

SS5828: FAMILY MEDIATION LABORATORY

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Family Mediation Laboratory

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

5828

Academic Unit

Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

6

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

Other Languages

Other Languages for Medium of Instruction

English, supplemented by Cantonese / Putonghua in role play and discussion

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to equip students with the practical skills and knowledge necessary to partially fulfil the requirement as accredited family mediators. Aligned with the standards established by the Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited, the course offers comprehensive training at both basic and advanced levels. The emphasis is on experiential learning, with extensive role-play sessions and professional coaching. Students will engage in simulated mediation scenarios to develop their practical mediation skills. Individual feedback provided by professional coaches help students refine their mediation techniques, enhance their communication skills, and strengthen their ability to manage conflicts within families. This course is offered concurrently with SS5827.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Communicate effectively with individuals involved in family conflicts, effectively respond to issues such as domestic violence, child protection, child abuse/neglect, and create a safe environment for vulnerable parties during the dispute resolution process.	20	x	x	x
2	Apply family mediation knowledge and skills in various stages, including the initial intake process, issue identification, negotiation techniques, and the drafting of agreements.	30	x	x	x
3	Identify and address complex family dynamics, manage high emotions, and facilitate productive dialogue among family members.	30	x	x	x
4	Demonstrate an awareness of ethical considerations, cultural factors, and the unique challenges that arise in family mediation.	20	x	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	Role Plays	Students engage in role plays in small groups, progressing from basic to advanced stages. These role plays simulate real-life family conflict cases that may involve financial and/or child-related matters.	1, 2, 3, 4	
2	Debriefings	After each role play, debriefing sessions are conducted to allow students to reflect on their performance and receive feedback. Coaches lead these sessions, providing feedback and guidance based on the students' actions and decisions during the role plays.	1, 2, 3, 4	
3	Case Study / Sharing	Experienced practitioners in the field of family mediation are invited to share their knowledge and insights with the students. These coaches offer a different perspective and real-world experience, enriching students' understanding of family mediation in practice.	1, 2, 3, 4	
4	Written Feedback	Throughout the course, students receive written feedback at different stages of their learning journey. It allows students to gain a comprehensive understanding of their strengths and areas for improvement.	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	20	
2	Class exercises	1, 2, 3	40	
3	Reflective paper	1, 2, 3	40	

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 role plays
- 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. 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

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Assessment Task

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

Criterion

- 3.1 Demonstrate a clear understanding of how theory informs and shapes the practice of family mediation
- 3.2 Able to identify and examine underlying issues, challenges and ethical considerations

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 role plays
- 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

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Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

Role and responsibilities of a family mediator. Legal framework and regulations in family mediation. Active listening skills. Non-verbal communication. Paraphrasing and summarizing techniques. Conflict dynamics in family disputes. Creating win-win solutions. Child-centred Mediation. Cultural sensitivity and diversity. Power imbalances. Confidentiality and privacy in mediation. Handling ethical dilemmas and conflicts of interest

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.