

SS2105: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK

Effective Term

Semester A 2022/23

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Introduction to Social Work

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

2105

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

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

As the first social work course to social work students, this course will introduce to students the generic and generalist components of social work as a profession, including its professional value, ethics, knowledge, process and cross-cultural

considerations. Social work students hold a set of values and knowledge about social needs and problems before they start their professional training. In this course, students will evaluate and align their personal values with the professional base and from a macro system perspective. They will also achieve a theoretical orientation to see social needs and problems from the eco-systems perspectives. In the course, of shifting from personal to professional and macro, students will discover their new social responses to human problems and social issues and will take social work training and practice an inventive and creative process, rather than just an instructional process.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Describe the core social work values and the common base of social work and to blend it creatively with professional goals when applied to use;	15		x	x
2	Create solutions to ethical dilemmas and to take into account of personal and professional values;	15	x	x	
3	Identify old perspectives and discover how to make possible to innovate new eco-systems perspectives in analyzing and assessing the needs and problems of individuals, families, groups and communities; and	40		x	x
4	Describe the process model and cultural dimensions of social work helping and to search for a creative blend of all levels of competence in social work practice.	30		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.

Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

	TLAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures	This is an introduction course to social work as a profession as well as a theoretical perspective to human problems and social services. Students have to understand the core components which contribute to make social work a professional as well as an academic subject. From individual values to the constructs of social problems, students need to reveal their own personal values and have to understand the macro theories which contribute perspectives to understand social problems. Lectures will be used as the major media to introduce these personal and social perspectives.	1, 2, 3, 4	
2	Tutorials and small group discussions	Tutorials are designed to facilitate students to discuss in smaller groups and in a personal participatory way about social work values, ethics, ecological perspectives and cultural awareness. All topics are run in the way that students will learn these concepts from a personal stance to a societal level, finally making a connection which is similar to the social work perspective, that all individual and social problems are interrelated in an ecological and systematic way.	1, 2, 3, 4	

3	Audio visual materials	To stimulate students' interest to further understanding the link between person and environment in an ecological way, audio visual materials including television series and movie scripts are used in lectures to demonstrate some unique features of social work values, ethnics and other theoretical concepts.	1, 2	
4	Case demonstrations	Case demonstrations and stories are also used to stimulate students' interest in lectures. Professional requirements when responding to social needs will also be demonstrated in classes so as to show the students the professional expectations and norms in practices.	1, 2, 3, 4	
5	Field experience	Students will be divided into smaller groups and be arranged to visit an NGO or to interview some service recipients for one 4 hours session in order to under the functioning and service delivery model of the generalist social workers. Students will make use of this field experience for one tutorial discussion and to write one short reflective paper on the generic and generalist bases of social work.	1, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Quiz	1, 2, 3, 4	30	
2	One individual reflective paper on the field visit	1, 2, 3, 4	20	
3	One individual paper	1, 2, 3, 4	50	

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

1. Quiz

Criterion

Capacity to define, compare and distinguish differences and similarities of important concepts and core values of social work

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Marginal

Failure (F)

Capacity not demonstrated

Assessment Task

2. One short reflective paper

Criterion

Capacity to make use of field experience and personal interviews to reflect on the connection between personal values and societal values and its implication in future professional application Demonstration of self-reflective in learning and to strive for professional competence as a generalist social worker

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Capacity not demonstrated

Assessment Task

3. One individual paper

Criterion

Capacity to understand the theoretical orientations of social work

Demonstrate a good connection on how theoretical and conceptual bases of social work are guiding social work service delivery and practices.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Capacity not demonstrated

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

Values and ethnics; values and ethnics in dilemma; social system; ecological; ecosystem; person-in-environment practice and adaptation; generic and generalist bases of social work practice; social work process models; social work as a response to social problems; cultural dimensions of social work practice.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Johnson, L. C., & Yanca, S. (2010). Social work practice: A generalist approach (10th ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon.
2	Miley, K. K., O' Melia, M. W., & DuBois, B. L. (2013). Generalist social work practice: An empowering approach (7th ed.) N.J.: Pearson.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Beckett, C., & Horner, N. (2015). Essential theory for social work practice. Sage.
2	Compton, B., Galaway, B., & Cournoyer, B. (2005). Social work processes. The Dorsey Press.
3	Corey, G., Corey, M., & Callanan, P. (2018). Issues and ethics in the helping profession (10th ed.). Brooks/Cole Publishing Company.
4	Dubosi, B., & Miley, K. K. (2019). Social work: An empowering profession (9th ed.). Allyn & Bacon.
5	Farley, O.W., Smith, L.L. and Boyle, S.W. (2012) What is social work. In Introduction to social work. (12th Ed.) (Ch 1). Allyn & Bacon.
6	Parker, J. (2007) The process of social work. In M. Lymbery and K. Postle (Eds.) Social work: A companion to learning. Sage.

7	Parker, J. (2020). <i>Social work practice: Assessment, planning, intervention and review</i> . Sage.
8	Thompson, N. (2009). <i>Practising social work: meeting the professional challenge</i> . Palgrave Macmillan.
9	周永新、陳沃聰編 (2013) 。《社會工作新論》。商務印書館。
10	林昭寰、朱志強 (編) (2014) 《社工何價——專業沉思》花千樹出版有限公司。
11	徐永德 (2022) 《社會工作與社會學》。商務印書館。