City University of Hong Kong

Information on a Course
offered by Department of Applied Social Sciences
with effect from Semester A in 2012/2013

Part I

Course Title: Marital Preparation, Enrichment and Therapy
Course Code: SS5825
Course Duration: One semester
No. of Credit Units: 3
Level: P5
Medium of Instruction: English, supplemented by Cantonese / Putonghua in live demonstration, skills rehearsal, and role-play exercises as situation requires.

Medium of Assessment: English
Prerequisites: Nil
Precursors: Nil
Equivalent Courses: Nil
Exclusive Courses: Nil

Part II

Course Aims:

This course aims to examine changing mores and behaviours in premarital sex, cohabitation, marriage, and divorce in contemporary Hong Kong; examine the nature of marital problems and assessment of couples in conflict; study the philosophy, concepts and practice of premarital counselling, marriage enrichment, and couple therapy; and develop competence to conduct pre-marital and re-marital counselling, marriage enrichment programme, and marital therapy.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>CILOs</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Investigate changes in people’s beliefs and attitudes toward pre-</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
marital sex, marriage, divorce, re-marriage, and non-marital intimate relationship in contemporary Hong Kong.

2. Describe and critically examine the practice of major approaches to pre-marital counselling, marriage enrichment, and couple therapy practiced by professionals in Hong Kong. 20%

3. Develop case conceptualizations based on what is learnt in individual and conjoint counselling sessions with distressed couples, as informed by theories of marital distress and a critical understanding of the socio-cultural context in which the marriage institution is situated. 30%

4. Develop competence to conduct pre-marital and re-marital counselling, marriage enrichment programme, and marital therapy. 30%

Teaching and learning Activities (TLAs)
(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to facilitate students’ achievement of the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CILO No.</th>
<th>TLA1</th>
<th>TLA2</th>
<th>TLA3</th>
<th>Hours / course (if applicable)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CILO 1</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CILO 2</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CILO 3</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CILO 4</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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</table>

TLA 1: Class Discussion

Classroom discussions organized around intellectual input given in mini-lectures.

TLA 2: Student-led Workshop

Conduct student-led workshops to explore and develop the practice aspects of marriage work, addressing specific themes that coordinate with lecture input.

TLA 3: Study Video Demonstration

Study video demonstration (of master therapists and local practice) of premarital counselling and couple therapies.
**Assessment Tasks/Activities**
*(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CILO No.</th>
<th>Type of Assessment Tasks/Activities</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CILO 3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>AT1: Student-led Workshop</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CILO 1 - 4</td>
<td>AT2: Term essay</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CILO 1 - 4</td>
<td>AT3: Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AT1: Student-led Workshop**

Students design and conduct workshops to facilitate collaborative inquiry among classmates to explore/develop the practice aspects of marriage work and parent education, addressing specific themes that coordinate with the pacing of lecture input.

**AT2: Term Essay**

A 3,000-word free-title paper to address either: (a) lecture topics and the student-led workshop linked to these lecture topics, in which the student is a member of the audience; or (b) the social world of couples and parents (refer to the recommended textbook *Family Life, Couples and Kids*) -- grounded on empirical data of the qualitative kind, including autobiographical inquiry, and connect empirical data to theoretical work, the contemporary socio-cultural context, social policy context, and dominant discourses that construct the reality of family life.

**AT3: Participation**

Quality of participation in terms of contribution to collaborative learning in classroom discussions and student-led workshops.

**Grading of Student Achievement:**
Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Degrees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Grading criteria in relation to CILOs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Part III

1. **Keyword Syllabus:**


2. **Recommended Reading:**

   **Recommended texts:**


   **Reference texts:**


**Media Resources:**

Training tape #1 (PAL)  
Emotionally focused therapy for couples with Dr. Sue Johnson  
Adams Film-Video Ltd.  
#7 – 1581 Bank St., Ottawa  
Tel: 731 6416

Training tape #3 (PAL)  
An emotionally focused couple therapy: Shaping change events with Dr. Sue Johnson.  
Adams Film-Video Ltd.  
#7 – 1581 Bank St., Ottawa  
Tel: 731 6416
離婚路 [videorecording]
DS796.H7 X57 1997 v.7 LOCAL TV
on 1 videocassette (22 min.): sd., col.; 1/2 in.
星期日檔案
Television programs (Hong Kong)
On videocassette with: 直布羅陀 -- 綠衣天使 -- 婚外情, 男人心 -- 何時不再水浸?
Production of Television Broadcasts Ltd. (TVB)
Originally released as a television broadcast on 24 August 1997.
Discusses the ways of handling divorce. It is hoped that its bad effects caused to both the
couple and the children can be minimized. Always try to forgive will make all sides live
happier is the conclusion. A social worker is interviewed on this topic.

Children of divorce
HQ777.5 .C454 1998 v.1 to v.3
3 videocassettes (90 min.): sd., col.: 1/2 in.
Interviews with children of divorce parents aged 6 to 22 with their parents separated
between 2 and 10 years ago. Children talk from their point of view how their parents split
up, the contact with their resident and non-resident parents after the separation, and the
way they cope with the situation and with the new families.

Divorce: a survival guide for kids
HQ777.5 .D59 2002
videocassette (15 min.): sd., col.; 1/2 in. + 1 teacher's guide (11 p. ; 18 cm.)
VHS.
NTSC.
"29845-A-NT"--Cassette label.
Video lacks personal production credits.
Several adolescents are interviewed and explain their emotions and readjustments after
their parents are divorced.
Closed-captioned for the hearing impaired.

Family mediation critical issues 1 [videorecording] / scripted by John Wade, Pat
Cavanagh, Laurence Boule ; produces by Audio Visual Services ; School of Law,
Dispute Resolution Centre.
KU 540 .F38 1992
Gold Coast, Australia: Bond University, c1992
1 videocassette (VHS, PAL) (13 min.): sd., col.: 1/2 in.
"Dispute resolution classic videos"--Container
In this tape, a husband and wife are depicted at a mediation table in ten different
scenarios raising various ethical and strategic dilemmas. They are arguing about care of
their children and division of property.

The impact of divorce on the family [videorecording] / Midwest Production Group.
HQ814 .I47 1990
1 videocassette (VHS, NTSC) (15 min.): sd., col.: 1/2 in.
Producers, Tim Conrad, Susan Finzen; writer/director, Tim Conrad.
"ME-2612"
This program examines divorce from different points of view: that of the parents, the children, and the family psychologist. Reasons for divorce are explored, including interviews with families who have experienced a divorce. A family psychologist discusses the particular impact that divorce has on children and the phases that children go through in dealing with it. Also included is information on the positive changes that can take place when a divorce occurs.

Raising children of divorce [videorecording]: practical help for parents / Paraclete Video Productions. HQ777.5 .R35 2002
Brewster, MA: Distributed by Paraclete Press; [Hong Kong]: Sinostar Ltd. [distributor], c2002.
1 videocassette (30 min.): sd., col.; 1/2 in. + 1 resource guide (1 folded sheet ([8] p.); 18 cm.)
Producer, Charity Spatzeck-Olsen; director, Hans Spatzeck-Olsen. Accompanied by leaflet: Shattered dreams, and, Raising children of divorce: resources for divorce recovery.

Brewster, MA: Distributed by Paraclete Press; [Hong Kong]: Sinostar Ltd. [distributor], c2002.
1 videocassette (30 min.): sd., col.; 1/2 in. + 1 resource guide (1 folded sheet ([8] p.); 18 cm.)
Accompanied by leaflet: Shattered dreams, and, Raising children of divorce: resources for divorce recovery.

IAMFC Distinguished Presenter Series
Jon Carlson and Don Dinkmeyer
Counselling a couple facing divorce
Call # nps(vc) RC448.5 .D46 1992 cst.3

Online Resources:

www.family-land.org