

SS5827: FAMILY MEDIATION: THEORY AND PRACTICE

New Syllabus Proposal

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Family Mediation: Theory and Practice

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

5827

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

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course provides students with a comprehensive understanding of theoretical concepts, principles, and practical knowledge in family mediation. Its objective is to equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to partially fulfil the requirements set by the Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited (HKMAAL) as accredited family mediators. The course offers training at both basic and advanced levels, addressing the challenges that may arise in family mediation and providing effective strategies for navigating them. Emphasis is also placed on ethical considerations and professional standards for mediators. Throughout the course, students engage in practical exercises and case studies to apply their theoretical knowledge in real-world scenarios. This course is offered in conjunction with SS5828.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Describe the principles, theories, and practical knowledge of mediation, enabling participants to apply facilitative mediation skills and ethical practices in resolving disputes in real-life situations.	20	x	x	
2	Demonstrate proficiency in assessing family dynamics, identifying underlying issues, and formulating effective mediation strategies based on complex family conflict theories and relevant laws.	40		x	x
3	Analyse the impact of divorce on children's development and adjustment, considering their interests and needs, as well as the psychological processes involved.	30		x	x
4	Recognize the unique characteristics and needs of families from diverse cultural backgrounds in the context of family mediation	10	x	x	

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	Lecture and Class Discussion	Lecture and class discussion involve an instructor delivering information through a presentation, followed by interactive discussions among students to deepen understanding and exchange ideas.	1, 2, 3, 4	
2	Guest Lectures	Experts and/or practitioners are invited to share their knowledge and insights with students, offering a different perspective and real-world experience.	1, 2, 3, 4	
3	Case Study / Analysis	A case study is an in-depth analysis of a specific situation or problem, allowing students to apply theoretical concepts to real-life scenarios and develop problem-solving skills.	1, 2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Class participation	1, 2, 3, 4	20	
2	In-class exercises	1, 2, 3, 4	20	
3	Quiz	1, 2, 3, 4	30	
4	Term paper	1, 2, 3, 4	30	

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Additional Information for ATs

Remarks:

This course is arranged to partially meet the accreditation requirements of the Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited (HKMAAL). Students must meet the attendance requirement of 100% of this course. If students fail to fulfil a 100% attendance requirement, a fail grade will be given and their names will not be sent to HKMAAL for accreditation.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Class participation (Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

1.1 Actively engage in class participation

- 1.2 Able to offer opinions and comments on discussions rationally and logically
- 1.3 Contribute to the learning of the whole class

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence of achievement of the criteria

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good evidence of achievement of the criteria

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Fair evidence of achievement of the criteria

Marginal

(D) Limited evidence of achievement of the criteria

Failure

(F) Insufficient/poor evidence of achievement of the criteria

Assessment Task

2. In-class exercises (Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

- 2.1 Show engagement with the material and promote a dynamic learning environment
- 2.2 Make substantial and meaningful contributions that reflect a solid grasp of the concepts and principles covered

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence of achievement of the criteria

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good evidence of achievement of the criteria

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Fair evidence of achievement of the criteria

Marginal

(D) Limited evidence of achievement of the criteria

Failure

(F) Insufficient/poor evidence of achievement of the criteria

Assessment Task

3. Quiz (Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Exhibit a thorough and comprehensive understanding of the course materials, including key concepts, theories, and principles.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence of achievement of the criterion

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good evidence of achievement of the criterion

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Fair evidence of achievement of the criterion

Marginal

(D) Limited evidence of achievement of the criterion

Failure

(F) Insufficient/poor evidence of achievement of the criteria

Assessment Task

4. Term paper (Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

4.1 Display a precise and accurate understanding of relevant concepts, theories, and principles of family mediation.

4.2 Demonstrate the ability to evaluate and analyze family mediation knowledge critically, offering insights, and considering alternative perspectives.

4.3 Presents ideas in a logical, and well-organized manner.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence of achievement of the criteria

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good evidence of achievement of the criteria

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Fair evidence of achievement of the criteria

Marginal

(D) Limited evidence of achievement of the criteria

Failure

(F) Insufficient/poor evidence of achievement of the criteria

Assessment Task

1. Class participation (Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

1.1 Actively engage in class participation

1.2 Able to offer opinions and comments on discussions rationally and logically

1.3 Contribute to the learning of the whole class

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence of achievement of the criteria

Good

(B+, B) Good evidence of achievement of the criteria

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Fair to limited evidence of achievement of the criteria

Failure

(F) Insufficient/poor evidence of achievement of the criteria

Assessment Task

2. In-class exercises (Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

2.1 Show engagement with the material and promote a dynamic learning environment

2.2 Make substantial and meaningful contributions that reflect a solid grasp of the concepts and principles covered

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence of achievement of the criteria

Good

(B+, B) Good evidence of achievement of the criteria

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Fair to limited evidence of achievement of the criteria

Failure

(F) Insufficient/poor evidence of achievement of the criteria

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Exhibit a thorough and comprehensive understanding of the course materials, including key concepts, theories, and principles.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence of achievement of the criteria

Good

(B+, B) Good evidence of achievement of the criteria

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Fair to limited evidence of achievement of the criteria

Failure

(F) Insufficient/poor evidence of achievement of the criteria

Assessment Task

4. Term paper (Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

4.1 Display a precise and accurate understanding of relevant concepts, theories, and principles of family mediation.

4.2 Demonstrate the ability to evaluate and analyze family mediation knowledge critically, offering insights, and considering alternative perspectives.

4.3 Presents ideas in a logical, and well-organized manner.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence of achievement of the criteria

Good

(B+, B) Good evidence of achievement of the criteria

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Fair to limited evidence of achievement of the criteria

Failure

(F) Insufficient/poor evidence of achievement of the criteria

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Separation and divorce. Family conflicts. Communication. Conflict resolution strategies. Diagnosis of conflict. Psychological process of divorce. Procedures for family mediation. Co-parenting arrangement. Power imbalance. Financial settlements. Diverse cultural backgrounds. Cross-straits relationship. Children development and adjustment. Psychological process of divorce. Co-mediation. Family law and court practice directions. Role of lawyers and experts. Cultural consideration. Code of ethics.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Roberts, M., & Moscati, M. F. (2020). Family mediation: Contemporary issues. Bloomsbury Publishing.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Irving, H. H. (2002). Family Mediation: Theory and Practice with Chinese Families (Vol. 1). Hong Kong University Press.
2	Lee, J., Lim, M. T. S., & Loh, M. (Eds.). (2023). Contemporary Issues in Mediation-Volume 8. World Scientific.
3	Murphy, J. C., & Robinson, R. (2015). Family Mediation: Theory and practice. LexisNexis.
4	Roberts, M. (2016). Mediation in Family Disputes: Principles of practice. Routledge.
5	Whatling, T. (2021). Mediation and Dispute Resolution: Contemporary Issues and Developments. Jessica Kingsley Publishers.