

## Social Work

### Departmental Mission

The missions of the Department of Social Work are to provide quality professional and academic training in social work, to develop knowledge related to social welfare and social work, and to make contribution to the social development in Hong Kong. For the undergraduate programme, the Department prepares students to be professionally competent social workers who are committed to the welfare of their clients and to social justice. For the postgraduate programmes, the Division provides advanced training for the development of professional and academic leaders in the social welfare field. Students in different programmes are encouraged to develop independent and critical thinking, identify with the humanistic values and ethics of the social work profession, maintain a special concern for the vulnerable groups in society and keep abreast of current social issues. The Department strives to be a leading centre on social work education and research in Chinese communities.

### Course List

| <i>Code</i> | <i>Course Title</i>  | <i>Unit</i> |
|-------------|--|-------------|
| SWK 0310    | Student Orientated Teaching I                                    | 2           |
| SWK 0320    | Student Orientated Teaching II                                   | 2           |
| SWK 1110    | Social Work and Social Welfare in a New Millennium               | 3           |
| SWK 1111    | Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare                   | 2           |
| SWK 1120    | Philosophy and Principles of Social Work                         | 3           |
| SWK 1140    | Social Welfare and Social Problems in Hong Kong                  | 2           |
| SWK 1150    | Choices in Life: An Invitation to Self Development               | 3           |
| SWK 1160    | Movies, Life and Social Work                                     | 3           |
| SWK 1910    | English Writing for Social Workers                               | 3           |
| SWK 2110    | Human Behaviour and the Social Environment I                     | 3           |
| SWK 2120    | Human Behaviour and the Social Environment II                    | 2           |
| SWK 2130    | Social Aspects of Health and Illness                             | 2           |
| SWK 2140    | Mental Disorders   | 2           |
| SWK 2150    | Individual Mental Health and Healthy Families                    | 2           |
| SWK 2160    | Economic Insecurity and Social Security                          | 2           |
| SWK 2170    | China in a New Millennium: Social Development and Social Welfare | 2           |
| SWK 2180    | Hong Kong in Crisis: Quest for Practical Solutions               | 2           |
| SWK 2210    | Social Casework  | 3           |
| SWK 2220    | Social Group Work  | 3           |
| SWK 2230    | Community Work   | 3           |
| SWK 2240    | Clinical Social Work Theories and Practice                       | 2           |
| SWK 2250    | Macro Social Work Theories and Practice                          | 2           |
| SWK 2430    | Social Work Field Laboratory                                     | 3           |
| SWK 3310    | Social Welfare Administration                                    | 3           |
| SWK 3320    | Social Work Research   | 3           |
| SWK 3340    | Social Policy and Planning                                       | 3           |
| SWK 3350    | Law and Social Work  | 3           |
| SWK 3410    | Field Instruction I  | 4           |
| SWK 3420    | Field Instruction II   | 4           |
| SWK 4410    | Field Instruction III  | 4           |
| SWK 4420    | Field Instruction IV   | 4           |

|          |  |   |
|----------|--|---|
| SWK 4510 | Seminar I Family Services  | 3 |
| SWK 4520 | Seminar II Youth Services  | 3 |
| SWK 4530 | Seminar III Elderly Services   | 3 |
| SWK 4540 | Seminar IV Rehabilitation Services                                   | 3 |
| SWK 4550 | Seminar V Current Issues in Social Policy and Welfare Administration | 3 |
| SWK 4590 | Seminar IX Residential Social Work                                   | 3 |
| SWK 4591 | Seminar X Social Welfare in China                                    | 3 |
| SWK 4592 | Seminar XI Special Seminar   | 3 |

### **Course Description**

#### SWK 0310

##### Student Orientated Teaching I

2 U; 2 STOT; 1st term

This is a small-group, semi-structured teaching which is related to the students' coursework learning, but not formally tied to any particular course. Students are encouraged to take initiative in their own learning through active participation in library research, critical examination of relevant materials, intellectual exchange of ideas and sharing of personal experiences. The main purpose is to facilitate students to examine the meaning of help and to explore issues related to their pursuit of a career in social work.

#### SWK 0320

##### Student Orientated Teaching II

2 U; 2 STOT; 2nd term

This is a small-group, semi-structured teaching which is related to the students' coursework learning, but not formally tied to any particular course. It aims to enhance students' professional growth by encouraging students to take initiative to have intellectual exchanges and experiential reviews on selected aspects of social work. The focus is on helping students achieve integration of what they have learned and preparing them for their future career in social work.

#### SWK 1110

##### Social Work and Social Welfare in a New Millennium

3 U; 2 Lect. 1 Tut.; 1st term

This course aims at introducing the concept and meaning of social work and social welfare amidst the rapid social, economic and political changes in the new millennium. Emphases will be on helping students understand the factors giving rise to unmet needs (including the effect of globalization), examine different welfare approaches and discuss social work as a helping profession in social welfare. Special attention will be given to addressing the plights of vulnerable populations and promoting social justice. The purpose, scope, content and development of social welfare services in Hong Kong will be presented and analysed.

#### SWK 1111

##### Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare

2 U; 2 Lect.

This is an introductory course on the concept and meaning of social work and social welfare. Emphasis is placed on understanding the role of social work and social welfare in promoting social justice and in meeting the needs of the disadvantaged groups in society. The relationships between social work, social welfare and other social institutions will be examined. The purpose, functions and scope of social work and social welfare will also be discussed. (Not for Social Work Majors or students who have taken SWK 1110.)

**SWK 1120**

## Philosophy and Principles of Social Work

3 U; 2 Lect. 1 Tut.; 2nd term

This course aims to enable students to develop a basic understanding of social work. It will examine the nature and scope of social work practice and look into the philosophical base, value system and practice principles of the social work profession. Discussion will focus on emerging trends of social work, such as the development of social workers' registration, as well as the application of social work values in practice.

**SWK 1140**

## Social Welfare and Social Problems in Hong Kong

2 U; 2 Lect.

This course aims to help students understand and analyse social welfare programmes in Hong Kong. The goals, scope, content and development of social welfare programmes, especially those related to poverty, family problems, juvenile delinquency and social deprivations will be discussed. The efficiency and effectiveness of these programmes in tackling social problems and meeting social needs will be examined. Visits to social welfare agencies in Hong Kong will also be organized. (Social Work Majors to take Group A, non-Social Work Majors to take Group B.) (Not for students who have taken GEE 2875 or GES 1140.)

**SWK 1150**

## Choices in Life: An Invitation to Self Development

3 U; 3 Lect./Sem.

This course adopts a humanistic approach to personal learning and growth. It aims at facilitating students to achieve more self-understanding and self-acceptance, expand options in life and develop greater self-confidence. Through classroom instruction and small-group experiential learning, students will be helped review their personal growth and development, examine issues and choices in significant aspects of life, and reflect on their lifestyles and attitudes. Major topics covered include perspectives on human nature and development, family background and influence, interpersonal relationships, love and self-love, sex roles, physical and psychological wellness, work and leisure, and loneliness and solitude. (Not for Social Work Majors or students who have taken GEE 259S, 260S, GES 1170 or PSY 1030.)

**SWK 1160**

## Movies, Life and Social Work

3 U

This course is designed to help broaden the perspectives of students by equipping them with a social work perspective in viewing human lives at individual, family and society levels and enhance their understanding of some significant themes relating to human lives and interpersonal issues. A humanistic outlook of life will be emphasized. Through seeing movies and exchanging different viewpoints in class discussion, students will be encouraged to heighten their awareness of and concern on the well-being of people and society. Issues about freedom, social justice, sexual discrimination and mental health will be looked into. (Social Work Majors can take this course as an elective course, but cannot take this course to fulfil General Education requirements. Not for students who have taken GEE 265S.)

**SWK 1910**

## English Writing for Social Workers

3 U; 2 Web-based Teaching 1 Tut.

This is a web-based course aiming to enable students to acquire the basic knowledge and skills to write English in a social work setting. The course examines the principles of social work writing, the goals and functions of social work records, and the knowledge and skills needed

to produce clear, concise and grammatical social work documents in English. It also provides exercises in writing case records, group proposals and recordings, as well as business communication in a social work setting. The course assessment will be based on in-lab examination, online quizzes, online writing portfolio, and participation in tutorial and online discussions.

**SWK 2110**

**Human Behaviour and the Social Environment I**

3 U; 2 Lect. 1 Tut.; 1st term

This course aims to enable students to understand the basic concepts, theories and problems in human growth and behaviour as related to social work practice. Emphasis is given to the study of human growth and behaviour throughout the stages from pregnancy to early adolescence within different socio-cultural contexts, including family, group, organization and community settings. Attention will be paid to physical, psychological and socio-cultural aspects of growth and the reciprocal interactions between individuals, families, groups and the environment.

**SWK 2120**

**Human Behaviour and the Social Environment II**

2 U; 2 Lect.; 2nd term

This course aims to enable students to understand the basic concepts, theories and problems in human growth and behaviour as related to social work practice. Emphasis is given to the study of human growth and behaviour throughout the stages from late adolescence to late adulthood within different socio-cultural contexts, including family, group, organization and community settings. Attention will be paid to physical, psychological and socio-cultural aspects of growth and the reciprocal interactions between individuals, families, groups and the environment.

**SWK 2130**

**Social Aspects of Health and Illness**

2 U; 2 Lect.

This course provides students with some basic knowledge of the major illnesses in Hong Kong. Emphasis will be placed on the diagnostic understanding of illness and disability and their implications for the social functioning of people as patients and their families in the environmental and cultural contexts of Hong Kong.

**SWK 2140**

**Mental Disorders**

2 U; 2 Lect.; 1st term

This course aims to enable students to understand the various forms, classification, assessment, causes and management of mental disorders including mental illness and mental deficiency. Emphasis will also be put on the psychosocial impacts of mental disorders on individuals and families; and the roles of social worker in psychiatric rehabilitation and mental health services.

**SWK 2150**

**Individual Mental Health and Healthy Families**

2 U; 2 Lect.

This course aims at helping students acquire an understanding of knowledge and resources in enhancing individual mental health and family health. Different theoretical perspectives and significant ingredients of individual mental health and healthy families, stress and coping of individuals and families, and means of enhancing individual mental health and family health will be discussed. The impact of economic, social and cultural changes on individual and family functioning will also be examined. (Not for Social Work Majors or students who have taken GEE 261S.)

SWK 2160

Economic Insecurity and Social Security

2 U; 2 Lect.

This course aims at helping students understand and analyse economic insecurity in contemporary societies and social security as a societal measure to combat economic insecurity. Specifically, the course will examine the major conditions leading to economic insecurity of individual persons, such as unemployment, sickness, old age, employment injury and death, and the impact of economic insecurity on people's quality of life. The course will also discuss the philosophy, development, characteristics and functions of different types of social security measures. The situations in Hong Kong will be focussed upon, but experiences from other countries will be investigated. The course will also analyse major social security provisions in Hong Kong, including the mandatory provident fund scheme, comprehensive social security assistance scheme, and developments in medical insurance and unemployment protection. (Not for Social Work Majors or students who have taken GEE 263S.)

SWK 2170

China in a New Millennium: Social Development and Social Welfare

2 U; 2 Lect.

This course aims to enable students to understand the relationship between China's social development and social welfare in a new millennium. Emphasis is placed on the study of the current state of social development and the social welfare systems, including socio-economic development, social needs, social problems, social welfare ideology, social policy, social welfare institutional structures, types of welfare services and modes of service delivery. (Not for Social Work Majors or students who have taken GEE 264S.)

SWK 2180

Hong Kong in Crisis: Quest for Practical Solutions

2 U; 2 Lect.

This course aims to help students develop social sensitivity towards potential crises, understand the complicated nature of social problems, explore the roles of different social agencies and think of practical solutions to these problems in Hong Kong. Special problem areas will be selected for examination and discussion, for example, the aging society, rational demands for social and economic rights, social service expenditure, labour and unemployment problems, legitimacy of government and its policy process, etc. (Not for Social Work Majors or students who have taken GEE 2905.)

SWK 2210

Social Casework

3 U; 2 Lect. 1 Tut.; 1st term

This course aims to help students acquire an understanding of the nature, principles and application of social casework. The values, knowledge and skills essential to casework intervention with individuals and families will be introduced with a psychosocial theoretical framework. Emphasis will be on the interplay between stressful life events, the social environment, as well as clients' interpersonal relationships and individual functioning.

SWK 2220

Social Group Work

3 U; 2 Lect. 1 Tut.; 1st term

The course aims at providing students with a basic understanding of the knowledge and skills of social group work. Major models and techniques of intervention will be introduced. Attention will be given to different roles of the group worker and his/her purposeful use of group process and programmes.

SWK 2230

Community Work

3 U; 2 Lect. 1 Tut.; 1st term

This course aims to provide students with the basic knowledge of the objectives, general concepts, theoretical assumptions, values and skills of community work. Modes of intervention in different settings and current issues of community work will also be examined.

SWK 2240

Clinical Social Work Theories and Practice

2 U; 2 Lect.

This course aims to help students acquire knowledge and skills in clinical social work practice. Specifically, it attempts to familiarize students with current major approaches in working with individuals, families and groups and help students develop an integrative perspective in direct practice.

SWK 2250

Macro Social Work Theories and Practice

2 U; 2 Lect.

Macro social work is a blend of social awareness, welfare practice reflection and organizing skills. The course aims to equip students with the basic knowledge and skills in performing the above functions through examining relevant theories and approaches of, for example, the changing human service organizations, service integration, community organizing and networking, etc.

SWK 2430

Social Work Field Laboratory

3 U; 3 Lab.

This course, a prerequisite to SWK 3410, aims to prepare students to make constructive use of field practicum. It adopts a laboratory training format to provide students with opportunities to experience and become familiar with events encountered in the field. The primary emphases of the course are helping students understand the meaning and nature of field instruction; and acquire essential communication and intervention skills. Students will also be facilitated to develop more sensitivity and acceptance towards human nature and to reflect upon their attitudes in the helping process.

SWK 3310

Social Welfare Administration

3 U; 3 Lect.

This course aims to provide students with the basic knowledge of social welfare agency administration. Basic management theories, principles and methods in administration, service planning, administrative structure and operation, personnel and financial management, and evaluation of social welfare agencies will be discussed.

SWK 3320

Social Work Research

3 U; 2 Lect. 1 Tut.

This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the nature, concepts and principles of social work research. The research process, including problem formulation, research design, data collection and analysis, and presentation of findings will be examined. Students are expected to be able to conduct social work research and make use of research findings.

SWK 3340

Social Policy and Planning

3 U; 2 Lect. 1 Tut.

This course aims to achieve an appreciation of the contribution of social planning and policy formulation to the solution, control or amelioration of social problems on the macro-level; a knowledge of the key elements of decision-making; an understanding of what is involved when designing social service programmes consistent with the economic capacity, cultural values and standards of Hong Kong.

SWK 3350

Law and Social Work

3 U; 3 Lect.

This course introduces students to the basic law, the legal system, court proceedings, and laws relevant to matrimony, workers' rights, criminal justice and social welfare in Hong Kong. Roles of social workers in the legal system are explored.

SWK 3410

Field Instruction I

4 U; 16 Field; 2nd term

The course aims to provide opportunities for students to put into practice in an agency setting under supervision, theories learned in class: 1) methods of direct service to clients - casework, group work and community organization; 2) knowledge and differential use of community resources; 3) jobs akin to agency administration - planning, budgeting, staffing, etc., and 4) tools to administration - writing of reports, letters, accounting, use of research findings, conducting meetings, etc. Prerequisite: SWK 2430.

SWK 3420

Field Instruction II

4 U; 16 Field; 1st term

A sequel to SWK 3410. Prerequisites: SWK 2430 and 3410.

SWK 4410

Field Instruction III

4 U; 16 Field; 1st term

A sequel to SWK 3420. Prerequisites: SWK 2430, 3410 and 3420.

SWK 4420

Field Instruction IV

4 U; 16 Field; 2nd term

A sequel to SWK 4410. Prerequisites: SWK 2430, 3410, 3420 and 4410.

SWK 4510

Seminar I Family Services

3 U; 3 Lect.

The course aims to review the basic philosophy, rationale, policy, service delivery and intervention approaches related to family service. In particular, the emphases of the course are helping students have a critical mind in analysing the current family issues; examine different working approaches conducive to effective practice in different settings; and develop a framework for family treatment on problems such as family violence, child abuse, single parent families, etc.

SWK 4520

Seminar II Youth Services

3 U; 3 Lect.

This course is designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of selected youth services in Hong Kong. The emphasis is on both theoretical analysis and empirical studies. Major areas of exploration include the needs and characteristics of young people, the philosophies and theories, the historical development and the service delivery methods of the selected services.

SWK 4530

Seminar III Elderly Services

3 U; 3 Lect.

This course intends to provide some general knowledge of the contemporary demographic, cultural, social, economic and health conditions of the elderly people in Hong Kong. Major sociological and psychological theories, social work professional values, as well as intervention methods with the elderly and their families will be introduced in an interdisciplinary manner. Current policy issues related to developing and delivering services for the elderly will also be discussed.

SWK 4540

Seminar IV Rehabilitation Services

3 U; 3 Lect.

This course aims to help students understand the different types of disability and their implications in individuals, families and society; and familiarize themselves with different approaches associated with rehabilitation as well as the existing rehabilitation services in Hong Kong. The roles of the disabled, the family, society and social worker in the rehabilitation of handicapped people will also be discussed.

SWK 4550

Seminar V Current Issues in Social Policy and Welfare Administration

3 U; 3 Lect.

This course is designed to help students critically examine current issues in social policy and welfare administration which affect social welfare conditions of people in general, and the disadvantaged groups, in particular. They include changing needs and expectations in welfare, the constraints of government and welfare administration in the global economy, strategies of social welfare reforms and their social costs, and the shifting basis of welfare entitlements.

SWK 4590

Seminar IX Residential Social Work

3 U; 3 Lect.

This course aims to introduce to students the various types of residential services and the fundamental philosophy, theories and practice models of residential social work in helping individuals who are in need of residential care/rehabilitation in a residential centre. Major roles and functions of residential social workers will be discussed and the residential services development in Hong Kong will be explored as well.

SWK 4591

Seminar X Social Welfare in China

3 U; 3 Lect.

This course aims to enable students to understand society of Socialist China and its development of social welfare. Emphasis is placed on the study of Chinese social welfare systems and the major issues, including social welfare ideology, social policy, institutional structures, scope of welfare services, modes of service delivery and the emerging social needs and problems in an era of economic reform.

SWK 4592  
Seminar XI Special Seminar  
3 U; 3 Lect.  
To be designed when need arises.

## Study Scheme

### Major Programme

Students are required to complete a minimum of 71 [68] units of courses as follows:

|        |  |               |
|--------|--|---------------|
| (i)    | Required Courses:  | 60[57] units  |
|        | SWK 0310, 0320, 1110, 1120, 1910 <sup>A</sup> , 2110, 2120, 2140, 2210,<br>2220, 2230, 2430, 3310, 3320, 3340, 3350, 3410, 3420, 4410,<br>4420 |               |
| (ii)   | Elective Courses:  |               |
|        | (a) 1 course from SWK 2240, 2250   | 2 units       |
|        | (b) 3 courses from SWK 4510, 4520, 4530, 4540,<br>4550, 4590, 4591, 4592   | 9 units       |
| Total: |  | 71 [68] units |

### Recommended course pattern

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <i>First Year of Attendance</i>  | 16[13] units  |
| SWK 0310, 1110, 1120, 2110, 2120, 3320 <sup>A</sup>  |               |
| <i>Second Year of Attendance</i>   | 26 units      |
| SWK 1910 <sup>A</sup> , 2140, 2210, 2220, 2230, 2240 or 2250, 2430 <sup>®</sup> , [3320],<br>3340, 3410                                |               |
| (All Social Work students admitted in 2001-02 are required to take<br>ELT 2409 in the second term of their second year of attendance.) |               |
| <i>Third Year of Attendance</i>  | 29 units      |
| SWK 0320, 3310, 3350, 3420 <sup>®®</sup> , 4410, 4420<br>3 courses from SWK 4510, 4520, 4530, 4540, 4550, 4590, 4591,<br>4592          |               |
| Students may choose to take the following elective courses in the<br>first, second or third year of attendance:                        |               |
| SWK 1140, 1160, 2130   |               |
| Total:   | 71 [68] units |

<sup>D</sup> Applicable to students admitted in 2002-03 and thereafter.

[ ] Applicable to students admitted in 2001-02.

<sup>®</sup> Starts immediately after the end of the second term of the first year of attendance, and is spread over 14 days within a one-month period.

<sup>®®</sup> To be taken during the summer of the second year of attendance.

- Notes: 1. Major courses coded 2000 and above will be included in the calculation of the Major GPA.
2. Students are advised to take at least 3 social science courses (e.g., ECO 1010, GPA 1020, PSY 1000 and SOC 1001) as electives.
3. Only a number of the seminar courses will be offered in each academic year in accordance with resources available.