10 compulsory courses;
  - (b) 2 elective courses;
  - (c) 2 additional elective courses or a dissertation in accordance with MSW11;
  - (d) 100 hours of pre-placement workshop; and
  - (e) 900 hours of field placement  
as prescribed in the syllabuses.
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## **Dissertation**

**MSW11** Subject to the provision of Regulation MSW10(c), candidates may choose to complete a dissertation in the final academic year of study. Candidates shall submit the title of dissertation for approval by March 31 of the final academic year of study and shall submit the dissertation by not later than August 1 of the final academic year of study. The dissertation should not exceed 25,000 words. Candidates shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents their own work undertaken after registration as candidates for the degree.

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## **Assessment**

**MSW12** Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any combination of continuous assessment of coursework, written examinations and/or any other assessable activities. Only passed courses will earn credits.

**MSW13** Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a passing grade for the purpose of upgrading.

**MSW14** Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners at their first attempt in any course(s), not including the dissertation, may be permitted to make up for the failed course(s) in the following manner:

- (a) undergoing re-assessment/re-examination in the failed course to be held no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester); or
- (b) re-submitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction; or
- (c) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
- (d) for elective courses, taking another course in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.

**MSW15** Subject to the provision of Regulation MSW11, candidates who have failed to present a satisfactory dissertation may be permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation within an approved specified period.

**MSW16** Candidates who are unable because of their illness to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination of the same course to be held before the beginning of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made on a form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of the candidate's absence from any examination. Any supplementary examination shall be part of that academic year's examinations, and the provision made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

**MSW17** There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.

**MSW18** Candidates who

- (a) have failed in half or more of the number of courses taken in any academic year; or
  - (b) are not permitted to present themselves for re-assessment/re-examination in any failed course(s) or to repeat any failed course(s) or take another course in lieu under Regulation MSW14; or
  - (c) have failed to satisfy the examiners in any course(s) at a second attempt; or
  - (d) are not permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation under the provision of Regulation MSW 15; or
  - (e) have exceeded the maximum period of registration
- may be required to discontinue their studies.
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## Grading system

**MSW19** Individual courses should be graded according to the following grading system:

<i>Grade</i>		<i>Standard</i>	<i>Grade Point</i>
A+	}	Excellent	4.3
A			4.0
A-			3.7
B+	}	Good	3.3
B			3.0
B-			2.7
C+	}	Satisfactory	2.3
C			2.0
C-			1.7
D+	}	Pass	1.3
D			1.0
F		Fail	0

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## Classification of awards

**MSW20** On successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diploma.

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## **SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (MSW)**

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### **A. PURPOSE**

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

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### **B. CURRICULUM**

(a) The curriculum is offered in full-time and part-time mode, and extends over two and three academic years respectively.

(b) Candidates are required to complete 123 credits, including 10 compulsory courses (6 credits each), 100 hours of pre-placement workshop (9 credits), 900 hours of supervised field placement (total 30 credits), plus 4 elective courses (6 credits each) or 2 elective courses (6 credits each) with a dissertation (12 credits).

Candidates can take elective courses from courses in other fields of study under Master of Social Sciences (Behavioral Health, Gerontology, Mental Health, Social Work) and Master of Laws in Medical Ethics and Law programmes. Candidates can take a maximum of one elective course from Master of Laws in Medical Ethics and Law programme. The selection of cross-listed courses shall be subject to the approval of the Programme Director/Chairman of the two respective programmes.

For exemption from courses or completing alternative assignments from a dissertation, formal approval shall be obtained from the Department in accordance with the conditions set out in the Degree Regulations.

(c) The 10 compulsory courses shall include

SOWK6002	Social policy and administration (6 credits)
SOWK6003	Social work research (6 credits)
SOWK6303	Human behaviour and the social environment I (6 credits)
SOWK6304	Human behaviour and the social environment II (6 credits)
SOWK6305	The Law, ethics and social work (6 credits)
SOWK6243	Social services management (6 credits)
SOWK7002	Social science theories for social work (6 credits)
SOWK6306	Theory and practice of social work – Casework (6 credits)
SOWK6307	Theory and practice of social work – Group work (6 credits)
SOWK6308	Theory and practice of social work – Community Development (6 credits)

(d) Two elective courses (6 credits each)

(e) Field placement (*capstone experience courses*)

SOWK6300	Pre-placement workshop (9 credits)
SOWK6225	Field placement I (15 credits)
SOWK6231	Field placement II (15 credits)

(f) Dissertation (*capstone experience course*)

A candidate shall be required to present a satisfactory dissertation (12 credits) or two additional elective courses (6 credits each) in accordance with MSW11.

SOWK6021	Dissertation (12 credits)
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## C. ASSESSMENT

Ongoing assessment based on coursework will be conducted to appraise the candidates' individual performance and will be designed according to learning objectives. They may include essays, portfolios, oral presentations, learning journals or others prepared individually or in groups. Written examination papers, tests, ongoing assessment, a dissertation or any combination of these shall constitute part or whole of the examination for one or more courses.

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## D. SYLLABUSES

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### Compulsory Courses

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#### **SOWK6002 Social policy and administration (6 credits)**

This course intends to enhance students' understanding of the functions of social policy in satisfying human needs, solving social problems, and strengthening families and communities. It increases students' competency in policy advocate and practice. It introduces key concepts and theoretical perspectives of social welfare, policy process and analytical framework of social policy. The course outlines an overview of social policy development of Hong Kong and enhances the ability of students in policy critique and analytical skill through in-depth examination of current social policy issues of Hong Kong.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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#### **SOWK6003 Social work research (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

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#### **SOWK6303 Human behaviour and the social environment I (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

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#### **SOWK6304 Human behaviour and the social environment II (6 credits)**

The course equips students with an integrative and multi-dimensional understanding, classification and management of abnormal behaviors and mental disorders in the environmental and cultural context. The students will be familiar with the key issues in mental health service and research, and be

able to discuss their relevance in ethical and evidence-informed social work practice and service planning.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **SOWK6305 The Law, ethics and social work (6 credits)**

The course intends to develop a critical awareness of the interaction between law and ethics in social work practice. Students will be able to examine how law can be used a framework of protection for both service users and practitioners and apply notions of ethics to their day-to-day practice. More specifically, it introduces the legal principles, institutions and processes that underpin the Hong Kong legal system. An emphasis is placed on understanding the impact of laws on social work practice in various settings such as child welfare, criminal justice, domestic violence, guardianship, mental health, and anti-discrimination. It also explores personal values and beliefs, and introduces ethical theories and frameworks that can be used to assist decision making. Ethical issues and dilemmas in relation to work in social service organizations, and relationships with colleagues and managers will be studied. Social workers' legal duties and obligations such as negligence, duty of care, confidentiality and informed consent will be examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **SOWK6243 Social services management (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **SOWK6306 Theory and practice of social work – Casework (6 credits)**

This course aims to provide students with foundations of social work concepts, models and theories in social work practice, especially in case work methods. Students are expected to relate theoretical knowledge with practice situations. Students have to perform a functional analysis of human needs and plan basic intervention steps accordingly.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **SOWK6307 Theory and practice of social work – Groupwork (6 credits)**

This course aims to develop a critical understanding of group work theory and practice with application to social work practice. The course will focus on group theory, ethics and the type of groups that social workers may encounter. It is designed to help students understand group dynamics and develop skills in group leadership, analysis and evaluation.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **SOWK6308 Theory and practice of social work – Community Development (6 credits)**

This course equips students with awareness and understanding on developing a theoretical framework for macro practice. Students develop knowledge and skills for practice in communities, organizations and other social systems; learn how to identify and analyze problems and issues; conduct needs assessments and policy research; plan strategies and skills needed for direct action organizing work

including building campaigns, establishing and soliciting community network and resources, planning actions, engaging media.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **SOWK7002 Social science theories for social work (6 credits)**

Social workers have to work with people from various walks of life, having multifarious problems of different nature. The problems faced by the social work clients are basically rooted from personal as well as societal causes. This course covers a multitude of social science theoretical concepts and perspectives, mainly in the sociology discipline. The course provides analytical frameworks for students to understand the possible factors leading to the origin and nature of social problems. Students can then analyze social problems at various levels, ranging from community, to society and global levels, and devise appropriate intervention in their future practice.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **Capstone Experience Courses**

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#### **SOWK6300 Pre-placement workshop (9 credits)**

This course is designed to fulfill the registration requirement of the Hong Kong Social Workers Registration Board (SWRB). Before undertaking the 900 fieldwork placement hours, students are required to attend 100 hours of placement preparation workshop. This course will be conducted throughout the whole academic year, composed of different briefing sessions and training workshops. After taking this course, students will be equipped to understand the NGO social services and the expectation from NGOs on placement students; to write up different proposals and recordings for placement activities; to make well use of supervision and to learn different skills to work with different clienteles and etc.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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#### **SOWK6225 Field placement I (15 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

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#### **SOWK6231 Field placement II (15 credits)**

Field work placement II serves as a transition practicum for student social workers to move towards becoming a full-fledged social worker. Students are trained to be responsible, able to cope with pressure and crisis, as well as to work independently. They should be aware of their strengths and weaknesses, and be ready to make continuous efforts to further develop in professional competence after graduation. For professional accreditation, the Social Workers' Registration Board requires the fulfillment of 800 placement hours plus 100 hours for placement preparation. Students taking this course have to fulfill at least 450 placement hours. Successful completion of SOWK6225 is a pre-requisite to this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework



**SOWK6021    Dissertation (12 credits)**

Candidates shall present a dissertation on an approved topic which shall be either an account of empirical research or a critical exposition of existing knowledge. The title of the dissertation shall be presented for approval by March 31 of the final academic year of study and the dissertation shall be presented not later than August 1 of the final academic year of study. Candidates shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents their own work undertaken after registration as a candidate for the degree. The length of their dissertation should not exceed 25,000 words.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**Electives Courses**

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**SOWK6022    Emotion-focused interventions: theory and practice (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6025    Family social work (6 credits)**

This course helps the students to evolve a frame of reference for work within family situations. The basic concepts and historical development of family therapy will be introduced. The differences and intervention implications between individual framework and the systemic family framework will be examined. Various schools of thought for working in areas of parent-child, marital, and intergenerational exchanges are critically examined for their applicability to the local setting. The focus is on family structure and transactional processes.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6035    Oncology, palliative and hospice care (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6055    Special topics in social work - A (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6056    Special topics in social work - B (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

**SOWK6057 Special topics in social work - C (6 credits)**

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

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**SOWK6058 Special topics in social work - D (6 credits)**

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

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**SOWK6059 Special topics in social work - E (6 credits)**

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

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**SOWK6062 The Satir model and family reconstruction (6 credits)**

Human behaviour is heavily influenced by family upbringing and socialization. This course, based on a marathon experiential training mode, aims to help students to achieve an understanding of their family. Virginia Satir's concepts of family rules, communication patterns, family mapping and self-esteem will be used to guide students through a process of self-discovery. Active participation will be essential.  
Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6065 Working with youth at risk and juvenile offenders (6 credits)**

This course will focus on the various approaches in working with delinquents and young people experiencing emotional or behavioral problems. To facilitate skills development, emphasis will be placed on experiential learning through the use of simulated exercises, games and role-play. Throughout the course, case and group examples will be drawn from a variety of local practice settings-probation, residential facilities for juvenile offenders, correctional services, outreach work and school social work.  
Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6084 Intervention in health care settings (6 credits)**

This course introduces students to a variety of current intervention approaches that are effective for working with people with health and mental health problems. These may include narrative therapy, solution focused therapy, art and music therapies, mindfulness-based intervention, body-mind-spirit approach, Satir family therapy and etc. Candidates will be provided with experiential training on skills/techniques in working with patients in hospitals and in the community.  
Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6087 Managing people in human services (6 credits)**

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

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### **SOWK6101 Understanding and working with young people (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **SOWK6102 Violence in intimate relationships (6 credits)**

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

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### **SOWK6126 Group treatment (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **SOWK6127 Cognitive-behavioural interventions (6 credits)**

The course introduces students to the Beck's cognitive-behaviour therapy model in working with people with depression and anxieties. A case process approach will be adopted to provide a stage-by-stage and step-by-step understanding of the theory and practice of Beck's CBT. Other CBT models for working with people with psychosis, OCD, pathological gambling, substance abuse and etc. will also be discussed in class. Invited speakers will share their local experiences in using CBT for working with Chinese clients in Hong Kong.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **SOWK6132 Economics for social welfare (6 credits)**

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

service, the financing of social services, and the economic effects of social spending. Current topics such as the economics of aging will also be examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6136 Adventure-Based Counselling: theory and practice (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6145 Marital counselling (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6154 Marketing social welfare programmes and promoting community relations (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6156 Financial planning and management for human service organizations (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6164 Counselling in the educational setting (6 credits)**

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

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**SOWK6185 Qualitative research methods (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6193 Social gerontology (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6201 Mental health problems in old age (6 credits)**

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

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**SOWK6202 Systemic approach to marital therapy (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

**SOWK6206 Play therapy (6 credits)**

The objective of the module is to introduce the student to the principles and practice of play therapy and its application to the counseling and psychotherapy for children, adolescents and families. At the end of the course, the students will have an introduction of the history and development of play therapy, an understanding of various theoretical models of play therapy, rationale for the use of play in therapy, and phrase of the client's progress in play therapy. Practice material will be provided including how to development therapeutic rapport, conduct a play based assessment, setting up of a playroom and the selection of therapeutic play materials. Best practice tips on engaging the client, recording keeping and other ethical issues will be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6207 Social policy and ageing (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6214 Children and youth mental health (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6217 Current social welfare policy issues (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6234 Bullying, aggression and resilience (6 credits)**

The issue of bullying and aggression in adolescents and adulthood is examined through multiple perspectives. An introduction to the prevalence of bullying, current theories and research on the etiology of bullying and aggression in school and workplace will be discussed. A model of resilience is adopted to rebuild the vocabulary of strengths and the culture of support. Candidates will be trained to equip risk assessment and management, crisis intervention, counselling skills, group therapy and institutional management in handling bullying. Particular emphasis is given to gender issues.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **SOWK6235 Separation, divorce and remarriage (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **SOWK6237 Use of creative arts in social work practice (6 credits)**

The course will introduce the theories of creative arts as healing and illustrate the use of creative arts in local social work contexts, including individual or group counselling setting and community development setting. It is a practical course with hands-on experience to the use of creative arts in expression, communication and healing. Creative arts are action-oriented and process-focused. The development of skills and use of creative arts for self-exploration go simultaneously in this course. Students will have opportunity to experiment with the use of arts for creative exploration and self-understanding. Different arts media will be introduced, including visual art, craft work, music, sounds, dramatic exercises, spontaneous movement and writing. The students will synthesize their personal experience with conceptual learning through experiential activities, live demonstration, listening exercise, case studies, video analysis and sharing. The course is not a formal creative arts therapy training, but offers opportunities for exploring the resources of creative arts in social work context.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **SOWK6246 Working with people with disabilities (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **SOWK6248 Addictive behaviour (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **SOWK6252 Conflict resolution and mediation (6 credits)**

This course will examine the nature of interpersonal conflicts and the strategies of conflict resolution. The course reviews key elements of negotiation and mediation from different perspectives. The

essence of mediation is to achieve a 'win-win' situation of concerned parties. Students will be able to master the basic skills of negotiation and mediation. The course is designed for intended practitioners who are interested in undertaking mediation in various settings.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **SOWK6256 Civil society organizations and social development (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **SOWK6258 Care management (6 credits)**

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

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### **SOWK6259 Contemporary perspectives on death, dying and bereavement (6 credits)**

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 offers a basic orientation to the knowledge and intervention approaches in working with death-related situations, including end of life care and bereavement counseling. Major theories and models related to death, dying and bereavement would be introduced. Corresponding clinical implications and practical work approaches would also be highlighted. Apart from the knowledge and skills, the course also emphasizes on personal exploration and review on one's attitudes toward life and death issues. It is hoped that students are better equipped with knowledge competence, practice competence as well as self competence in working with death, dying and bereavement.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **SOWK6261 Social work in school settings (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework



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**SOWK6263     Quantitative research methods and statistical analysis (6 credits)**

This course covers various statistical analyses that 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

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**SOWK6269     Child maltreatment and protection (6 credits)**

Every child has the right to a life free from violence. Unfortunately, millions of children around the world are the victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, as well as global neglect. Child maltreatment is a serious public health problem with a negative impact on the victims, their families and societies as a whole. The prevalence and risk factors of child maltreatment will be examined in the course. Effective prevention and intervention strategies will be investigated.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6274     Theories and practices in positive psychology and strength-based interventions (6 credits)**

Positive Psychology emphasizes the discovery and cultivation of human strengths and potential for a flourished life, and strength-based interventions include counseling and therapy models that foster psychological well-being and reduce distress and symptoms in clients. This course critically reviews the theory and practice of positive psychology, including the study of happiness, character strengths, optimism, resilience, compassion, meaning, goals, flow, creativity and hope and their relevance to psychological health and psychotherapy, as well as strength-oriented interventions which include mindfulness-based, compassion-based and valued-based models. The cultural relevance of Positive Psychology and strength-based interventions will also be examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6282     Social work intervention with the elderly (6 credits)**

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

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**SOWK6283     Social work with persons with mental illness (6 credits)**

The course covers different theoretical orientations towards mental illness in relation to its definition, classification, etiology, treatment, management and rehabilitation; the relationships between mental illness and individual and environmental factors; the relevance of cultural factors in mental health practice; prevailing models of service provision for persons with mental illness; multidisciplinary teamwork approach in mental health service; and the professional roles and core competences of mental health social workers.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6285    Advanced social work practice with children and youth (6 credits)**

This course will focus on the various approaches in working with young people experiencing different issues in their development. To facilitate the skill development, emphasis will be placed on experiential learning through the use of simulated services, games and role-play. Advanced social work practice includes motivational interviewing, debriefing, youth development intervention protocol design, and multi-disciplinary cooperation for various youth problems.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6287    Children and youth services and social policies (6 credits)**

This course will begin with a critical review of the current state of theory and research on child development, youth development and delinquency. It will then go on to evaluate existing policies and services directed at child, youth and youth at risk. Finally it will explore current issues in the field of youth policy. Special emphasis will be given to the relevance of these issues and programmes within the Hong Kong context.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6289    Organizational analysis and strategic organizational management (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6290    Social innovation and enterprise (6 credits)**

At the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the ideas of social innovation and social entrepreneurship grow across the globe. New solutions, that are innovative, are needed to meet the growing challenges facing our rapidly changing society. Innovations that have a social purpose are new ideas that work to meet pressing unmet needs and improve peoples' lives. It takes social entrepreneurship to make such social innovation to work and sustainable, though social entrepreneurship does not necessarily entail innovation. This course aims at developing understanding and practices of social innovation and social entrepreneurship among graduate social work students. We aim at inspiring our students to become an active agent in addressing the pressing social issues and making social change.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6291    Advanced gerontological seminars (6 credits)**

Globally, aging population leads to both threats and opportunities for social development. New issues relating to gerontology emerge from time to time. This course will bring students one or two emerging gerontological issues each time. For example, social security, housing, health and social care integration, mental health, community empowerment, death, dying and bereavement. Focuses will be put on cutting edge knowledge on selected issues, perspectives from policy, service delivery, and/or program levels.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6292    Ageing and health (6 credits)**

According to the WHO, health is a "complete state of physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." As people age, they are increasingly facing challenges in

their physical and mental health and in their social wellbeing. A better integrated health and social care system will help older people to better adjust to their aging processes and to minimize the negative impacts of aging to their wellbeing. This course is designed to help students from diverse academic backgrounds to understand the core values, conceptual models, intervention strategies, and service delivery systems of the integrated health and social care model. Building on the foundation values and knowledge of their own disciplines, students will learn how to effectively develop and implement a multi-disciplinary team in geriatric care settings.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK6293 Evidence-based programmes in global ageing contexts (6 credits)**

This course aims 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 evidence-based programs 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

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### **SOWK6294 Use of expressive arts therapy in human services (6 credits)**

Art is a natural form of communication that offers a way to expressive feelings and thoughts in a manner that is less inhibiting than solely verbal means. Expressive arts therapy has powerful healing potentials, enabling self-discovery, expression of feelings, stimulating insight, and as a means for relaxation and communication. Expressive arts therapy can be utilized as a viable intervention in the field of social work, developing people holistically and connecting the body, mind and spirit. This course will provide an opportunity for the students to experience the use of expressive arts therapy for personal growth and inner exploration. Theory will be introduced through lectures and integrated within experiential exercises and sharing of reflections. The integration of expressive arts therapy within the practice of individual counselling and group work will be shared through case studies, life demonstrations and video analysis. Various arts media will be introduced in this course e.g. visual art, craft work, music, dramatic exercises, and body movement giving the students firsthand experience in understanding how to use different art forms with potential clients.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **SOWK6295 Working with couples (6 credits)**

This course will examine the various issues involved as couples prepare for marriage, nurture their marital relationship, deal with marriage difficulties, resolve conflicts, work for conciliation/reconciliation, handle possible divorce and post-divorce issues, and face the challenges of remarriage. Approaches in working with couples at the different stages of couple relationship development will be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **SOWK6296 Fathering and Fatherhood: Social Work with Fathers (6 credits)**

The issue of gender-based social work intervention, with the emphasis of working with fathers, is examined through multiple lenses. A critical analysis of the current theories and literature on gender socialization, the development of fatherhood, the etiology of physical health, mental health, and emotion of men who are in the role of a father will be conducted. The course will identify effective

intervention and prevention strategies in working with fathers. The purpose of this course is for social work students to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to understand the dynamics of fathering and fatherhood, to conduct gender-sensitive clinical assessments, and to identify appropriate intervention strategies.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK6298 International Social Work (6 credits)**

This course is designed to introduce students to international social work and the theories and perspectives that underpin current thinking and practice in international social work. Students will explore how historical, environmental, cultural, religious, political and economic factors impact social welfare policies and the delivery of human services in different regions of the world. Students will engage in critical thinking and analysis of global social welfare issues including poverty, child welfare, health, issues particular to women and the results of catastrophic events including conflict and natural disaster. Students will analyze alternative models for service intervention and review how social work practice is delivered in other countries and regions of the world. This course is relevant for social work students seeking to practice international social work and/or to apply international social work principles to practice in their home country.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK6309 Mental health: policies and practices (6 credits)**

As part of practice competence, mental health workers should be able to take a critical stance in understanding and analyzing the policy contexts that affect their practice. The first half of the course will provide a general understanding of selected social policies in Hong Kong. It will also offer students an understanding of certain policy analysis frameworks. The second half of the course focuses on critically examining policy issues relating to mental health care. Topics such as policy trends in mental health care, legal contexts of mental health care, stigma and discrimination, rights of persons with mental illness and etc. will be explored. Overseas examples in mental health policies will be used for comparison.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **SOWK6310 Psychosocial approaches in mental health care (6 credits)**

This course critically examines current models of prevention, rehabilitation and treatments for people with mental illness. Topics such as prevention and rehabilitation, hospital and community care, models of social and vocational rehabilitation, models of psychological intervention, culture and mental health, multidisciplinary teamwork in mental health service, core competences of mental health workers/social workers and etc. By comparing these to overseas models of psychosocial approaches in mental health care, students can appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of the models that are at work in Hong Kong.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **SOWK6311 Cognitive-behaviour therapy skills training (6 credits)**

This course adopts a CBT case process model and provides a step-by-step intensive and hands-on training of cognitive-behaviour therapy skills for students who are interested in practicing CBT. Cognitive-oriented techniques such as thought stopping, cognitive restructuring, cognitive continuum and pie chart will be taught, while behavioural techniques such as activity ruler, activity chart, behavioural experiment and exposure will also be introduced to the students. It is expected that students would actively participate by practicing the various skills, engaging in role plays and other

activities in class. Students who intend to enroll in this course must have taken SOWK6127 Cognitive-behavioral interventions.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **SOWK6312 Cognitive-behaviour therapy supervised practice (6 credits)**

The course adopts a “case-study” format in which students are required to work with up to two clients using cognitive-behavior interventions. Students will have to report in class the progress of their treatment sessions. Through case discussions and group supervision, students will learn the process and techniques of cognitive-behavior interventions. Students who intend to enroll in this course must have taken SOWK6127 “Cognitive-behavioral interventions”, and SOWK6311 “Cognitive-behaviour therapy skills training”.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **SOWK6313 Knowledge and intervention for SEN children (6 credits)**

In light of increasing number of special educational needs (SEN) children in school settings, this course provides basic knowledge and intervention strategies for social workers working in family services, schools and integrated youth services settings. Attention is drawn to the assessments and the needs of these children, the needs of families, and the roles of different professionals with related multi-disciplinary collaboration. Students are expected to understand the social workers’ roles in working with SEN children. More importantly, various types of interventions, such as applied behavioral analysis, social story and learning strategies are discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **SOWK6332 Principles of Drama Therapy (6 credits)**

This course provides an introduction to the field of drama therapy, a form of creative arts therapy with the concentration using drama and theatre elements, as well as the theories and principles involved in its practice through lectures and experiential activities. There will be an overview of the history, sources, rationale, philosophy, application, as well as ethical consideration for practitioners. Different approaches of drama therapy as well as psychotherapy such as Humanistic Approach, Existentialism Psychotherapy, Individual and Group Psychotherapy, Developmental Transformations Drama Therapy, Sesame Drama & Movement Therapy, Psychodrama Psychotherapy, Playback Theatre and Forum Theatre will be covered in the course. It provides students a picture for further academic development in this profession and serves as a foundation prerequisite for students who wish to further study and register as a drama therapist under the North American Drama Therapy Association.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK7003 Basic medical knowledge for social work students (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6329      Assessment in mental health: A bio-psychosocial approach (6 credits)**

This course provides students with knowledge and skills in conducting psychiatric and psychosocial assessments on people with mental illness. Assessments on individual illnesses such as depression and psychosis will be taught using a bio-psychosocial perspective. The first 5 lectures cover the genetic and neurological bases of certain types of mental illness and the other 5 lectures will focus on the psychosocial factors in the etiology and development of certain types of mental illness. Students will be introduced to selected neurological, psychological and psychosocial assessment tools that are commonly used in measuring the mental health characteristics and statuses of a person with mental health concerns. Practical skills in using these assessment tools will be taught during classes. Assessment: 100% coursework.

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