

## **REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK (PART-TIME) (BSW)**

*(See also General Regulations and Regulations for First Degree Curricula)*

---

### **Definitions**

**BSWPT 1**<sup>(1)</sup> In these Regulations, and in the Syllabuses for the degree of BSW, unless the context otherwise requires —

Core departments' means the Departments of Geography, Politics and Public Administration, Psychology, Social Work and Social Administration, and Sociology;

'Non-core departments' means departments, centres, schools and programmes, other than core departments, teaching in the Faculty of Social Sciences;

'Department' means any one of the core and non-core departments;

'Course' means a course of instruction leading to the acquisition of a specified number of credits as defined in the syllabus;

'Credits' means the weight assigned to each course relative to the total study load. The number of credits is indicative of the contact hours and/or study time associated with the course on a weekly basis;

'Paper' means one or more of the following tests: a theoretical examination paper, a practical examination paper, an assessment of field practice, a thesis, and a dissertation, or other assignments as prescribed in the syllabus of the course leading to it;

'Prerequisite' means a course which candidates must have completed or completed successfully before being permitted to take another course as specified in the syllabus.

---

### **Admission to the degree**

**BSWPT 2** To be eligible for admission to the part-time degree of Bachelor of Social Work candidates shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations;
  - (b) comply with the Regulations for First Degree Curricula;
  - (c) possess a recognized higher diploma or associate degree in social work;
  - (d) pass the designed screening test; and
  - (e) complete the curriculum in accordance with the regulations that follow.
- 

### **Advanced standing**

**BSWPT 3** Candidates for admission may be granted exemption of up to 54 credits, in recognition of studies completed elsewhere, as specified in the syllabuses.

---

### **Length of study**

**BSWPT 4** The curriculum shall normally extend over three academic years consisting of six semesters of part-time study, plus the two interim summer semesters. Candidates shall not in any case be permitted to complete the curriculum in more than four academic years, which being the maximum period of registration.

---

<sup>(1)</sup> This regulation should be read in conjunction with UG1 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

### Completion of the curriculum

**BSWPT 5** To complete the curriculum, candidates shall:

- (a) satisfy the requirements prescribed in UG3 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula<sup>(2)</sup>;
  - (b) complete not less than 180 and not more than 216 credits of courses, unless otherwise permitted in the manner as prescribed in the syllabuses;
  - (c) follow the required number of compulsory and elective courses as prescribed in the syllabuses;
  - (d) select not less than 15 and not more than 27 credits of courses for each semester, except for the last semester of study, or not less than 36 credits in an academic year, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty;
  - (e) successfully complete all core courses offered by the Department of Social Work and Social Administration as prescribed in the syllabuses;
  - (f) complete 78 credits of required courses offered by the Department of Social Work and Social Administration;
  - (g) successfully complete 66 credits of courses of (f) above; and
  - (h) take a maximum of 54 credits of junior-level courses within the Faculty of Social Sciences or outside the Faculty of Social Sciences defined by the Head of Department for this purpose over the entire period of studies.
- 

**BSWPT 6** Candidates with unsatisfactory academic progress may be required by the Board of Faculty to take a reduced study load during a specified period.

---

### Selection of courses

**BSWPT 7** Candidates who wish to change their selection of courses at the beginning of each semester may do so up to 2 weeks after the commencement of the semester. Requests for changes beyond the 2-week deadline will not be permitted, except for medical or other reasons accepted by the Faculty Board, and candidates' withdrawal from any course without permission will be given a failing grade.

---

### Assessment and grades

**BSWPT 8** Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses which they have registered for, and assessment may be conducted in any one or any combination of the following manners: written examinations or tests, continuous assessment of performance, laboratory work, field work, research or project reports, or in any other manner as specified in the syllabuses. Only those who have successfully completed courses will earn credits.

---

**BSWPT 9** Written examinations or tests shall normally be held at the end of each semester unless otherwise specified in the syllabuses. Candidates may be required to sit the written examination or test of more than one course on any particular date.

---

**BSWPT 10** Candidates' performance in a course shall be assessed with the grading system as prescribed in UG5 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

---

<sup>(2)</sup> The specific requirements applicable to candidates of this degree curriculum are spelt out in the syllabuses.

### **Failure in examination**

**BSWPT 11** Candidates who fail in any course may, as directed by the Board of Examiners, be permitted to present themselves for re-assessment with or without repeating the failed course. The timing and the form(s) of re-assessment shall be decided by the Board of Examiners. Candidates shall not be allowed to repeat a course for which they have achieved a passed grade for upgrading purposes, nor shall they be permitted to repeat a course more than once. The failed grade will be recorded in the official transcripts. The new grade obtained after re-assessment of the same failed course will also be recorded and will replace the previous F grade in the calculation of the weighted grade point averages. As failed courses shall not be credited towards a degree, failed compulsory courses must be re-assessed.

---

### **Absence from examination**

**BSWPT 12** Candidates who are unable because of their illness to be present for any written examinations may apply for permission to present themselves for a supplementary examination to be held on a date specified by the Board of Examiners. Any such application shall be made in writing within two weeks of the first day of absence from any examination. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in one or more papers in such a supplementary examination shall be considered under the provisions made in these Regulations for failure at the first attempt at the examination, except that a further supplementary examination shall not be permitted.

---

### **Performance assessment**

**BSWPT 13** At the end of each semester, candidates' performance shall be assessed for the purposes of determining

- (a) their eligibility for progression to an award of the degree;
  - (b) their eligibility for the award; or
  - (c) whether they be required to be discontinued from the programme.
- 

### **Progression of studies**

**BSWPT 14** Candidates shall be permitted to progress if they have:

- (a) not exceeded the maximum period of registration; and
- (b) accumulated not less than 21 credits and attained a GPA of 1.00 or above over the first and second semesters; or
- (c) accumulated not less than 21 credits and attained a GPA of 1.50 or above over the third and fourth semesters; or
- (d) accumulated not less than 21 credits and attained a GPA of 1.50 or above over the fifth and sixth semesters; or
- (e) attained a semester GPA of 1.50 or above at the end of each subsequent semester.

Those who have not been able to fulfill the requirements above shall be recommended for discontinuation from the programme under General Regulation G12.

---

### **Award of the degree**

**BSWPT 15** To be eligible for the award of the part-time degree of BSW, candidates shall have

- (a) achieved a weighted GPA of 1.00 or above;
- (b) successfully accumulated a minimum of 180 credits; and
- (c) satisfied the requirements in UG3 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

## **Degree classification**

**BSWPT 16** A list of candidates who have successfully completed all the degree requirements shall be published in five divisions: First Class Honours, Second Class Honours Division One, Second Class Honours Division Two, Third Class Honours, and Pass. The classification of honours shall be determined by the Board of the Faculty at its full discretion by taking the overall performance of candidates and other relevant factors into consideration.

---

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

### **1. Educational objectives**

The Department of Social Work and Social Administration in the Faculty of Social Sciences offers a three-year part-time undergraduate programme of professional studies in Social Work for holders of recognized diplomas and associate degrees in social work, leading to the Degree of Bachelor of Social Work (BSW). The degree curriculum has the following educational objective:

To provide professional education for entry into the profession of social work. The curriculum shall include the knowledge, values, processes, and skills that have proved to be essential for the practice of social work. Candidates, upon graduation, should attain a beginning professional level of proficiency and an awareness of their responsibilities to continue their professional development.

---

### **2. Curriculum requirements**

Regulations BSWPT1 to BSWPT5 specify the requirements with which candidates have to comply for completion of the BSW degree programme. For the fulfillment of Regulation UG3 “Requirements for Graduation”, candidates shall complete successfully the two language studies courses and the broadening courses. Furthermore they should obtain a pass in an Information Technology proficiency test, or successfully complete a 3-credit course in Information Technology.

The curriculum of the part-time degree of Bachelor of Social Work normally extends over a period of three academic years. Candidates are required to follow instruction through the medium of lecture courses, laboratory work, small group tutorials and field instruction.

---

### **3. Course registration**

Course registration will take place before the commencement of each semester. In course registration, candidates should pay special attention to the pre-requisite and co-requisite requirements of courses as specified in the syllabuses. A prerequisite is a course which candidates must have completed in accordance with the conditions stipulated by the Head of Department before being permitted to take a course in question. A co-requisite is a course which candidates must take at the same time as the course in question.

---

### **4. Advanced standing**

Candidates who possess a recognized diploma or associate degree in social work and have taken related courses in their diploma/associate degree training, shall be granted up to 54 advanced credits. The amount of advanced credits to be granted shall be determined by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences. Candidates who have been granted 54 advanced credits shall be exempted from the following courses:

**Exempted Courses (Credits)**

SOWK1002 Introduction to social work (6)

SOWK1003 Introduction to social welfare (6)

SOWK1004 Human behaviour and the social environment (I) (6)

An introductory course on psychology (6)

An introductory course on sociology (6)

SOWK2014 Social work skills laboratory I &amp; II (12)

SOWK3001 Field work placement I (12)

**5. Coursework and examination ratio**

Unless otherwise specified, the examination for each 6-credit course consists of a two-hour written examination paper. The final grading will be determined by performance in the examination and an assessment of coursework in the ratio of 60:40, unless otherwise specified.

**Required Courses offered by the Department of Social Work and Social Administration**

Course	Credits	Prerequisites (S/C)
SOWK1002. Introduction to social work*	6	Nil
SOWK1003. Introduction to social welfare*	6	Nil
SOWK1004. Human behaviour and the social environment (I)*	6	A course in Psychology (C) or a credit / distinction in A-level or AS-level in Psychology
SOWK2010. Social work theory and practice I	9	SOWK1002. Introduction to social work (S)
SOWK2011. Social work theory and practice II	9	SOWK1002. Introduction to social work (S), SOWK2010. Social work theory and practice I (C)
SOWK3001. Field work placement I*	12	SOWK2014. Social work skills laboratory I & II (S), SOWK2010 & SOWK2011. Social work theory and practice I & II (C)
SOWK3004. Field work placement II#	12	SOWK2014. Social work skills laboratory I & II (S), SOWK2010 & SOWK2011. Social work theory and practice I & II (C)
SOWK3002. Advanced social work practice I	6	SOWK2010 & SOWK2011. Social work theory and practice I & II (C)
SOWK3003. Advanced social work practice II	6	SOWK2010 & SOWK2011. Social work theory and practice I & II (C)
SOWK2014. Social work skills laboratory I & II*	12	SOWK1002. Introduction to social work (S)
SOWK1005. Social policy and planning	6	SOWK1003. Introduction to social welfare (C)
SOWK2008. Human behaviour and the social environment (II)	6	SOWK1004. Human behaviour and the social environment (I) (C) or a equivalent course in the area of developmental psychology
SOWK0030. Law and social administration	6	SOWK1002. Introduction to social work (S)
SOWK0085. Social service research I: methodology	6	SOWK1002. Introduction to social work (S) and SOWK1003. Introduction to social welfare (S)
SOWK0086. Social service research II: analysis and utilization	6	SOWK0085. Social service research I: methodology (C)
One elective in micro or macro application	6	SOWK2010. Social work theory and practice I (C) for selecting elective in micro application; SOWK1005. Social policy and planning (C) for selecting elective in macro application

[Prerequisites: (C) completed and (S) successfully completed

# The course spans over two semesters and final assessment takes place at the end of the second semester.]

\* Courses to be exempted

**Recommended sequence of required courses**

Semesters I & II	SOWK1002. Introduction to social work (6)* SOWK1003. Introduction to social welfare (6)* An introductory course on psychology (6)* SOWK1004. Human behaviour and the social environment (I) (6)* An introductory course on sociology (6)* SOWK1005. Social policy and planning (6) SOWK2008. Human behaviour and the social environment (II) (6) SOWK2010. Social work theory and practice I (9) SOWK1102. Academic English and professional writing skills for social work students (6) SOWK1101. Practical Chinese language course for social sciences students (3) Culture and Value Studies (3) Science and Technology Studies (3) Other elective courses (6)
Semesters III & IV	SOWK0030. Law and social administration (6) SOWK0085. Social service research I: methodology (6) SOWK0086. Social service research II: analysis and utilization (6) SOWK2011. Social work theory and practice II (9) SOWK2014. Social work skills laboratory I & II* Other elective courses (21)
Semesters V & VI	SOWK3001. Field work placement I* SOWK3002. Advanced social work practice I (6) One elective in micro or macro application (6) SOWK3003. Advanced social work practice II (6) SOWK3004. Field work placement II (12) An elective course (6)

\* Courses to be exempted

Candidates should complete the IT course SOWK1103 “Introduction to information technology” (3 credits) or IT test SOWK1104 “Information technology proficiency test for social work students” (0 credit) in or before the fourth semester.

**JUNIOR LEVEL COURSES****Language Studies Courses****SOWK1101. Practical Chinese language course for social sciences students (3 credits)**

This course aims at enhancing students’ knowledge and skills in practical Chinese writing in the social sciences. Students will be trained to write letters, proposals, reports, press releases, and announcements. They will also acquire the skills in making public speeches and presentations.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

**SOWK1102. Academic English and professional writing skills for social work students (6 credits)**

This course aims to develop students’ abilities to write and speak English clearly, particularly in the field of Social Work. Areas of study include identifying and correcting common errors, learning jargon, orally presenting opinions/arguments, writing professional documents, and increasing confidence. Assignments include short essays and speeches, role plays, and mock case reports and project proposals.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

**Information Technology Courses****SOWK1103. Introduction to information technology (3 credits)**

This course introduces students to information technology, its uses and applications. Topics include: basic computing concepts, practical experience in using computer applications, and appreciation of how computers can be used to solve problems and facilitate routine tasks.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

Eligibility: BSW(PT) students only.

---

**SOWK1104. Information technology proficiency test (0 credit)**

This course introduces students to information technology, its uses and applications. Topics include: basic computing concepts, practical experience in using computer applications, and appreciation of how computers can be used to solve problems and facilitate routine tasks.

Assessment: 100% Examination.

Eligibility: BSW(PT) students only.

---

**Culture and Value Studies course****SOWK1105. Culture, media and identity (3 credits)**

The course addresses the processes and impacts of identity formation. Students will be exposed to theoretical discussions and empirical research on the meaning making process as well as a range of identities and its formation within a culture. Media and communication forms a pervasive part of contemporary culture. The course will also discuss the evolution of local media and communication in Hong Kong society and how it contributes to the formation of a unique identity for local people. The conflict of culture between mainland and Hong Kong and its consequences in politics and daily living will also be explored.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**Science and Technology Studies Course****SOWK1106. Science and technology in the post-modern world (3 credits)**

This course is intended to provide a general understanding of science and technology and its recent development in the post-modern world. Through this course, students are expected to increase their scientific understanding and their ability to approach scientific material intelligently. The course consists of 2 components: (1) Life which deals with topics such as bio-diversity, food production, genes and human cloning, and biotechnology in the day-to-day life of humans; (2) Energy, which explains the range of energy sources exploited by human (fossil fuels, plant bio-mass, nuclear, solar, wind, water, and geothermal sources) (3) Information and communication technology, which introduces the newest trends of its development and its impact to the way we live, work and study in the future around the world.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**Core Courses****SOWK0030. Law and social administration (6 credits)**

On a practice level, the course aims to pass on legal analytical skills and knowledge to future front liners and administrators of welfare and human services so that clients (be it families in dissolution, children juvenile needing care protection and rehabilitation, labourers, the mentally ill and

underdeveloped, those suffering under discrimination, public housing tenants, residents in urban renewal, consumers etc.) may be better served. On social policy level, the course aims to examine broad general social policy and human rights issues above mentioned and more (e.g. the criminal justice system, privacy, bill of rights, the legal system and the Basic Law etc.) so that students may commit to improving the various systems including the legal system.

---

### **SOWK1002. Introduction to social work (6 credits)**

The course introduces the basic principles and concepts of social work. Students will obtain an understanding of the philosophy, knowledge and values which form the base for social work practice, social work as a profession, and the role of the social worker in modern society.

---

### **SOWK1003. Introduction to social welfare (6 credits)**

This course introduces the basic concepts and function of social welfare. Analysis will be undertaken of the range and variety of social services in Hong Kong including family services, youth centres, outreaching services, school social work, community development, rehabilitation, elderly services, probation and correctional services.

---

### **PSYC1001. Introduction to psychology (6 credits)**

Discussion of basic concepts in psychology and a preliminary survey of representative work carried out in various areas of psychological investigation, together with an investigation at some length of one such area.

Eligibility: Students taking or having taken PSYC1002 or PSYC1003 are not allowed to take this course.

---

### **PSYC1002. How the mind works: explorations in basic thinking processes (6 credits)**

We are all fascinated by the achievements of the human mind or brain. But we may also often ask ourselves how we can do things better, for example, remember more efficiently. This course will help us to understand more about the ways in which we solve problems, how we develop our abilities to communicate through language, and how we think creatively. It will help us to answer questions about why we forget things, how we manage to see things in the world around us, why we sleep and what our dreams mean. We will look at the ways in which the human brain operates, and how it manages to do such amazing things, through reference to research findings, theories and our own practical work. Lectures will include class demonstrations and activities, as well as videos, presented in a way to enhance your interest in, and memory of, what is already a fascinating area. Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

Eligibility: Students taking or having taken PSYC1001 are not allowed to take this course.

---

### **PSYC1003. Psychology and life: personality and social influence (6 credits)**

Through lectures and a series of stimulating class activities, students in this course will learn the latest research discoveries in motivation and emotion, human development, intelligence, personality, psychological testing, stress and health, abnormal psychological functioning, psychotherapy, social attraction, social influence and social competence. The course is intended to enhance the development of self-understanding and social competence.

Eligibility: Students taking or having taken PSYC1001 are not allowed to take this course.



**SOWK1004. Human behaviour and the social environment (I) (6 credits)**

This course introduces a holistic approach to an exploration of normal patterns of development from infancy to old age. Social and familial conditions affecting growth at different stages in the life-cycle will be studied, together with related problems of adaptation and adjustment.

---

**SOCI1001. Introduction to sociology (6 credits)**

This course introduces students to the nature of sociological enquiry and the basic concepts used in sociological analysis. After some reference to the influence of inheritance and environment on human social behaviour, the course will focus on key concepts used in the analysis of cultures, social structures, social processes and social change. The relationship between research, concepts and contemporary theory will be explored at an introductory level.

---

**SOCI1002. Discovering society (6 credits)**

This course introduces students to the sociological way of thinking through reference mainly to Chinese societies such as Hong Kong, Mainland China, and overseas Chinese communities.  
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

**SOWK1005. Social policy and planning (6 credits)**

This course is designed to introduce students to the principles and methods of social policy and social planning, so as to encourage them to look over their shoulder at recent policy in such areas as housing, medical service, social protection and crime control. It is also intended to be an intellectual journey for both teachers and students to think about the general direction of social policy today by reflecting upon these issues. It is hoped that students taking the course will acquire:

- (1) a deal of information of social policy in Hong Kong,
  - (2) understanding of the philosophy, mechanism and processes of policy making and planning,
  - (3) sympathetic understanding and informed evaluation of the theories and practices of citizen participation in Hong Kong,
  - (4) methods of thinking to analyze and evaluate social policy,
  - (5) knowledge of some philosophical principles which act as our analytical tools.
- 

**Elective course****SOWK1006. Personal development and interpersonal communication (3 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework.

## SENIOR LEVEL COURSES

---

### Core Courses

#### **SOWK0085. Social service research I: methodology (6 credits)**

This course is designed to provide a basic grounding in research methodology and to illustrate the major concepts, methods and goals of social service research.

---

#### **SOWK0086. Social service research II: analysis and utilization (6 credits)**

The objective of this course is to enable students to apply and interpret various methods in data analysis, as well as to enable them to critically analyze research reports and make intelligent use of research findings in social policy planning and administration.

---

#### **SOWK2008. Human behaviour and the social environment (II) (6 credits)**

This course studies a spectrum of disturbed behaviours, from concepts of normality, abnormality, classification and assessment, to the clinical syndromes: neuroses, psychoses, personality disorders, psycho-physiologic disorders, organic brain syndromes, and mental retardation; sociopathy, sexual deviations and drug abuses; and behavioural disorders of childhood and adolescence.

---

#### **SOWK2010. Social work theory and practice I (9 credits)**

This foundation course on social work intervention aims to enable the students to perform a functional analysis of individuals, families, small groups, organizations and communities. Basic concepts in social work theory and practice in social casework, group work and community work will be introduced. The students are expected to be able to conduct need assessments and launch basic intervention plans.

---

#### **SOWK2011. Social work theory and practice II (9 credits)**

This intermediate course on social work intervention aims to facilitate the students conduct of their fieldwork placements. Students are introduced to the key models of practice in social casework, group work and community work. The latest research on the outcome effectiveness of the different approaches will be discussed to enable effective and differential use of these models of practice.

---

#### **SOWK2014. Social work skills laboratory I & II (12 credits)**

The aim of this course is to equip social work students with the basic practice knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for professional practice, via an action-learning approach. In-house training workshops will be followed by field projects in a variety of social service settings. Students' active participation in the design and implementation of these projects, together with self-reflection and guidance from teachers, will contribute to the best learning outcome. In special circumstances, a student may be permitted to take a period of field practice in lieu of the social work skills laboratory. Assessment: 100% coursework.

**SOWK3001. Field work placement I (12 credits)**

A block placement of ten weeks (five days a week) will be arranged during the long vacation between the second and third years in which students will undertake prescribed field practice under supervision in government and/or voluntary social work/services agencies.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**SOWK3002. Advanced social work practice I (6 credits)**

This advance course on social work intervention aims to challenge the students to integrate different methods and models of practice to serve needy client groups in an effective and mutually empowering manner. Focusing on using an integrative perspective to handle critical social issues, the course builds on the students' previous knowledge of Social Work Theories and Practice and their field placement experience. Students will also be required to work on an integrated project to be presented in the course on Advanced Social Work Practice II. The project will sensitize students to current social issues and prepare them for effective professional practice.

---

**SOWK3003. Advanced social work practice II (6 credits)**

This course is a series of integrated projects on advanced social work practice. Students are expected to be able to integrate theoretical knowledge acquired in class with practice experience derived from fieldwork placements. Requirements for professional presentations and plenary discussions will facilitate the students' critical evaluations of indigenous social work practice and challenge them to continuous improvement.

---

**SOWK3004. Field work placement II (12 credits)**

A concurrent placement (two days a week) throughout the first and second semester in the third year, in which students undertake prescribed field practice under supervision in government or voluntary social work/services agencies.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**Elective Courses in Macro Application (Policy, Administration and Research)****SOWK0012. Social welfare in China (6 credits)**

The course explores the philosophies, organization, techniques and development of social welfare provision in China. The work of the service organizations such as Civil Affairs Bureau, Street Offices, Unions, Federation of Women, and Communist Youth League would be studied. Issues of social security, youth policy, woman status, child care, the care of the elderly people, the physically and mentally handicapped and professional training would be discussed.

---

**SOWK0014. Health administration (6 credits)**

The theme of this course will be the importance of taking into account the cultural, economic, social and physical environments when examining matters to do with the provision of health care. The aim will be to introduce students to the issues of planning and priorities, financing and resource allocation, management principles, arguments concerning quality versus quantity, community health and public education as they relate to health administration.

**SOWK0023. Social policy issues in Hong Kong (6 credits)**

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

---

**SOWK0029. Comparative social administration (6 credits)**

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

---

**SOWK0044. Medical knowledge for social sciences students (3 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**SOWK0046. Socio-cultural context of aging (6 credits)**

The aging experience and age-related changes in physical, mental, and social functioning vary across different cultures and societies. This course examines the psychological, environmental, and societal factors accompanying and shaping the process of aging with a special emphasis on examining the Chinese and Western cultures. Specifically, the course focuses on how unique aspects of a particular culture or society determine physical, mental and social well-being in old people. Normal and pathological changes in physical, mental, and social functioning associated with aging will be examined, and the implications of such factors as ageism, economic deprivation, exits from social roles, and being widow, and for the well-being of older adults will be addressed. The roles of family caregivers and human service providers, in the enhancement of the well-being of the elderly will also be explored.

---

**SOWK0050. Government and politics of social services in Hong Kong (6 credits)**

This course explores the evolution of social policy in Hong Kong. Alternative approaches to understanding the political, economic, and social dynamics that influence social policy and the implications of these dynamics for social reform will be considered. The formation of political responses to human problems and the impact of such responses on social policy will be discussed with reference to the constitution, the legislature, the Chief Executive and the Executive Council, political parties, pressure groups and the electoral system.

---

**SOWK0051. Information and communication technology in human services (6 credits)**

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

**SOWK0053. Evaluation of social services (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**SOWK0054. Gender and society - a policy perspective (6 credits)**

Men and women's experience of the social world is significantly different but gender as a social construct is frequently overlooked both in academic discourse and in policy planning arenas. Gender effects are clear in health, education, employment, housing, social security provision, political activity and family (both in terms of private relations and family policy). This course will examine the different theories of gender discrimination, the consequent effects on social, economic and political life and attempt to answer the question 'what is to be done about it?'

---

**SOWK0055. Management in human service organizations (6 credits)**

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

---

**SOWK0058. 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 students who have not taken any management courses before but will be soon required to take up people management responsibility as a team leader or supervisor in the course of their own professional career development. The topics will include basic concepts on management functions, purposes of a managerial position and the roles of a manager; and skills in managing subordinates including motivation, morale, leadership, coaching, performance management and disciplinary actions.

---

**SOWK0061. Financial development and management for social service organizations (6 credits)**

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

---

**SOWK0062. Special topics in policy study (6 credits)**

Any special topics in policy study that reflect current topical and changing needs in the community.

**SOWK0087. Social service research project (6 credits)**

In this course, students are going to conduct a selected group research project of their interest. Under the guidance of the teacher, students can learn and experience the whole research process including: defining research objectives, identifying research questions, designing research methodology and instrumentation, collecting data, analysing data, writing up research report and disseminating the research results.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**SOWK0088. Body politics (6 credits)**

Are you forever on diet or frantically toning up your muscles? Are you attracted to tattoo, piercing, breast transplant or other forms of body manipulation? Do you dye your hair, keep it long or shave it clean? Do you desire a body like yours or of the other sex? How private is your body? Did your parents ever beat you up to quiet you down? Do you detest torture while admiring extreme sports? If you believe in body language, do you know when your body is silenced? Does a handicapped, deformed or ageing body disturb you? And a corpse? Who has control over your body: your family, your lover, your doctor, or the Government? This course provides students with insights in the meaning of body as an object of inquiry. If a body is a playground providing us with sensational pleasures, it is also a battlefield where forces of domination are constantly at war. The complex ways in which our bodies are manipulated, abused and used as source of power will be explored. Guided by a diversity of classical and contemporary perspectives, this course helps you search your soul by getting inside your body.

---

**SOWK0089. Family and society – a policy perspective (6 credits)**

This course will study the changing functions of the family system as the most fundamental caring unit in society. Policies affecting the family system, its relation with other social institutions, and measures necessary to strengthen its roles will be discussed.

---

**SOWK0091. Current welfare issues in Hong Kong (6 credits)**

The format of this course is problem-based. Students and the Course Instructor together identify the current welfare issues (CWIs) at the beginning of the term. For each CWI, the Course Instructor assists the students to identify the learning objectives, locate the relevant learning material, develop understanding in the areas identified, and construct the learning experience. Areas of learning may extend beyond the subject of social welfare to cover economics, politics, public finance, public administration, social psychology, sociology and management. In the first term, the Policy Address of the Chief Executive of the SAR Government may be chosen as one of the CWIs. In the second term, the Annual Budget of the SAR Government for 2000-2001 may be chosen.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**SOWK0094. Human service development, promotion, and evaluation (6 credits)**

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

**SOWK0097. Information technology and society (6 credits)**

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.

**Elective Courses in Micro Application (Practice)**

---

**SOWK0001. Advanced group work (6 credits)**

The small group as a mode of social work intervention will be considered as it relates to the treatment of a range of behavioral and interpersonal problems. Selected group work models, group development, and group dynamics will be reviewed in relation to the students' current fieldwork experiences.

Prerequisite: SOWK2011.

---

**SOWK0002. Working with children and families (6 credits)**

This course adopts a developmental perspective in understanding children. Common behaviour problems in children (such as emotional manifestation, oppositional behaviour, conduct disorder, school problems) will be addressed. The principles and procedures of particular intervention theories relevant to the Hong Kong situation will be examined.

---

**SOWK0007. Working with families (6 credits)**

This course will examine the concept of a 'family perspective' and assist students in gaining an understanding of the major approaches to working with families. Theories on family, methods of assessment, and a range of strategies and techniques for effective intervention with the family as well as their applicability to the local context will be considered.

---

**SOWK0009. Issues and interventions in mental health settings (6 credits)**

This course aims to enhance the students' basic understanding of mental illness by focusing on alternative definitions of mental illness, cross-cultural considerations, etiology, and interventive strategies. The diversity of roles of the professionals in team work with the mentally ill within the Hong Kong context will also be examined.

---

**SOWK0011. Issues in health care and rehabilitation settings (6 credits)**

This course gives students a basic understanding of the relationship between health, handicap and rehabilitation, public acceptance and social stigma, so as to enable the students to work more effectively in health care and rehabilitation settings.

---

**SOWK0013. Social work practice with selected target groups or in specific settings (6 credits)**

This course will focus on the practice of social work with selected target groups such as children, youth and delinquents, alcoholics and drug addicts, or in specific settings such as school, hospital, youth centres and correctional facilities. For each group or setting, attention will be focused on gaining a comprehensive understanding of the nature of the problems encountered and the role of social work in solving such problems.

**SOWK0020. 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 students will learn about the medical, psychological, social, spiritual and policy aspects of care for cancer patients and persons with terminal illness. Cultural, sociological and traditional approaches to death and dying as well as bereavement will be explored through student projects.

---

**SOWK0028. Selected topics in social work practice (6 credits)**

The course aims at developing knowledge and skills relevant to the understanding and helping of focused target populations, the selection of which will be based on the special nature of specific client groups, problem areas or service settings.

---

**SOWK0033. 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 behavioural 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 and school social work.

---

**SOWK0034. Youth crime and juvenile justice issues (6 credits)**

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

---

**SOWK0037. Human sexuality (6 credits)**

This course tells you everything you always want to know about sex but are too afraid to ask: Whom you want to have sex with and why? What would you do in sex and where and when would you do it? Who's on your mind when you think about sex, Leon Lai or Shu Kei? Which is more pleasurable, heterosexual sex or homosexual sex? What is the best sex that you've ever had? Why are having sex with yourself and masturbation acts of revolution? What is pornography – a stimulant to or substitute for sex? Who has a better claim to authority on sex, your family doctor, your lecturer, the host of a radio phone-in program on sex or a sex worker in the street?

---

**SOWK0048. 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.



**SOWK0057. Aging and society (6 credits)**

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

---

**SOWK0060. Career skills training (6 credits)**

Success in one's career is one of the most important life tasks for most people. Besides teaching students the necessary knowledge and practice of core career skills, this course also trains students to design and conduct career skills programmes. Through participation in this course, students will be able to master the theories and skills of career planning, understand the relationship between labour market dynamics and job searching, analyze the effect of social, economic and political changes on the job market. Through understanding the social psychology of career aspects, students will become more sensitive to human dynamics in the work setting.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**SOWK0065. 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 students who intend to join the fields that work with young people, e.g. social work, teaching, church, entertainment, etc.

---

**SOWK0066. Care management (6 credits)**

Care management is a major practice strategy to promote effective service delivery to diverse target populations. It is based on the notion that human service practitioners often work with people who have multiple needs. The major outcomes of care management are better integration of services provided by a cluster of organizations and community of care. This course covers the role of care management in the human services; the method and functions of care management in both direct and indirect services; and the monitoring and evaluation functions of care management practice.

---

**SOWK0068. Social skills training for human service personnel (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**SOWK0069. Counselling in health care settings (6 credits)**

Counselling approaches used in health care such as crisis intervention, grief work, cognitive behavioral 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.

**SOWK0071. Religions and superstitions in everyday life (6 credits)**

Using a social psychological framework, the course examines practices commonly observed in Hong Kong and elsewhere, such as church going, the worshipping of gods at home, in the street and in temples, visits to shamans and ceremonies concerned with the dead. These practices are then placed in the wider framework of beliefs and knowledge about the world and about ourselves. The growth and development of belief and knowledge in the individual and in society is explored, in an attempt to understand why people do what they do. All of it leads inevitably to a discussion of science and religion in its historical and current perspectives.

---

**SOWK0074. Teachers as counsellors (6 credits)**

As many students might join the teaching profession when they graduate, a purpose of this course is to help course participants understand the developmental characteristics, needs and struggles of students (children and adolescents). To understand the counselling process and acquire necessary skills in offering counselling to students are also main focuses of this course. It is expected that through the course, participants can be more equipped to be effective helpers in working with students to cope with their school life.

---

**SOWK0075. 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 different kinds of violence are taught. How to assess the violent issues, how to identify appropriate intervention strategies and how to apply the related skills in the working situation are introduced. Particular emphasis is given to the relationship between violence and gender issues.  
Assessment: 30% readings and participation, 70% term paper.

---

**SOWK0076. New age health care in community (6 credits)**

An innovative course aims at promoting holistic health care concepts and intervention models in local context. Topics include: cultural concepts on health and illness, Chinese help-seeking behaviors; concepts on psychosocial needs and intervention, total patient care, team work in health care setting; gender perspectives and health care: working with powerless women and couples; working with sick children and families; community rehabilitation, self-help movement and patient's rights; geriatric health care, care-giver supports; grief and bereavement, death and hospice care; working with individuals / casework approach; expressive art and group approach; use of emotional healing skills, alternative medicine approaches; research agenda and methods in health care setting.

---

**SOWK0077. International perspective in human services (6 credits)**

This course is a joint venture with universities from other parts of the world. The objective of the course is to promote cultural exchanges and appreciation of diversity. The course is designed to provide a forum for discussion and interaction among students from different races and cultural backgrounds. Students will be visiting other participating universities or vice versa. It is expected that through the joint projects which will be developed during the course, students will gain better awareness of how each culture is constrained or aided by their values, beliefs, norms, and attitudes.

**SOWK0092. 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 and to provide training in some micro skills in conducting ABC sessions. The quality of an ABC facilitator and the ethical considerations in employing ABC to work with people will be discussed in the course. The format of the course includes lectures, seminars and ABC workshops for students to participate and experience the process.

---

**SOWK0093. Generation Y: youth (sub)cultures (6 credits)**

This course explores various youth (sub)cultures, and will be organized around the following topics: (1) body and beauty; (2) club cultures and drugs; (3) sex and the cyber-space; (4) popular and indie music. This course focuses on the insiders' perspective, i.e. the ways in which young people actually experience and make sense of their own activities, while sensitizing students to the historical specificity of the construction of youth as a social category and the politics of representation.

---

**SOWK0095. Theoretical and ethical reflection of social work (6 credits)**

Social work makes extensive use of knowledge from various disciplines in understanding and changing human situations. It is imminent to learn about the philosophical and epistemological assumptions of various "knowledge" the profession are using in order to have appropriate application in understanding our clients and developing interventions with them. In the worker-client interaction, the values of both parties play an important part in shaping the cause and outcome of the professional intervention. A clear reflection on the practitioners' values is important in delineating such influences in the helping process. The course emphasizes the thinking and reflections of the students on their fieldwork practice experience. Small group presentation, debates and discussion will be used as the major pedagogical platform.

---

**SOWK0098. 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 students 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 students the paradigm shift in the field, the evolution of services affecting people with disabilities, and contemporary approaches to provide services to people with disabilities.

---

**SOWK0099. Separation, divorce and remarriage (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 40% coursework, 60% examination.

**SOWK0100. Medical aspect of psychiatric illness (6 credits)**

This course is an introductory course to the medical aspect of psychiatric illness. The objectives of the course are: (1) to know the basic concept of what psychiatric illness is; (2) to have the basic concept on various psychiatric illnesses; and (3) to know the current available psychiatric treatments and services.

Assessment: 40% coursework, 60% examination.

---

**SOWK0101. 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. Students will be trained to equip risk assessment and management, crisis intervention, counseling skills, group therapy and institutional management in handling bullying. Particular emphasis is given to gender issues.

Assessment: 40% coursework, 60% examination.

---

**SOWK0102. Social work in school settings (6 credits)**

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

---

**SOWK0105. Social skills training for social workers (6 credits)**

The course will consider the theoretical foundation of the social skills training method, social learning theory and its relevance to different areas of social work practice (e.g. personal social work, group work, marital counseling etc.). The course will be conducted in a practicum format and will include lectures, demonstrations, and class exercises. (100% coursework)

---

**SOWK0106. Use of creative arts in social work practice (6 credits)**

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