

SS5210: SOCIAL WORK THEORIES AND PRACTICE II: WORKING WITH GROUPS

Effective Term

Semester B 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Social Work Theories and Practice II: Working with Groups

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

5210

Academic Unit

Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

Other Languages

Other Languages for Medium of Instruction

English, supplemented by Cantonese/Putonghua in live / video 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 Details

Abstract

This course aims to enable students to meet partially the requirements set by the Social Work Registration Board regarding social work theories and practice. It will help the student be more prepared for the social work profession through acquiring and applying social work values, ethics, principles, as well as theoretical frameworks, knowledge and skills of practice within the context of group settings. It is designed to help social work students of diverse interests and abilities to become critical thinkers in order to integrate the knowledge, skills and values learned in this course within the specific cultures of their clients.

This course aims to

- 1.1 examine the nature and development of theories and methods of practice in the area of social work with groups;
- 1.2 acquire an overview of the social work processes in working with target systems at the mezzo level; and
- 1.3 develop cognitive and ethical competencies for implementing social work interventions appropriate to the target system in the local context.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Describe theories and methods of social work practice with groups;	30	x	x	
2	Analyze the needs and problems of client- and group-situations from four levels -- personal, inter-personal, organizational, and societal levels;	15	x	x	
3	Analyze core aspects of group work practice including stages of group development and group dynamics;	30	x	x	x
4	Design a group proposal and an evaluation plan appropriate to the target system for use in the practicum in the local context with reference to the framework for ethical competence in social work; and	10			
5	Apply skills in social work practice within the local cultural context of group settings.	15			

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	LTA1: Learning Package and Study Questions	Students will be given a specially designed learning package with study questions for preparation before each class.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2	LTA2: Mini Lecture and Video Demonstration	Concepts, theories, and methods of social work with groups are explained. Video Demonstration about real life cases and scenarios will be shown.	1, 2, 3, 4
3	LTA3: Tutorial Discussion and Role Play	Real cases will be used for students to apply what they learn through lectures and reading materials in analyzing group-situations. Group work skills will also be practiced through role play and discussion.	1, 2, 3, 5
4	LTA4: E-learning	Students are required to join the discussion online after group facilitation / role play.	2, 3, 5
5	LTA5: Student Consultation	Group consultation is scheduled to facilitate students' indepth understanding to social group work knowledge and skills learned in the course.	2, 3, 5

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	AT1 Tutorial Discussion and Role Play Students will be assessed on their application of theories and methods of social work with groups in the group-situations, application of relevant skills in the role plays, and subsequent discussion in the Tutorial sessions (in class / online).	1, 2, 3, 5	30	- brainstorm and generate initial ideas.	Yes
2	AT2 Individual Proposal Each student will work on a 3000-word proposal designed to test the student's ability in applying best-available practice knowledge to analyze and plan for intervention of a client-group-situation.	4	30	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

60

Examination (%)

40

Examination Duration (Hours)

3

Additional Information for ATs

AT3 Examination

The three-hour closed book examination is designed to gauge the student's grasp on concepts, theories and knowledge introduced in the reading materials, as well as the ability to apply them to solve problems in various group-situations.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Tutorial discussion and role play (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

- Competence in designing a group session with reference to the concepts and theories which are consistent with the group nature.

- Good understanding and application of social group work concepts and skills learnt.

- Capacity of using appropriate group work concepts and skills in handling group dynamics and issues in a chosen group situation.

- Competence in facilitating indepth, critical & reflexive discussion and collaborating as a team.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Outstanding

Good

(B+, B, B-) High

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Moderate

Marginal

(D) Basic

Failure

(F) Cannot reach the marginal levels

Assessment Task

2. Individual Proposal (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

- Capacity of applying theories and knowledge learnt to design a group proposal with sound problem assessment, rationale, clear objectives, intervention strategies, sessional and evaluation plan.

- Ability to draw extensive and relevant literature to design a group with strong theoretical backup, creativity and originality.

- Capacity of using relevant materials and organizing an academic paper in a systematic and coherent manner.

- Clear writing skills and proper reference citation skills

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Outstanding

Good

(B+, B, B-) High

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Moderate

Marginal

(D) Basic

Failure

(F) Cannot reach the marginal levels

Assessment Task

3. Examination (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

- Ability to demonstrate the understanding of the concepts, theories and knowledge introduced in the lectures, tutorials and assigned readings.

- Ability to apply the theories and concepts learnt to various types and natures of groups.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Outstanding

Good

(B+, B, B-) High

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Moderate

Marginal

(D) Basic

Failure

(F) Cannot reach the marginal levels

Assessment Task

1. Tutorial discussion and role play (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

- Competence in designing a group session with reference to the concepts and theories which are consistent with the group nature.

- Good understanding and application of social group work concepts and skills learnt.

- Capacity of using appropriate group work concepts and skills in handling group dynamics and issues in a chosen group situation.

- Competence in facilitating indepth, critical & reflexive discussion and collaborating as a team.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Outstanding

Good

(B+, B) High

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Moderate

Failure

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Assessment Task

2. Individual Proposal (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

- Capacity of applying theories and knowledge learnt to design a group proposal with sound problem assessment, rationale, clear objectives, intervention strategies, sessional and evaluation plan.

- Ability to draw extensive and relevant literature to design a group with strong theoretical backup, creativity and originality.

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Assessment Task

3. Examination (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

- Ability to demonstrate the understanding of the concepts, theories and knowledge introduced in the lectures, tutorials and assigned readings.

- Ability to apply the theories and concepts learnt to various types and natures of groups.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Outstanding

Good

(B+, B) High

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Moderate

Failure

(F) Cannot reach the marginal levels

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

1.1 Theories and methods

Theoretical models underlying different approaches in working with groups, models of group development, alternative paradigms in group development models

1.2 Needs and problems of client- and group-situations

Needs analysis at four levels -- personal, inter-personal, organizational, and societal levels, problems and issues in working with groups: power, authority, individual- worker-member-group relationships, the framework for ethical competence in social work

1.3 Analyze aspects of group work practice

Analysis: client, motivation, suitability (types of groups), formation, needs, external structure, worker, leadership, agency, goal, program, dynamics, intervention, development, outcome, termination

1.4 Skills in social work practice in group settings

Skills for facilitating individual, group, and environmental changes

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Corey, M. S., Corey, G. & Corey, C. (2018) Groups: Process and practice (10th ed.). Belmont, CA: Brooks / Cole Cengage Learning.
2	International Federation of Social Workers (2018). Global Social Work Statement of Ethical Principles. https://www.ifsw.org/global-social-work-statement-of-ethical-principles/
3	Social Workers Registration Board (2013). Guidelines on code of practice for registered social workers. https://www.swrb.org.hk/en/Content.asp?Uid=15
4	Toseland R. W., & Rivas, R. F. (2017). An introduction to group work practice. (8th ed.). Harlow, England: Pearson Education Limited. (E-book)
5	Zastrow, C. (2012). Social Work with Groups: A Comprehensive Workbook (8th ed). Belmont, CA.: Brooks / Cole, Cengage Learning.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	黃幹知、陳國邦、吳思朗編著 (2017)。活用Apps帶討論及思活動40個。香港：策馬文創有限公司。
2	黃幹知、陳國邦、吳思朗編著 (2018)。活用VR探全球虛擬實境 X 社區考察。香港：策馬文創有限公司。
3	黃幹知、陳國邦、吳思朗編著 (2018)。活用Apps探全球18區考察路線。香港：策馬文創有限公司。
4	梁玉麒、游達裕、區結蓮、張敏思編著 (2011)。社會工作小組叢書(一):《千帆並舉社會工作小組新貌》。香港: 策馬文創有限公司。
5	梁玉麒、黃幹知 (2013)。一呼百應：二百個訓練活動帶領技巧。香港：策馬文創有限公司。
6	梁玉麒、黃幹知 (2013)。一齊玩斗—— 100個發展性主題遊戲活動。香港：策馬文創有限公司。
7	吳夢珍主編 (1992)。《小組工作》。香港: 香港社會工作人員協會。
8	楊家正, 陳高凌, 廖盧慧貞合編 (1998)。《小組工作實踐: 個案匯篇》。香港: 香港社會工作人員協會。
9	郭黎玉晶, 廖盧慧貞, 霍瑞堯, 周愛華, 劉達志 (2001)。《小組工作自學教材》。香港: 香港城市大學社會科學學部。
10	何潔雲編 (2001)。《小組工作程序計劃簿》。香港: 理工大學應用社會科學系。
11	林孟平著 (1993)。《小組輔導與心理治療》。香港：商務印書館。
12	甘炳光編 (2009)。《小組遊戲帶領技巧—從概念到實踐》。香港: 香港城市大學出版社。

13	李德仁 (2004). 「遊戲的理論與實踐：室內遊戲的設計與進行」。光碟。小組工作教材系列之一。香港：城市大學應用社會科學系。
14	李德仁 (2004). 「應用以歷程為導向的小組工作手法幫助兒童及青少年」。光碟。小組工作教材系列之二。香港：城市大學應用社會科學系。
15	Brown, L.N. (1991). <i>Groups for growth and change</i> . N.Y.: Longman.
16	Gitterman A. & Shulman, L. (Eds.). (2005). <i>Mutual aid groups, vulnerable populations, and the life cycle</i> . N.Y.: Columbia University Press. [E-book]
17	Greif, G. L., & Ephross P. H. (2017). <i>Group work with populations at risk</i> . (4th ed.). New York: Oxford University Press. [E-book]
18	Henry, S. (1992). <i>Group skills in social work: A four dimensional approach</i> . (2nd ed.) Pacific Grove, C.A.: Brooks/Cole Publishing Company.
19	Johnson, D.W. & Johnson, F.P. (2017). <i>Joining together: Group theory and group skills</i> . (12th ed.). NY: Pearson..
20	Lee, T.Y. Practice Teaching, Learning & Research http://www7.cityu.edu.hk/sspltr/
21	O'Hagan, K. (Ed.) (2007). <i>Competence in social work practice: A practical guide for students and professionals</i> . (2nd Ed.). London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers. [E-book]
22	Reid, K. E. (1997). <i>Social work practice with groups: A clinical perspective</i> . (2nd ed.). Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole.
23	Shulman, L. (2012). <i>The skills of helping individuals, families, groups and communities</i> . (7th ed.). Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole Cengage learning.
24	Steinberg, D. M. (2004). <i>The mutual-aid approach to working with groups: Helping people help each other</i> . (2nd ed.). London: Jason-Aronson.
25	Sundel M. Glasser, P., Sarri R. & Vinter R. (1985). <i>Individual change through small groups</i> . (2nd ed.). N.Y.: The Free Press.
26	Vinik. A. & Levin, M. (Eds.). (2012). <i>Social action in group work</i> . N.Y.: Taylor & Francis. [E-book].