

SS2105: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK

Effective Term

Semester A 2026/27

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.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures	Students will actively explore the core components that define social work both as a profession and an academic discipline. They will reflect on their own values and engage in discussions about how these personal beliefs intersect with macro theories that shape our understanding of social issues.	1, 2, 3, 4	
2	Tutorials and small group discussions	Students will delve into the values, ethics, ecological perspectives, and cultural awareness integral to social work. Through guided discussions, they will connect personal insights to broader societal issues, emphasizing the interconnectedness of individual and social problems within an ecological framework.	1, 2, 3, 4	
3	Audio visual materials	Students will analyze audiovisual materials, such as clips from television series and movie scripts, to uncover unique features of social work practice.	1, 2	
4	Case demonstrations	Students will gain insights into professional expectations and norms within social work practice by analyzing case studies and narratives.	1, 2, 3, 4	
5	Field experience	Students will participate in a field experience, which will serve as a basis for one tutorial discussion and a reflective paper.	1, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Quiz	1, 2, 3, 4	30	-	No
2	One individual reflective paper on the field visit	1, 2, 3, 4	20	Allow AI to collective basic information and generate initial ideas	Yes
3	One individual paper	1, 2, 3, 4	50	-	No

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 individual reflective paper on the field visit

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). Social work practice: Assessment, planning, intervention and review. Sage.
8	Thompson, N. (2009). Practising social work: meeting the professional challenge. 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。
12	關志健 (2024) 《7天改不了社會》。香港城市大學出版社。