

# **SOWK 4550**

## **Seminar V: Poverty and Social Exclusion**



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# Contact

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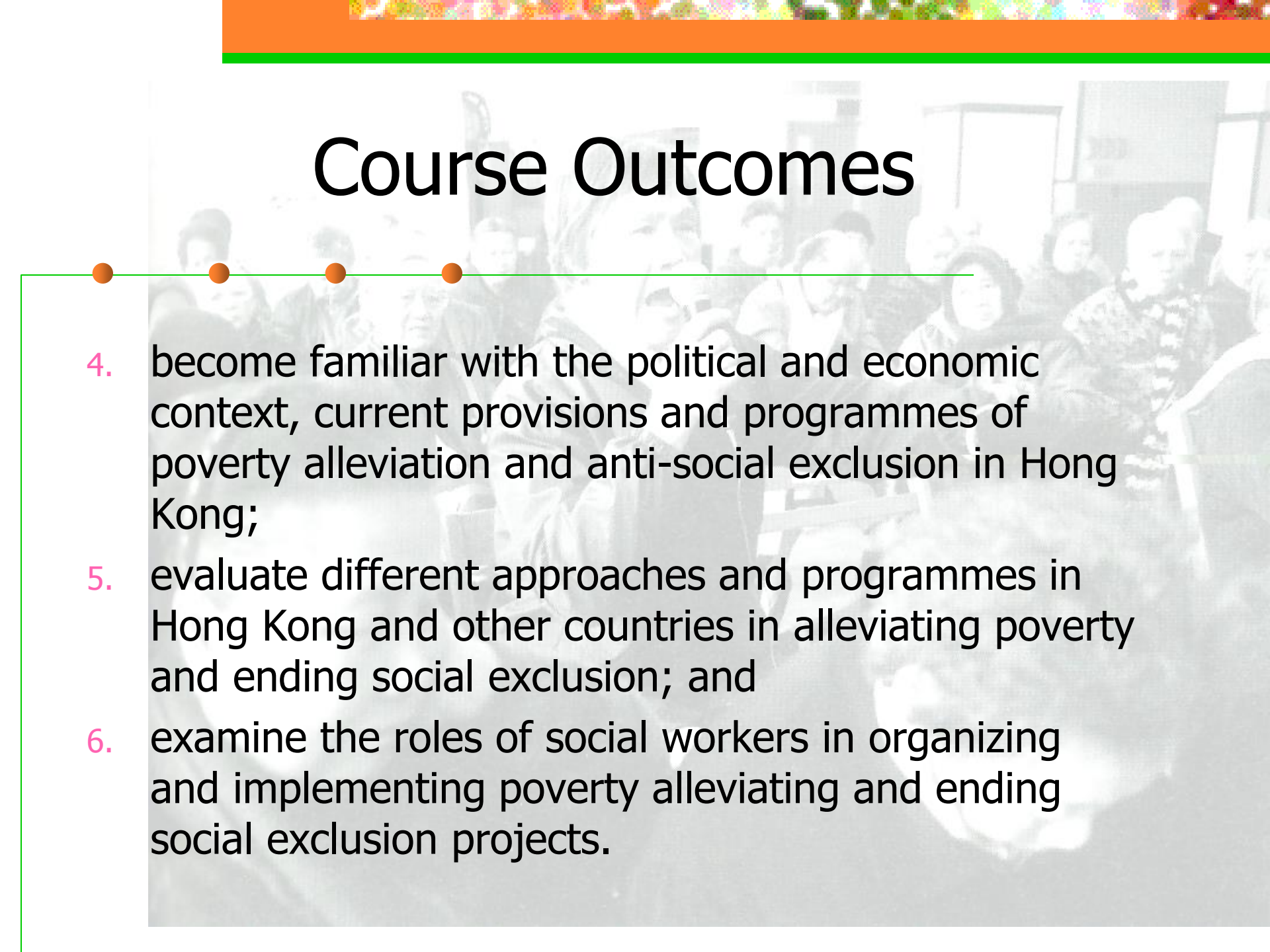
# Course Description

- 本科旨在檢視本土及全球脈絡下的貧窮與社會排斥問題。課程介紹人力資本、社會資本、社會排斥以及全球化等理論，讓學生了解貧窮及社會排斥的成因及影響。
- 完成課程後，期望學生能應用有關理論進行分析及指導實踐，以減輕不同弱勢社群如福利受助人、婦女、在職貧窮人士以及少數族裔的貧窮及社會排斥狀況。
- 課程亦會就著香港社會及轉變中的地區及全球環境，討論最近香港有關貧窮及扶貧工作的發展趨勢及重大事件。

# Course Outcomes

1. develop an understanding of meaning and nature of poverty and social exclusion in contemporary societies;
2. examine the extent of poverty and social exclusion in Hong Kong and in other societies e.g. China and UK;
3. study and review different alleviation strategy in combat poverty and social exclusion;

# Course Outcomes

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- 4. become familiar with the political and economic context, current provisions and programmes of poverty alleviation and anti-social exclusion in Hong Kong;
  - 5. evaluate different approaches and programmes in Hong Kong and other countries in alleviating poverty and ending social exclusion; and
  - 6. examine the roles of social workers in organizing and implementing poverty alleviating and ending social exclusion projects.

# Lecture Arrangement

- Lecture & Seminar
  - Tue 2:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. UCC411
- The course will be conducted in the form of lectures as well as seminars. It will focus on poverty and social exclusion problems and policy issues in Hong Kong. The instructor will provide basic frameworks in the first 7 lectures and community visit. In the remaining 3 seminars, students have to form into small groups (3-4 students a group) and present their ideas and discuss topics of problem and policy concerns for a specific groups. It is expected that students should take an active part in the discussions.

# methods of instruction

- *Lectures*
- *Small Group Discussions*
- *Seminars*
- *Blackboard discussion forum*
- *Readings*
- *Audio-visual aid*
- *Community Visity*

# Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Sub-themes
<b>Week 1</b> <b>4/9</b>	Impact of globalization and regionalization on economic insecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Globalization and Regionalization</li><li>● The end of organized capitalism: post-fordist/ Post-modernist</li><li>● Migration of Capital &amp; Labour</li><li>● Flexible Management &amp; Marginalisation of labour</li></ul>
<b>Week 2</b> <b>11/9</b>	Concepts & Measurement of Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Self-understanding of poverty</li><li>● Absolute/relative/ combined definition</li><li>● Problems of different definitions (e.g. official poverty line in HK)</li></ul>



# Class Schedule

**Week 3**  
**18/9**

- Poverty situations in Hong Kong/ China / India
- Absolute Poverty in China and India
- Relative Poverty / Subjective Poverty in Hong Kong
- Similar and dissimilar causes of Poverty in three regions

**Week 4**  
**25/9**

- Public Holiday: The day following the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival  
Community Visit to understand poverty situation in Hong Kong  
(date and time to be confirmed)
- Identification and Reflection of different causes of Hong Kong Poverty Problems



**Week 5**  
**2/10**

Poverty alleviation  
strategies I:

- Education
- Human capital investment
- Job placements
- Job matching/ Job search
- Expectation management

**Week 6**  
**14/10**

Poverty alleviation  
strategies II:

- Building and rebuilding social capital
- Asset building /Asset Based Community Development
- Community Economic Development



<b>Week 7</b> <b>16/10</b>	Poverty alleviation strategies III:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Job creation</li><li>● Job subsidy</li><li>● Workfare</li><li>● Working Tax Credit / Low income subsidy</li></ul>
<b>Week 8</b> <b>23/10</b>	Poverty alleviation strategies IV:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Social Enterprises</li><li>● Retirement Protection</li><li>● Unemployment benefit</li><li>● Minimum &amp; Living Wage</li></ul>
<b>Week 8</b> <b>26/10</b>	Optional Street sleeper visits at Shamshuipo (7:30 pm – 10:30pm)	



**Week 9  
6/11**

**Seminar I**

- **Group A: Elderly**
- **Group B: Working Poor**

**Week  
10  
13/11**

**Seminar II**

- **Group C: Children & Youth**
- **Group D: People With Disabilities**

**Week  
11  
20/11**

**Seminar III**

- **Group E: Ethnic Minorities**
- **Group F: Homeless**



**Week  
12  
27/11**

**Conclusion & Evaluation**



# Assessment

- Term Paper (Individual) 50%
- Group Presentation (Group) 30%
- Reflection journal (Individual) 10%
- Participation (Individual) 10%

# Term Paper (50%)

- Student needs to select one group of people in poverty or social exclusion, e.g. single elderly, disabled persons, ethnic minorities and homeless etc. as the target of analysis. The analysis should include

# Term Paper

- The problems and challenges faced by the target group;
- Macro/Meso/Micro causes of poverty and social exclusion faced by this target group;
- Identify one or two programmes by Government or NGOs which effectively tackle/eradicate the poverty and social exclusion problems faced by this target group;
- Outline the “Theory of Change” of the above programme(s), comment on it and try to propose alternative theory of change which may have more significant social impacts



# Term Paper

- The term paper is about 3500 words in Chinese or 3000 words in English. The term paper should be hand in via the blackboard system on or before 11:59pm on **3 December 2018 (Mon)**.

# Group Presentation (30%)

- The class will be divided into 6 groups with each group with 3-4 students.
- Each group will select a particular group of people in poverty and social exclusion in Hong Kong: elderly, working poor, children & youth, ethnic minority, persons with disability, and homeless for their presentation.
- The basic questions and guideline for each particular groups can be found under "Projects" in the blackboard system. The group formation should be completed by Week 3 (18 September 2018)

# Group Presentation

- A group presentation will be held on 6, 13 and 20 November in the seminar.
- Two groups will present in one date.
- Each group need to do a presentation of 35-40 minutes followed by a 10-15 minutes Q&A session and then a 15-20 minutes discussion session led by the group. Instructor will have a 10 minutes comment and review on the presentation at the end of the group presentation.
- The maximum duration of a group presentation session will be 75 minutes

# Group Presentation (General Guidelines)

- What are the poverty and social exclusion conditions and situations of the target group?
- What are the causes of the above poverty and social exclusion situations? To what extent and in what ways the macro, meso, micro level causes lead to the poverty and social exclusion problem?
- What are the policies and strategies of government aim at alleviate poverty and social exclusion problems of this group? Are they effective? How and Why?

# Group Presentation (General Guidelines)

- What are the different strategies and programmes provided by the NGOs in tackling the poverty and social exclusion problems of this group? What are the theory of change of these programmes? Are they effective?
- What are the roles of the social workers/ organisers in these programmes? How can these roles can be improved?
- Can you suggest some innovative strategies and programmes in tackling the problems of this group? Do you intend to eradicate the problem or to alleviate the problem? What is your theory of change? How can you implement your theory of change after learning the lessons of government and NGOs.

# Reflection Journal (10%)

- A community and agency visit for understanding poverty and social exclusion problem will be held on week 4. Students are expected to write a reflection journal about the visit to reflect their feelings, experiences and attitudes on the people living in poverty and social exclusion. The length of the journal should be about 2000 words in Chinese or 1500 words in English. The deadline of submission of the reflection journal is 23:59 on **8 Oct, 2018 (Monday)**.

# Participation (10%)

- Active participation in lecture, small group discussion and Blackboard forum are expected and will be rated

# Grade Overall Performance

<b>A</b>	<b>Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes</b>
<b>A-</b>	Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes
<b>B</b>	Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance
<b>C</b>	Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses
<b>D</b>	Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes
<b>F</b>	Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements



# Attention

- 100% of attendance is required for this seminar courses
- There is strictly **NO** mark on attendance in the assessment scheme.
- In case students fail to observe the Department's class attendance requirement, a failure grade should eventually be given to students in the overall assessment. However, if the student's absence does not exceed one class, teaching colleagues have discretion to make the final judgment whether special allowances could be given to the student concerned, provided that the student could give very clear and strong reasons (e.g. Medical Reasons) for his/her absence. For absence for of two classes or more, UPCC Chairperson's recommendation should be sought before making a decision.

# Attention

## ■ **Honesty in academic work**

- All student assignments should be first submitted via a Plagiarism Identification Engine System named VeriGuide (維誠) for checking of plagiarism.

[https://veriguide2.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/cuhk/login\\_CUHK.jspx](https://veriguide2.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/cuhk/login_CUHK.jspx)

## ■ **Assignment Turn-around time**

- The “turnaround” time for term paper, reflection journal are two weeks.