

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

*These regulations apply to students admitted to BSW curriculum in the academic year 2014-2015 and thereafter.*

*(See also General Regulations and Regulations for First Degree of 4-year Curricula)*

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Definitions

**BSW 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.

‘Course’ means a course of study, with a credit value expressed as a number of credit-units as specified in the syllabus.

‘Credits’ means the value assigned to each course to indicate its study load relative to the total study load under a degree curriculum. The study load refers to the hours of student learning activities and experiences, both within and outside the classrooms, and includes contact hours and time spent on assessment tasks and examinations.

‘Prerequisite’ means a course or a group of courses which candidates must have completed successfully or a requirement which candidates must have fulfilled before being permitted to take the course in question.

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Admission to the degree

**BSW 2** To be eligible for admission to the degree of Bachelor of Social Work candidates shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations;
  - (b) comply with the Regulations for First Degree Curricula; and
  - (c) complete the curriculum in accordance with the regulations that follow.
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Period of study

**BSW 3** The curriculum shall normally require eight semesters of full-time study, extending over not fewer than four academic years, and shall include any assessment to be held during and/or at the end of each semester. Candidates shall not in any case be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of six academic years.

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Completion of the curriculum

**BSW 4**

- (a) Candidates shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in UG5 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula<sup>(2)</sup>.

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

<sup>(2)</sup> Specific requirements are spelt out in the syllabuses.

- (b) Candidates shall complete not fewer than 240 credits of courses.
  - (c) Candidates shall follow the required number of compulsory and elective courses as prescribed in the syllabuses, including a Professional Core of 144 credits, comprising 132 credits of required courses offered by the Department of Social Work and Social Administration and two 6-credit introductory courses, one each offered by the Department of Sociology and the Department of Psychology.
  - (d) Candidates shall normally be required to take not fewer than 24 credits nor more than 30 credits in any one semester (except the summer semester) unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty, or except in the final semester of study when the number of outstanding credits required to complete the curriculum requirements may be fewer than 24 credits.
  - (e) Candidates may, of their own volition, take additional credits not exceeding 6 credits in each semester, and/or further credits during the summer semester, accumulating up to a maximum of 72 credits in one academic year. With the special permission of the Board of the Faculty, candidates may exceed the annual study load of 72 credits in a given academic year provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 288 credits for the normative period of study specified in BSW3, save as provided for under BSW4(f).
  - (f) Where candidates are required to make up for failed credits, the Board of the Faculty may give permission for candidates to exceed the annual study load of 72 credits provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 432 credits for the maximum period of registration specified in BSW3.
  - (g) Candidates shall normally enrol in not more than 108 credits of introductory courses in the first three years of study.
  - (h) Candidates shall not enrol in any introductory courses in the final year of study.
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#### Selection of courses

**BSW 5** 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. Candidates' withdrawal from any course without permission will result in a fail grade.

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#### Assessment

**BSW 6** 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. Grades shall be awarded in accordance with UG8(a) of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

**BSW 7** Candidates are required to make up for failed courses in the following manner

- i) 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
- ii) re-submitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of

- instruction; or
- iii) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
- iv) for elective courses, taking another course in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.

**BSW 8** Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a D grade or above for the purpose of upgrading.

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#### Discontinuation of studies

**BSW 9** Unless otherwise permitted by the Board of the Faculty, candidates shall be recommended for discontinuation of their studies if they have:

- i) failed to complete 36 or more credits in two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester), except where they are not required to take such a number of credits in the two given semesters; or
  - ii) failed to achieve an average Semester GPA of 1.0 or higher for two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester); or
  - iii) exceeded the maximum period of registration specified in BSW3.
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#### Absence from examination

**BSW 10** Candidates who are unable, because of 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 first semester of the following academic year. Any such application shall normally be made on the 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 provisions made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

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#### Advanced standing

**BSW 11** Advanced standing may be granted to candidates in recognition of studies completed successfully in an approved institution of higher education elsewhere in accordance with UG 2 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula but advanced credits will not be included in the calculation of the GPA.

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#### Credit transfer

**BSW 12** Candidates may, with the approval of the Board of the Faculty, transfer credits for courses completed at other institutions at any time 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 number of credits to be transferred shall not exceed half of the total credits normally required under the degree curricula of the candidates during their candidature at the University.

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Award of the degree

**BSW 13** To be eligible for award of the degree of BSW, candidates shall have:

- (a) achieved a cumulative GPA of 1.00 or above;
  - (b) passed courses of a minimum of 240 credits; and
  - (c) satisfied the requirements in UG5 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.
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Honours classification

**BSW14**

(a) Honours classification shall be awarded in five divisions: First Class Honours, Second Class Honours Division One, Second Class Honours Division Two, Third Class Honours, Pass. The classification of honours shall be determined by the Board of Examiners for the degree in accordance with the following Cumulative GPA scores, with all courses taken (including failed courses) carrying equal weighting:

<u>Class of honours</u>	<u>CGPA range</u>
First Class Honours	3.60 – 4.30
Second Class Honours	(2.40 – 3.59)
Division One	3.00 – 3.59
Division Two	2.40 – 2.99
Third Class Honours	1.70 – 2.39
Pass	1.00 – 1.69

(b) Honours classification may not be determined solely on the basis of a candidate's Cumulative GPA and the Board of Examiners for the degree may, at its absolute discretion and with justification, award a higher class of honours to a candidate deemed to have demonstrated meritorious academic achievement but whose Cumulative GPA falls below the range stipulated in BSW14(a) of the higher classification by not more than 0.1 Grade Point.

(c) A list of candidates who have successfully completed all the degree requirements shall be posted on Faculty noticeboards.

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

**1. Objectives**

The Department of Social Work and Social Administration in the Faculty of Social Sciences offers an undergraduate curriculum of professional studies in Social Work, leading to the Degree of Bachelor of Social Work (BSW). The degree curriculum has the following objectives:

- To graduate social workers committed to lifelong learning, integrity and professionalism, and capable of being reflective practitioners;
- To develop fully the intellectual and personal strengths of students for them to serve the needy in society through social work intervention, research and policy advocacy;
- To develop a stimulating and supportive learning environment that cultivates students'

- ability in self-inquiry and integrative application of social work theories and practice;
  - To promote students' awareness of the social inclusion perspective and develop their competence for working with people from diverse social and cultural backgrounds;
  - To act in partnership with the community, NGOs, service users and other social institutions in the education and professional development of social work students;
  - To equip social work graduates with essential knowledge, values and skills of becoming effective team players and responsive leaders in social work and other human service professions.
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## **2. Curriculum requirements**

The regulations specify the requirements with which candidates have to comply for completion of the BSW degree curriculum. For the fulfilment of Regulation UG5 "Requirements for Graduation" of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula, candidates shall complete successfully the three language enhancement courses and six Common Core Courses from different Areas of Inquiry.

The curriculum of the degree of Bachelor of Social Work normally extends over a period of four academic years. Candidates are required to follow instruction through the medium of lectures, workshops, laboratory work, small group tutorials and field instruction etc.

Candidates may opt for a minor, which is defined as completing not fewer than 36 credits of courses in a particular programme including all pre-requisites unless specified. Candidates may opt for a minor offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences or other Faculties.

(For the detailed requirements and course descriptions of minors, please refer to the syllabuses of the respective programmes)

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## **3. Course registration**

Course registration will take place before the commencement of each semester. Candidates are advised to consult relevant teachers or Heads of Departments on the suitable combinations of courses and to adhere closely to the normal study pattern. Less suitable combinations of courses may not be permitted because of timetabling difficulties. Courses listed in the syllabuses may not necessarily be offered every year; depending on the exigencies of staffing, additional courses may be offered.

Candidates may change their course selection during the two-week add/drop period which is scheduled at the beginning of each semester. Requests for changes beyond the 2-week deadline will not be permitted, except for medical or other reasons acceptable by the Faculty Board. Candidates' withdrawal from any course without permission will result in a fail grade. 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 successfully 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.

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## **4. 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.

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

Course	Credits	Prerequisite
SOWK1002. Introduction to social work	6	Nil
SOWK1004. Human behaviour and the social environment (I)	6	Nil
SOWK1008. Social welfare system and social policy	6	Nil
SOWK1009. The reflective practitioner	6	Nil
SOWK2008. Human behaviour and the social environment (II)	6	SOWK1004. Human behaviour and the social environment (I).
SOWK2085. Social service research I: methodology	6	SOWK1002. Introduction to social work and SOWK1008. Social welfare system and social policy
SOWK2107. Foundation of social work practice I	6	SOWK1002. Introduction to social work
SOWK3015. Social work practice laboratory I	6	SOWK1002. Introduction to social work
SOWK3016. Social work practice laboratory II: Field attachment	6	SOWK3015. Social work practice laboratory I
SOWK3030. Law and social administration	6	SOWK1002. Introduction to social work or SOWK1008. Social welfare system and social policy
SOWK3108. Foundation of social work practice II	6	SOWK1002. Introduction to social work
SOWK3109. Foundation of social work practice III	6	SOWK1002. Introduction to social work
SOWK4002. Advanced social work practice I	6	SOWK2107. Foundation of social work practice I SOWK3108. Foundation of social work practice II SOWK3109. Foundation of social work practice III
SOWK4003. Advanced social work practice II	6	SOWK2107. Foundation of social work practice I SOWK3108. Foundation of social work practice II SOWK3109. Foundation of social work practice III
SOWK4006. Field work placement I	15	SOWK2107. Foundation of social work practice I SOWK3016. Social work practice laboratory II: Field attachment and SOWK3108. Foundation of social work practice II SOWK3109. Foundation of social work practice III
SOWK4007. Field work placement II	15	SOWK4006. Field work placement I

SOWK4055. Management in human service organizations	6	Nil
Disciplinary Electives	12	Subject to individual requirements set out in the course description prescribed in the syllabus
Total number of credits	132	

### Recommended sequence of required courses

Semesters I & II	<p>SOWK1002. Introduction to social work  SOWK1008. Social welfare system and social policy  SOWK1009. The reflective practitioner  PSYC1001. Introduction to psychology  SOC11001. Introduction to sociology  or  SOC11003. Introduction to anthropology  CAES1000. Core University English  Three Common Core Courses selecting not more than one course from the same Area of Inquiry  Remaining credits are for free electives</p>
Semesters III & IV	<p>SOWK1004. Human behaviour and the social environment (I)  SOWK2008. Human behaviour and the social environment (II)  SOWK2085. Social service research I: methodology  SOWK2107. Foundation of social work practice I  SOWK3108. Foundation of social work practice II  CSSC9001. Practical Chinese for social sciences students  or  CUND9002. Practical Chinese and Hong Kong society (<i>for non-Cantonese speaking students</i>)  or  CUND9003. Cantonese for non-Cantonese speaking students (<i>for non-Cantonese speaking Students</i>)  CAES9925. Academic and professional literacies in social work  Two to Three Common Core Courses selecting not more than one course from the same Area of Inquiry  Remaining credits are for disciplinary or free electives</p>
Semesters V & VI	<p>SOWK3015. Social work practice laboratory I  SOWK3016. Social work practice laboratory II: Field attachment  SOWK3030. Law and social administration  SOWK3109. Foundation of social work practice III  SOWK4006. Field work placement I  Zero to One Common Core Courses selecting not more than one course from the same Area of Inquiry  Remaining credits are for disciplinary or free electives</p>
Semesters VII & VIII	<p>SOWK4002. Advanced social work practice I  SOWK4003. Advanced social work practice II  SOWK4007. Field work placement II  SOWK4055. Management in human service organizations  Remaining credits are for free electives</p>

Candidates should complete the following courses by the end of the second semester:

CAES1000. Core University English\* 6 credits

Candidates should complete the following course by the end of the sixth semester:

Six 6-credit Common Core Courses, selecting not more than one course from the same Area of Inquiry within one academic year and at least one and not more than two courses from each Area of Inquiry during the first three years of 36 credits



studies

CAES9925. Academic and professional literacies in social work 6 credits  
 CSSC9001. Practical Chinese for social sciences students 6 credits

or

CUND9002. Practical Chinese and Hong Kong society (*for non-Cantonese speaking students*)

or

CUND9003. Cantonese for non-Cantonese speaking students (*for non-Cantonese speaking students*)

Candidates who have not studied the Chinese language during their secondary education or who have not attained the requisite level of competence in the Chinese language to take CSSC9001 may apply to take a credit-bearing Cantonese or Putonghua language course offered by the School of Chinese (especially for international and exchange students), or may apply for exemption and take an elective course in lieu.

\* Candidates who have achieved Level 5\*\* in English Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, or equivalent, will be automatically exempted from this requirement and should take an elective course in lieu, see Regulation UG6.

## INTRODUCTORY COURSES

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### Language Enhancement Courses

#### **CSSC9001. Practical Chinese for Social Sciences Students (6 credits)**

Featuring problem-based learning (PBL) and collaborative learning approaches, this course aims to help students, through seminars and cases-based workshops, develop the ability to use the Chinese language effectively in the workplace. A key focus is on the use of Putonghua in presenting information for audiences. Essential techniques for producing office documents as well as reports will be discussed. Training in reading and writing the correct forms of traditional and simplified Chinese characters will also be provided.

Assessment: 70% coursework, 30% examination.

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#### **CUND9002. Practical Chinese and Hong Kong Society (6 credits)**

This course is specifically designed for the students from the Mainland. With *Putonghua* as the medium of instruction, it aims to underscore the characteristic styles and formats of practical Chinese writings in the workplace context in Hong Kong. Topics addressing the rhetorical strategies for reader-oriented professional writings are included to strengthen the students' command of the language. In the "Chinese Characters" component, drilling practices provide ample opportunity for the students to learn to convert simplified characters into their traditional forms. The evolution of Cantonese and the lexical and phonetic systems of this dialect will be explored. The local history and culture of Hong Kong will also be considered. On-site visits are organized to deepen the students' understanding of local traditions and, more importantly, to enhance their ability to appreciate and accept cultural and regional differences.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

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**CUND9003. Cantonese for non-Cantonese Speaking Students (6 credits)**

Through a comparative analysis of Putonghua and Cantonese, this course enables students to learn the characteristics of Hong Kong Chinese, to discover the differences in vocabulary and expression between the Cantonese dialect and Mandarin, to strengthen their communication skills in everyday life, and to have a proper understanding of the culture, traditions and people in Hong Kong.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

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**CAES1000. Core University English (6 credits)**

The Core University English (CUE) course aims to enhance first-year students' academic English language proficiency in the university context. CUE focuses on developing students' academic English language skills for the Common Core Curriculum. These include the language skills needed to understand and produce spoken and written academic texts, express academic ideas and concepts clearly and in a well-structured manner and search for and use academic sources of information in their writing and speaking. Students will also complete four online-learning modules through the Moodle platform on academic grammar, academic vocabulary, citation and referencing skills and understanding and avoiding plagiarism. This course will help students to participate more effectively in their first-year university studies in English, thereby enriching their first-year experience.

Assessment: 65% coursework, 35% examination.

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**Core Courses****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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK1008. Social welfare system and social policy (6 credits)**

This course introduces the basic concepts and function of social welfare and social services, and the principles and methods of social policy and social planning. Analysis will be undertaken on a range of social services in Hong Kong such as housing, health, labour, education, social security and social welfare services including family, children and youth, community development, rehabilitation, elderly and other relevant services. Students taking the course will also acquire an understanding of the philosophy, mechanism and processes of policy making and planning, the methods of analysing and evaluating social policy.

The two courses, SOWK1001 Introduction to social administration and SOWK1008 Social welfare system and social policy, are mutually exclusive. Students can only enrol in either one of these two courses within their whole course of study.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK1009. The reflective practitioner (6 credits)**

Social work practice is carried out through interactions between social workers and individuals, families, organizations and society. Social workers are inevitably shaped by their own experiences, beliefs, upbringing and culture, which might affect their interactions with these systems. This course encourages the students to start the reflective journey in visiting issues of self in relation to the perceived identity, intimacy, loss, family, and society. Through reflective exercises, discussions, and assigned readings, the students will develop a deeper understanding of their values, philosophy of life and behaviors, and how these in turn impact social work practice. The course adopts an active-learning and experiential approach.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **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.

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### **SOCI1003. Introduction to anthropology (6 credits)**

This course will explore, through cross-cultural comparison, key social and cultural issues, such as marriage and the family, caste and class, ethnicity and identity, language and culture, state formation, economic values, gender and religion. The course will draw on studies of the peoples and cultures of Asia.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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## **ADVANCED COURSES**

### **Language Enhancement Course**

#### **CAES9925. Academic and Professional Literacies in Social Work (6 credits)**

This 6-credit course aims to help students learn about the writing style and language demands

of professional writing in the social work settings. The course involves discussion of the principles and practice of writing social work documents such as summaries, reports, and proposals. Students will analyse the writing style and linguistic features of a range of sample social work documents, and learn the skills of organising and presenting information effectively using appropriate rhetorical devices and professional vocabulary.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **Core courses**

#### **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.

Prerequisite: SOWK1004. Human behaviour and the social environment (I)

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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#### **SOWK2085. Social service research I: methodology (6 credits)**

This course provides a basic grounding in quantitative and qualitative research methodology. It illustrates the major concepts, methods and goals of social service research. It also helps develop basic statistical knowledge, qualitative data analysis competence and reasoning abilities, all of which equip students to carry out social service research.

Prerequisite: SOWK1002. Introduction to social work and

SOWK1008. Social welfare system and social policy

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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#### **SOWK2107. Foundation of social work practice I (6 credits)**

The course aims to critically deliberate the nature of casework in the context of social work practice. The major models of casework practice will be examined, and the dynamic interface between casework and counselling/psychotherapy will be discussed. Through various experiential learning activities, students will master the essential knowledge and skills in relation to the process of casework, starting from initial engagement/assessment to the termination of a professional working relationship.

Prerequisite: SOWK1002. Introduction to social work

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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#### **SOWK3015. Social work practice laboratory I (6 credits)**

Students can learn and practice social work skills through in-house role plays, video demonstrations and workshops. In-house skills teaching and demonstration are structured to help students gain mastery of basic communication and social work practice skills. It serves as a preparatory course for the students to acquire intervention skills in case work, group work and community work; to critically reflect the social work values and to enhance their self-understanding for the preparation to the course of Social Work Practice Laboratory II

(Field Attachment) and their first block fieldwork placement.

Prerequisite: SOWK1002. Introduction to social work

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK3016. Social work practice laboratory II: Field attachment (6 credits)**

The aim of this course is to foster social work students' competence in practice knowledge, skills and attitudes via an action-learning approach. It also serves as the placement preparation for the students as well as to fulfil the necessary requirement of Social Workers' Registration Board. Students will conduct field projects in a variety of social service settings through which they can apply the knowledge and skills learnt in Social Work Practice Laboratory I in the field projects. Students are required to participate actively in the design and implementation of the field projects, and to reflect on their practice. On-site supervision is provided to facilitate students' reflection and integration of knowledge, skills and values required for professional practice.

Prerequisite: SOWK3015 Social work practice laboratory I

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK3030. Law and social administration (6 credits)**

Family disputes, juvenile delinquency, child abuse, mental disorder, different forms of discrimination, and industrial accidents are some of the common problems faced by the clients of social workers. These issues interface with various aspects of the legal system. This course equips students with the legal analytic skills and knowledge that are relevant to social work practice. It introduces the legal principles, institutions and processes that underpin the Hong Kong legal system. In particular the law relating to children, families and vulnerable adults is illustrated. It examines the nexus relationship between law and social work practice.

Prerequisite: SOWK1001. Introduction to social administration or

SOWK1002. Introduction to social work or

SOWK1008. Social welfare system and social policy

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK3108. Foundation of social work practice II (6 credits)**

The course aims to critically deliberate the nature of group work in the context of social work practice. The major models of group work and their underpinning theories will be examined. Different natures of group will be thoroughly discussed, which include developmental, psychoeducational and therapeutic groups; and time-limited and open-ended groups. Through various experiential learning activities, students will master the essential knowledge and skills in running a group, starting from initial formulation of common goals, to termination of the group or if the group intends to become an open-ended one, withdrawal of the formal leader from the group.

Prerequisite: SOWK1002. Introduction to social work

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK3109. Foundation of social work practice III (6 credits)**

The course introduces the nature of community in contemporary context and its evolution

from past to present, including the different types of communities that provide the context for community practice. It introduces the historical evolution of 'community practice' in overseas and local contexts. Core values and principles underlying community practice are covered, and students are encouraged to have self-reflection upon such values. It also covers the wide variety of models, methods and intervention strategies that can be employed by community practitioners. The two major trends—consensus and conflict strategies—will be discussed to provide a balanced perspective to students.

Prerequisite: SOWK1002. Introduction to social work

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK4002. Advanced social work practice I (6 credits)**

This advanced course builds on the students' previous knowledge of social work theories and practice and their field placement experiences. It consolidates and integrates different theoretical approaches, thus allowing for flexibility in facilitating changes in clients. On top of the evidence-based and theory-driven orientation, it also helps students in adopting a reflective, ethical and efficient mode of intervention.

Prerequisite: SOWK2107. Foundation of social work practice I and

SOWK3108. Foundation of social work practice II and

SOWK3109. Foundation of social work practice III

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK4003. Advanced social work practice II (6 credits)**

This course provides various theoretical frameworks and perspectives for students to analyze and understand the processes leading to multifarious social problems in a local and international context. It also examines the possible outcomes and impacts, and finally devises social work intervention plans (at the 'macro' level) to address and alleviate these problems. The course draws on knowledge and concepts from various disciplines: sociology, political science, public administration, urban planning and the like.

Prerequisite: SOWK2107. Foundation of social work practice I and

SOWK3108. Foundation of social work practice II and

SOWK3109. Foundation of social work practice III

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK4006. Field work 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 themselves with social work values and assumptions, develop continuous self-reflection on learning, and demonstrate the application of basic social work service skills in practice. Students will fulfil half of the placement hours required by the Social Workers Registration Board in this course.

Prerequisite: SOWK2107. Foundation of social work practice I and

SOWK3016. Social work practice laboratory II: Field attachment and

SOWK3108. Foundation of social work practice II and

SOWK3109. Foundation of social work practice III

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK4007. Field work 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 and independent and to cope with pressurizing and crisis situations. Conscious application of theories in the intervention process is expected. Students are expected to be aware of their strengths and weaknesses, and be willing to make continuous efforts to further develop their professional competence after graduation. Students will fulfil half of the placement hours required by the Social Workers Registration Board in this course.

Prerequisite: SOWK4006. Field work placement I

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK4055. Management in human service organizations (6 credits)**

This course enables 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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**Elective Courses in Macro Application****SOWK2023. Social policy issues in Hong Kong (6 credits)**

This course examines the issues of social policy in Hong Kong including privatization of welfare services, the impact of welfare ideology on the state of 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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK2029. Comparative social administration (6 credits)**

This course introduces students to the comparative study of social policy in selected countries, including Mainland China, and examines the provision of social development programmes and social services through the analysis and evaluation of cross-country case studies.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK2050. 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.  
Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK2051. Information and communication technology in human services (6 credits)**

This course introduces 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.  
Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK2053. Evaluation of social services (6 credits)**

This course introduces 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 analyse 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.

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### **SOWK2062. Special topics in policy study (6 credits)**

This course examines special topics in policy study that reflect current topical and changing needs in the community.  
Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK2084. Theoretical foundations in social policy and planning (6 credits)**

This course examines various models for the analysis of social policy, as well as basic concepts of social planning, programme design and implementation. Selected social policy issues in Hong Kong and neighbouring countries will be critically analyzed to enhance students' understanding of the subject.  
Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK2122. Community building and the civil society (6 credits)**

This course examines the various theories related to community building and the development of civil society. It also highlights the development of civil society organizations (CSOs) in Hong Kong and internationally, and their growing importance both in the international and global scene. Relevant public policies including urban development, housing, social welfare, home affairs, sustainable development, etc., that are both relevant and important to community building will also be examined. The role played by the CSOs in various public policies in Hong Kong will also be discussed.



Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK2123. Community partnership and political dynamics (6 credits)**

The provision of human services in the community including family services, children and youth services, rehabilitation services, medical services, elderly services, and community organization involves the development of strategic partners within the community. This course enables the students to develop in-depth understanding of the social, political and administrative structures in both the neighbourhood and district levels, the political and inter-group dynamics in the community, and the theory and practice in promoting community partnership.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK2124. Urban development and community engagement (6 credits)**

This course introduces the dynamic interplay of various forces in affecting community development by drawing reference to Hong Kong's rapid urban development and, in particular, urban renewal. Urban changes induced by any stakeholders, ranging from government, commercial sector to local organizations, should engage with all relevant stakeholders. Specific disadvantaged groups marginalized in the urban development process should be empowered to re-enter into the community engagement process. Students will appreciate the background and dynamics of these processes and will therefore be able to analyse or even participate in such processes in the future.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK2125. Comparative social policy (6 credits)**

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

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**SOWK2128. 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 the health care and social welfare sector. Medical education and social work education however has 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 understand the perspectives of medical practitioners and enhance their communication with the medical team.

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**SOWK2129. Special topics in social administration (6 credits)**

With rapid social changes, there are new issues arising in social policy and administration, such as new tensions in the interface between the State and civil society, the formulation and implementation of social policies, the management of human, financial, informational and other resources in the social service sector, and the like. This course examines selected

emergent issues with the aim of equipping students with relevant knowledge and skillsets to develop appropriate strategies which will help tackle such issues within an ever-changing social context.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK2130. Social policy and public opinion (6 credits)**

In open societies, public opinion is a key factor affecting the formulation and success of social policies. To some extent it also affects the survival of many non-governmental organizations. This course introduces the basic concepts of public opinion as applied in areas of social and public policies like housing, social security, public health surveillance, public discontent management, corporate social responsibility, sexuality and gender identity, through the study of local applications. Students will also learn how to conduct a simple opinion research, how to interpret findings from sophisticated policy consultation studies, and how to using existing datasets for secondary analysis.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK2131. Behavioural economics for social change (6 credits)**

This course will examine the relationship between behavioural economics and social change. Individuals frequently make decisions that systematically depart from the predictions of standard economic models based on a purely rational model. Behavioral economics attempts to integrate the understanding of the psychology of human behavior into economic and policy analysis. The course will review the major themes of behavioral economics and address the implications for social policy and social change in a wide variety of domains, including social security, health care, labour, education and social welfare programmes.

Pre-requisite: SOWK1001. Introduction to social administration or  
 SOWK1002. Introduction to social work or  
 SOWK1011. Introduction to social entrepreneurship and social innovation or  
 SOWK1013. Introduction to social policy and development studies

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK2132. International comparative social policy (6 credits)**

This course examines international social policy in comparative perspective. The aim is to help you understand not only the varying ways in which nations have addressed social issues, but also the political and social forces that have shaped these responses. The course will introduce students to conceptual thinking on a range of social policies –including employment, family policy, child protection and education – drawing on case studies from global regions including North America, Europe, sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. A particular focus is given to understanding the social policy of East Asia through the international comparative lens. It will emphasize alternative program designs and implications to introduce students to the potential and limitations of different alternatives. After completing the module, students will be knowledgeable about a variety of social policies in major regions of the world.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK2133. Population aging and the controversies (6 credits)**

This course studies the ways in which social and cultural factors enter into the aging process. The practical and immediate effects of aging on society are examined. This 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 will also be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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#### **SOWK2134. Social development in modern China (6 credits)**

Over three decades, China has substantially developed in various social areas. The course offers an overview of social development in modern China. The major areas of social development, such as public policy, socio-economic status, urbanization, social welfare, population mobility and migrant workers, family, aging, and health care are presented. The major issues of social development in contemporary China are discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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#### **SOWK2212. Social welfare in China (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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#### **SOWK3058. Managing people in human services (6 credits)**

This course introduces concepts which will aid in the understanding of organizational behaviour and emphasizes the application of these concepts and 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 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.

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#### **SOWK3061. 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, to mobilize financial resources for the organization and to analyse and use financial information in planning, budgeting and measuring results to promote the organization's mission and goals.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK3086. Social service research II: analysis and utilization (6 credits)**

This course enables students to apply and interpret various methods in data analysis, as well as empowers them to critically analyse research reports and make intelligent use of research findings in social policy planning and administration.

Prerequisite: SOWK2085. Social service research I: methodology

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK3090. Luxuriating in Google: Human behavior and technology (6 credits)**

The past three decades have witnessed GOOGLE generations growing up in a tripartite relationship of human–technology–social institutions including family, school, employment, community, and society. Does technology enhance our happiness? Or does technology control our lives? Some members of these GOOGLE generations are seen as tech-savvy, achievement-oriented, and craving attention, while others are characterized as tech-addicted, dependence-oriented, and self-absorbed. This course critically reviews changes in the life-courses of human behavior in such tripartite environment of human–technology–institution. We will use Google, Instagram, and YouTube to examine how technology is shaping and will likely continue to shape what we do, how we relate, and even how we think via individualized medicine, big data, game-playing, on-line product selection by “touching,” driverless cars/planes, medical apps, virtual dating, and so-called smart homes. Ultimately students will be able to step into a critical examination of theories that explain and predict optimal human adaption in technology-woven institutions of power, freedom, conflicts, and politics.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK3092. Migration and mobility (6 credits)**

Population mobility bridges the local and global across the 21<sup>st</sup> century world. This course covers topics of specifically relevant to the HK context such as cross-border migration of new arrivals from China, topics relevant to HK and the wider world such as the integration of ethnic minority migrants, and different types of migrant populations, including low-wage/skill, high-wage/professionals, voluntary (labor) and forced (refugee, humanitarian, trafficking) migration. Theories of globalization, modernization, multiculturalism and social inclusion will be examined to enable students to appreciate and apply relevant concepts to their future practice in various positions locally and globally.

Pre-requisite: SOWK1001. Introduction to social administration or

SOWK1002. Introduction to social work or

SOWK1011. Introduction to social entrepreneurship and social innovation or

SOWK1013. Introduction to social policy and development studies

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK4087. Social service research project (6 credits)**

In this course, students will 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.

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### **Elective Courses in Micro Application**

#### **SOWK2020. 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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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#### **SOWK2028. Selected topics in social work practice (6 credits)**

This course develops 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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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#### **SOWK2034. Youth crime and juvenile justice issues (6 credits)**

This course begins 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 context of Hong Kong.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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#### **SOWK2037. Human sexuality (6 credits)**

This course tells you everything you always wanted 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?

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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#### **SOWK2048. 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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### **SOWK2057. Aging and society (6 credits)**

This course studies the ways in which social and cultural factors enter into the aging process. The practical and immediate effects of aging on society are examined. This 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 will also be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK2065. 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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK2068. Social skills training for human service personnel (6 credits)**

This course offers 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. This course will be run in form of lectures, demonstrations, class discussion and exercises.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK2069. Counselling in health care settings (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK2074. 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). Understanding the counselling process and acquiring necessary skills in offering counselling to students are also main focuses of this course. It is expected that through the course, students will be more equipped to be effective helpers in working with students to cope with their school life.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK2075. 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. This 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: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK2092. 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 introduces 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 also be discussed in this course. The format of the course includes lectures, seminars and ABC workshops for students to participate and experience the process.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK2098. 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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK2099. Separation, divorce and remarriage (6 credits)**

This course enhances 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.

Prerequisite: SOWK1002. Introduction to social work or  
PSYC1001. Introduction to Psychology or  
SOC1001. Introduction to sociology

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK2101. Bullying, aggression and resilience (6 credits)**

The issue of bullying and aggression in adolescents and adulthood will be examined through multiple perspectives in this course. An introduction to the prevalence of bullying, current theories and research on the etiology of bullying and aggression in school and workplace will also 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, counselling skills, group therapy and institutional management in handling bullying. Particular emphasis is given to gender issues.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK2102. 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. Phenomenon 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 examines 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 programs. 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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**SOWK2103. Counselling in different contexts (6 credits)**

Feeling sad, tense, distressed, frustrated and confused? Talk to a counsellor before it gets worse. Counselling is a profession that helps individuals to identify and strengthen their capacity in resolving developmental issues, situational demands and crisis as well as working through inner and interpersonal conflicts. This foundation course equips students with the basic knowledge and skills of counselling. The following areas will also be examined in this course: the attributes of an effective counsellor; roles and focus of counselling in schools, social services, private organizations, medical and health settings; counselling theories; basic counselling skills; and ethical issues in counselling.



Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK2109. Working with ethnically diverse communities in Hong Kong (6 credits)**

Throughout Hong Kong's history it has been a cosmopolitan city where people arrived in the territory from across the globe as colonisers, merchants, soldiers, low paid manual workers, domestic workers, professionals or for family reunion thus starting at different rungs of the social ladder. This gave rise to its multicultural flavour and justifiably becoming 'Asia's world city'. However, not all migrants have benefited from this miraculous growth. Some were pushed to the margins, excluded or made invisible. This course benefits those who work with members of ethnic minority communities, intending to do so or who are curious about racial discrimination and multiculturalism in Hong Kong. Topics discussed include stigma, discrimination and prejudice in the context of history, gender, culture and religion of members of ethnic minority communities, new arrivals or immigrant families. Lectures, group and panel discussions as well as field visits will constitute the learning process.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK2111. 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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### **SOWK2112. Working with special target populations (6 credits)**

With increasing complexity in the Hong Kong society and the attendant problems faced by various groups of people, there is need to devise specific approaches in alleviating their problems. This course covers selected topics that pertain to the understanding of the characteristics and needs of special populations, and introduces relevant working approaches for practitioners and social policy analysts.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK2113. Special topics in social work practice (6 credits)**

The Hong Kong society and the world at large have unfolded multifarious new social phenomena that pose new challenges to professional social work practice. The social work professional community has to develop new insights in understanding the nature of such problems and challenges, and accordingly devise timely and appropriate intervention to address these issues. This course covers selected topics that meet acute societal needs, or are of current interest or on the cutting edge of knowledge advancement in social work.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK2114. Special interventions: theories and techniques (6 credits)**

In dealing with the increasing complexity of problems handled by the social work professionals, the social work community across the globe has developed new theories and techniques in practice. This course covers intervention models that are of current interest in social work. The key concepts and techniques of the models, and their development in terms of empirical base will also be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK2117. Theories and practices in counselling (6 credits)**

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

The two courses, SOWK2117 Theories and practices in counselling and PSYC2005 Introduction to counselling and therapeutic psychology, are mutually exclusive. Students can only enrol in either one of these two courses within their whole course of study.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK2118. 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. This course examines the prevalence and risk factors of child maltreatment.. Effective prevention and intervention strategies will also be investigated.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK2119. Mediation and negotiation (6 credits)**

The nature of interpersonal conflicts and strategies of conflict resolution will be examined in this course. The key elements of negotiation and mediation will be reviewed from different perspectives. Students will learn basic skills of negotiation and mediation. A win-win strategy in the conflict resolution process will be emphasized.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK2120. Counselling in business setting (6 credits)**

This course equips students with relevant knowledge and skills of counselling applicable to business settings. Some prominent approaches in helping people to change and/or solve their problems through the use of counselling strategies in the business settings will be introduced. An emphasis is placed on the application of counselling in helping people working in the business environments. Topics include the concepts of employee assistance, the needs of counselling in business settings, the applications of counselling in both profit-making and non-profit-making organizations, boundary and limitations.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK2121. Counselling in human resource development and training (6 credits)**



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**SOWK2209. Issues and interventions in mental health settings (6 credits)**

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

Prerequisite: SOWK1004. Human behaviour and the social environment (I)

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK2213. Social work practice with selected target groups or in specific settings (6 credits)**

This course focuses 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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK3033. Working with youth at risk and juvenile offenders (6 credits)**

This course focuses 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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK3060. 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, analyse 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.

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**SOWK3066. 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.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK3087. Counseling for emotional and relational competence (6 credits)**

This course is for all who want to be emotionally and relationally competent in human interaction, be it in the family, at work, with friends, or with neighbors. Training on enhancing capability to be present here and now as well as developing mutually satisfying and meaningful relationships. This course is primarily experiential and practice oriented, integrating the philosophy, science and art of intra and interpersonal competence into real life applications. Recent thinking in philosophy, psychology, group work, and neuroscience will be applied to working with intense emotions, inner blocks and inconsistencies, dilemmas and relational conflicts that haunt human encounters. Through class demonstrations, paired and small group practice, students will come to acquire concepts and skills that will guide them in facing the daily test of human interaction, help them advance their listening skills, increase self-understanding, gain confidence in decision-making, achieve relational transformation, connect with their deeper spiritual self, and affirm a more attuned, grounded, steady, and creative presence.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK3089. Integrative counselling methods in action: Theories, practices and research (6 credits)**

It is all too common for people to experience difficulty obtaining counselling that is integrative, culturally competent, and responsive to their complex needs. This course introduces students to the principles and direct practice of integrated counselling methods, based on the integration of Western counselling principles and wisdoms from traditional Eastern philosophies. This course also introduces students to the essential knowledge to effectively address the spectrum of psychological and behavioral problems they will face in their daily life. Students will become knowledgeable of the principles of integrative counselling methods, cross-cultural health issues, and the application of evidence-based complementary and alternative medicine practices across a range of health-related conditions and across different workplace settings. This course also emphasizes the development of integrative counselling skill sets, which are practical, easy-to-learn, and highly transferrable to different people in different settings. Through the use of case vignettes, small group discussions, and experiential learning activities, students will develop essential integrative counselling skills which can be applied in their daily life as ways of stress coping, health enhancement, and to achieve personal growth.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK3091. Mental health sciences and society (6 credits)**

This course brings together cutting-edge knowledge and discussions on mental health from diverse but related disciplines of philosophy, psychology, psychiatry, epidemiology, and social and healthcare services administration, both in the unique local context and in the international mental health scene. Students will be introduced to the critical examination of

theories and practices in mental health with real-world examples. Throughout the course, conceptual explorations will be illustrated by case studies, including two complex syndromes affecting youth (i.e., psychotic disorders) and elderly (i.e., dementia), as well as other common mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety and developmental disorders (e.g., autism spectrum disorder) where appropriate. Using the conventional disease/medical model as a starting point, students will be guided to understand mental health in the broader context of biological, psychological, social and cultural factors that operate in combination to affect mental health outcomes at individual and population levels.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK3093. Play therapy (6 credits)**

This course introduces the class to the use of play therapy in working with children, adolescents and families. The students will be presented with the essential elements and principles of play therapy, including historical development, theoretical modalities, basic techniques and applications.

Pre-requisite: SOWK2107. Foundation of social work practice I or  
SOWK2117. Theories and practices in counselling

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK3096. Solution-focused therapy (6 credits)**

“Judging by its popularity, solution-focused therapy may be the treatment for our times. Now one of the most widely used psychotherapy approaches in the world (Trepper, Dolan, McCollum, & Nelson, 2006) ... Its pragmatic focus on coping, rather than curing, has made it applicable to almost any problem seen by therapist.” (Nichols, & Schwartz, 2008, p.368)

Solution-focused therapy advocates that the core role of a therapist is to help client to construct their solution instead of figure out what are the causes of the problem. Solution-focused therapists argue that it isn't necessary to know what causes problems in order to make things better. Their emphasis is on what works, not what doesn't work. Therefore, it is the solution talk, not problem talk, is the direction of solution focused therapists. The course will introduce the theoretical background, basic assumptions, core working principles, and hall mark techniques of the Solution-focused therapy.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK3097. Trauma, resilience, and growth (6 credits)**

From natural disaster to human inflicted violence - landslides, tsunami, earthquake, terrorist attacks, traffic accidents, witness a murder, assaults by a total stranger, domestic violence by a love one, bullying by a classmate... the list goes on and on. Increasingly, traumatic events and the resulting stress have become part of the reality of life. While some of us may have experienced a traumatic event personally, many more witnessed or heard about these events happening around them. Recognizing the impact of traumatic event on a person and understanding the person's post-traumatic reactions is important for both human service professionals and lay persons. This course provides an overview of the study of traumatic stress. Topics covered in this course include the historical development and major theoretical perspectives of trauma research, symptoms and presentation of trauma survivors, post-traumatic stress and growth, treatments available and their research evidence.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK3106. Use of creative arts in social work practice (6 credits)**

This course introduces the theories of creative arts as healing and illustrates the use of creative arts in local social work contexts, including individual or group counseling 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 the 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. This 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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**SOWK3110. Counselling for older adults and their families (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK3115. Frontiers in interventions around death, dying and bereavement (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK3126. Experiencing drama and movement therapy (sesame) (6 credits)**

This course gives students an opportunity for a self-exploration journey through drama and movement therapy and a basic understanding (of the Sesame approach. This incorporates the

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

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK3131. Encounter with embodiment: Therapeutic use of drama in social work settings (6 credits)**

This course gives students an opportunity to understand the therapeutic use of drama (TUD) in social work setting in both micro and macro contexts. This incorporates the philosophies and approaches of certain key psychologists, psychotherapists, and applied drama practitioners such as Humanistic Approach, Existentialism Psychotherapy, Individual and Group Psychotherapy, Developmental Transformations Drama Therapy, Sesame Drama & Movement Therapy, Psychodrama Psychotherapy, Jungian Analytical Psychology, Playback Theatre and Forum Theatre. Through lectures and experiential activities, students can have basic understanding of the concepts and theories, as well as reflections on how the approaches have worked for them and the application in social work setting. Although the course does not aim at training students to be therapists or specialists in any of the approaches, students can understand different therapeutic frames and elements so to integrate into their social work professions. It also provides students a picture for further academic development in these areas.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK3301. 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 behavioural and interpersonal problems. Selected group work models, group development, and group dynamics will be reviewed in relation to the students' current fieldwork experiences.

Prerequisite: SOWK3108. Foundation of social work practice II

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **SOWK3307. Working with families (6 credits)**

This course examines the concept of a 'family perspective' and assists 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 also be considered.

Prerequisite: SOWK1004. Human behaviour and the social environment (I) or

SOWK2103. Counselling in different contexts or

SOCI2021. Marriage and the family

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **Free Electives**



Students may need to take 42 credits, including at least 24 credits at advanced level, of electives to make up the total curriculum load, and that the credits taken can be offered by any Faculty.