

# SS3292: PRACTICUM I

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## Effective Term

Semester A 2024/25

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Practicum I

### Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

### Course Number

3292

### Academic Unit

Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS)

### College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

### Course Duration

One Semester

### Credit Units

8

### Level

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

### Medium of Instruction

Other Languages

### Other Languages for Medium of Instruction

English and other languages appropriate to the practicum setting

### Medium of Assessment

English

### Prerequisites

SS2105 Introduction to Social Work and SS2113 Working with Individuals and Families and SS2115 Working with Groups and SS2116 Working with Organizations and Communities and SS3284 Introduction to Fieldwork Learning II

### Precursors

Nil

### Equivalent Courses

Nil

### Exclusive Courses

Nil

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

The first practicum provides students a goal-directed learning experience, part of which is incidental learning, in helping them to experience and understand what real-life practice is like and how a service delivery system operates in the organizational environment of a social work agency. In addition, students will, by way of taking on the staff and professional roles, acquire the professional identity of a social worker. This course aims to enable students to:

- 1.1 apply and integrate social work theories and methods in the practicum service setting;
- 1.2 develop professional skills to implement social work theories and methods in practice;
- 1.3 familiarize with the professional role and staff role in host agencies; and
- 1.4 develop reflective attitude and skills in practice as they internalize social work values and ethics.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

| CILOs |                                                                                                                                                                   | Weighting (if app.) | DEC-A1 | DEC-A2 | DEC-A3 |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1     | Apply and integrate social work theories and methods in the practicum service setting;                                                                            | 25                  |        | x      | x      |
| 2     | Demonstrate professional skills to implement social work theories and methods in practice;                                                                        | 25                  |        | x      | x      |
| 3     | Perform the professional role and the staff role in the host organization as a service provider, an agency employee, and a professional practitioner-trainee; and | 25                  | x      | x      |        |
| 4     | Demonstrate attitudes and skills required of a reflective practitioner with a professional identity through internalizing social work values and ethics.          | 25                  | 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    | Practice                                           | <p>Students will engage in a real-life context to acquire knowledge and experience in professional practice. Students will deliver services to enhance their practice competence which may now build on a broadened and more differentiated knowledge base on theoretical systems underlying specific practice approaches/ models and how they are translated into client-specific and setting-specific social work interventions. Students will participate to acquire the ability to perform as professional personnel in the host agency, with the capacity for independent practice, and accountable to the agency and clients for what one does in the professional role.</p> <p>Duration: 8 hours x 3 days per week x 17 weeks</p> | 1, 2, 3, 4                 |
| 2    | Intervention plan, progress and evaluation reports | <p>Students will write plans and reports aiming to master various professional records of their practice in text, and to reflect on their practice and examine it critically.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 1, 2, 3, 4                 |

|   |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |            |  |
|---|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--|
| 3 | Supervision | <p>Students will engage in consultation and academic support from their fieldwork supervisor, teachers on the processes of tackling problems and issues in their field practice, students are required to meet fieldwork instructor weekly for 1 ½ hours and periodically with agency team leader throughout the whole period of the practicum. Students will participate to learn to perform as a reflective, ethical and competent practitioner under a sustained process of practicum supervision. Frequency: weekly individual supervision of one-and-a-half hours by a qualified instructor who must also be a Registered Social Worker. Students are also required to attend an orientation program to be held prior to the Practicum.</p> | 1, 2, 3, 4 |  |
|---|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--|

#### Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

| ATs |            | CILO No.   | Weighting (%) | Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----|------------|------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | Coursework | 1, 2, 3, 4 | 100           | Students are assessed based on the written and verbal accounts of their work, including learning contract, background study report, summary and process recordings and intervention evaluation report, reflective journals on one's learning through participative observations and direct practice, meeting with respective fieldwork instructor in weekly individual supervision sessions, discussions with agency staff, mid and final self-evaluation reports, and mid and final evaluation reports of their practice by their fieldwork instructor. |

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

100

**Examination (%)**

0

**Assessment Rubrics (AR)****Assessment Task**

1. Coursework

**Criterion**

Ability in applying and integrating social work theories and methods in the practicum service setting

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Strong evidence of critical thinking in integrating knowledge in practice; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize data; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base, professional skills and attitude in performing both professional and staff roles; strong evidence of reflexivity in practice; strong commitment in professional values, ethics, and identity.

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Evidence of grasp of subject matter in applying knowledge in practice; evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of subject matter; evidence of familiarity with knowledge base, professional skills and attitude in performing both professional and staff roles; good evidence of reflexivity in practice; commitment in professional values, ethics, and identity.

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Evidence in applying related knowledge in practice; some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; adequate understanding of subject matter; evidence of familiarity with essential theory base, core professional skills and attitude in

performing both professional and staff roles; some evidence of reflexivity in practice; commitment in professional values, ethics, and identity.

### **Marginal (D)**

Barely sufficient familiarity with basic knowledge, skills and attitude in practice to enable the student to progress. As fieldwork is the testing ground for practice, the Practice Board will review all the D cases to decide whether the students should retake the course.

### **Failure (F)**

Little evidence of familiarity with theories in practice; weakness in critical and analytic capacity and professional skills; limited or irrelevant use of knowledge and professional skills and attitude in performing both professional and staff roles; little evidence of reflexivity in practice; weak commitment in professional values, ethics, and identity.

## **Part III Other Information**

### **Keyword Syllabus**

Relating social work knowledge to practice in identifying and describing social problems and their impacts on individuals, families and the community; understanding individual clients from a human development and ecological perspective; identifying and describing the community contexts of practice, i.e. the host community; gaining direct knowledge of formal and informal community resources; understanding how social policies affect clients, families, and the community; and how to analyze social policies;

Demonstrating professional skills in verbal communication, relational and helping skills; written communication and documentation skills; utilizing community resources; developing sound assessment, and critically selecting and implementing interventions at all levels of generalist practice; influencing, guiding and managing the planned change process; developing skills in evaluating social work practice;

Analyzing the mission, goals, and services of the agency; understanding how agency policies affect clients, families, and the community; Performing both staff role, and professional social work roles and identity in the host organization as service provider, an agency employee, and a professional practitioner-trainee; reflecting on the values issues and ethical dilemmas in performing these roles;

Demonstrating attitude and skills required of a reflective practitioner with a professional identity through internalizing social work values and ethics reflexively; Integrating and deepening the commitments to generic social work principles, core beliefs and values in professional practice; appreciating social work values and ethics as central premise of practice through self reflection and use of fieldwork supervision;

### **Remarks**

This is the first fieldwork practicum for students with no prior social work experience.

### **Reading List**

#### **Compulsory Readings**

| Title |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Department of Applied Social Sciences (2015). Practicum handbook: BSS(SW) programme (11th ed.). Hong Kong: City University of Hong Kong.                                                              |
| 2     | Kwong, W. M., Lee, T. Y., & Chee, P. (Eds.). (2008). Documenting practice in fieldwork: Examples, illustrations and feedback. HK: Department of Applied Social Studies, City University of Hong Kong. |
| 3     | Lee, T. Y., & Chan, R. (2005). First level integration of theory with practice in fieldwork. HK: Department of Applied Social Studies, City University of Hong Kong.                                  |
| 4     | Lee, T. Y., Lo, J. Y. S., & Chow, E. O. W. (2008). Writing reflection logs in social work practicum. HK: Department of Applied Social Studies, City University of Hong Kong.                          |
| 5     | Social Welfare Department. (2001). English writing reference kit for social workers. HK: Social Welfare Department.                                                                                   |

#### **Additional Readings**

| Title |                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Web Resource for Field Instruction <a href="http://www.cityu.edu.hk/ss/resources/bswfw/HOME.htm">http://www.cityu.edu.hk/ss/resources/bswfw/HOME.htm</a>         |
| 2     | Practice Teaching, Learning & Research <a href="http://ssweb.cityu.edu.hk/facil-ptlr.asp">http://ssweb.cityu.edu.hk/facil-ptlr.asp</a>                           |
| 3     | Social Work Registration Board <a href="http://www.swrb.org.hk/">http://www.swrb.org.hk/</a>                                                                     |
| 4     | Social Work Resources - Ethics <a href="http://pages.prodigy.net/lizmitchell/volksware/ethics.htm">http://pages.prodigy.net/lizmitchell/volksware/ethics.htm</a> |