

The basic elements of social work, including its philosophical foundations, values and knowledge base, will be introduced. Students will have a basic understanding of the nature and practice of social work in different local settings, with discussion about some controversial issues in current social work practice in Hong Kong. Field trips and visits to welfare agencies may be required.

SOWK 1006 Human Development through the Life Span (3,3,0) (E)

This course provides a comprehensive understanding of the overall process of human development from a life span perspective. Growth and changes in the different developmental domains of individuals are addressed as the result of the interactive influences of biological, psychological, and socio-cultural factors across the life span. Students will appreciate the different major theories of human development in explaining the change processes of individuals and will critically evaluate their applicability in Hong Kong. Major developmental characteristics central to different phases of life, including the associated tasks and challenges, are examined particularly in our cultural context. Students will develop the cultural sensitivity in understanding their own developmental process.

SOWK 1008-9 Integrative Tutorial I (0,0,3) (E)

SOWK 2008-9 Integrative Tutorial II (0,0,3) (E)

SOWK 3008-9 Integrative Tutorial III (0,0,3) (E)

SOWK 4018-9 Integrative Tutorial IV (0,0,3) (E)

Integrative tutorials aim to develop students' academic and professional competence by helping them to assimilate knowledge gained through a wide range of related courses. It provides the opportunity for students to discuss, digest, and integrate what they have learned in a small group setting. Tutorials run through the four years of the programme and will be led by staff members of the Department of Social Work.

SOWK 1015 Social Dimensions of Human Societies (3,3,0) (E)

The course is intended to introduce students basic concepts and knowledge of human societies with particular emphases placed on sociological perspectives and social issues situated within urban contexts. Insight into human societies comes from many different sources: agency versus structure, micro versus macro, local versus global, etc. This course is concerned with an introductory and interdisciplinary understanding of human societies where people live and experience in their everyday life. Acquiring a brief yet critical understanding of different aspects and processes of human societies including certain social issues can enable students to identify the nature of the relationship and dynamics between individuals/groups and society particularly with respect to urban and cosmopolitan contexts like Hong Kong.

SOWK 1016 Social Justice and Social Development (3,3,0)

This course introduces students to the basic knowledge relating to the concept and theories of social justice and social development and their integration in the development field, with particular focus on the local context of Hong Kong. Local cases of disadvantaged communities will be used to illustrate the application of the concepts and theories.

SOWK 1120 Social Work in Contemporary Society (3,3,0)

This course aims to enable students to understand the emergence of social welfare and social work in Western as well as Hong Kong societies. The basic elements of social work, including its philosophical foundations, values and knowledge base, will be introduced. Students will have a basic understanding of the nature and practice of social work in different local settings, with discussion about some controversial issues in current social work practice in Hong Kong. Field trips and visits to welfare agencies may be required.

SOWK 1220 Human Development (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: PSY 1110 Principles of Psychology and SOC 1110 Invitation to Sociology, or consent of the Department

This course aims to enable students to (1) understand the changes in human behaviour as the result of biological, psychological and socio-cultural factors across the span; (2) gain knowledge of key development stages and their associated issues, conflicts and tasks; (3) examine the theories of human development and their implications for social work practice in the local context; and (4) understand personality development and functioning through all the phases of life cycle. The developmental problems and adjustment difficulties in different life stages will be introduced, with particular reference to social work practice. Students will also develop self-understanding and growth in light of theories of human development.

SOWK 1230 Skills for Social Work Practice (3,2,2)

Prerequisite: SOWK 1120 Social Work in Contemporary Society This course aims to facilitate students' self-understanding and awareness of own behaviour and attitude related to the role of a social worker. It helps students to reflect on values and identify value conflict, if any, in the application of the Hong Kong Social Work Code of Ethics to practice. Students will also be equipped with basic knowledge and skills of interpersonal relationships, interviewing skills, community work skills and presentation and recording skills.

SOWK 1250 Social Work Intervention and Processes (2,2,0)

An introduction to the integrated model as a conceptual framework for the study of social work theory and practice. Students will examine processes, skills, and generic knowledge common to social work practice in three modes of intervention, i.e. individual, group and community. A variety of structured exercises based on case, group and community studies will be used to develop students' practical and analytical skills.

A skills laboratory will run concurrently, in which students will be given the opportunity to develop the basic skills and knowledge of communication and experience the application of skills in experimental exercises. Self-awareness of one's own behaviour, attitudes, understanding, and acceptance of the behaviour of others is a major focus of this section.

SOWK 2005 Human Behaviour and Diversity (3,3,0) (C)

Prerequisite: SOWK 1006 Human Development through the Life Span or consent of the Department

This course aims to provide students with a multi-dimensional framework for assessing human behaviour and functioning; help students to understand and appreciate similarities and diversities relating to human behaviour; help students to understand the theoretical, conceptual and empirical foundations of human behaviour from a diversity perspective; help students to understand the dynamics of oppression, discrimination and privilege; and provide students with an introduction to the realities of practice with diverse population in the local context.

SOWK 2006 Social Work Intervention and Processes (2,3,0) (C)

Prerequisite: SOWK 1005 Social Work in Contemporary Society This course is an introduction to the integrated model as a conceptual framework for the study of social work theory and practice. Students take this courses will examine processes, skills, and generic knowledge common to social work practice in three modes of intervention, i.e. individual, group and community. A variety of structured exercises based on case, group and community studies will be used to develop students' practical and analytical skills.

A skills laboratory will run concurrently, in which students will be given the opportunity to develop the basic skills and knowledge of communication and experience the application of skills in experimental exercises. Self-awareness of one's own behaviour, attitudes, understanding, and acceptance of the behaviour of others is a major focus of this section.