Subject Description Form

Subject Code	APSS230					
Subject Title	Introduction to Human Service Professions					
Credit Value	3					
Level	2					
Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion	Nil					
Assessment Methods						
	50% Continuous Assessment	Individual Assessment	Group Assessment			
	Seminar Presentation		15%			
	2. Seminar Paper	25%				
	3. Lecture and Seminar Participation	10%				
	50% Examination	50%				
Objectives	 This subject aims to enable students to: understand the goals, knowledge, skills, values and philosophical base of human service; examine the historical development and significance of contemporary human service professions; identify the roles, tasks and activities undertaken by human service providers; ascertain the professional quality and standards of human service providers; analyze the nature and importance of professional relationships in human service delivery; familiarize with the complex social contexts for delivering human services. 					

Intended Learning Outcomes

As a foundation and introductory subject for guiding students to understand human service as a profession, students are expected to develop a broad comprehension of the historical development, value base, ethics, goals and functions, roles and tasks, professional relationships, and generic intervention models involved in human services. This in turn will enable them to reflect on issues in professionalizing human services and appreciate better the local contexts of practice. Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:

- a. describe the basic concepts about human services, their scopes and their historical development;
- b. delineate the functions of human services as well as the ethics and values of professionals working in the field;
- c. articulate the features of human service organizations in private, public and the third sector.
- d. appreciate the relevance and effectiveness of human services and delivery through a system perspective;
- e. enunciate the roles and tasks as well as values and ethics pertaining to participation and delivery of human services and client-provider relationships;
- f. formulate ideas about trends in human service development in local and global contexts.

Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus

1. Basic Concepts

- Definition, scope and boundary of human services
- Historical development of human services, human service professions and the Third Sector
- Models of human service delivery

2. Foundation of Human Service

- Philosophical and value base of human services
- Understanding of human needs
- Goals and functions of human services
- Ethics in human service delivery

3. Practice in Human Services

- Roles and tasks of human service professionals
- Professional working relationship and the use of power
- Multi-level intervention in human services
- Empowerment of clients and citizen participation in policy-making and service-delivery

4. Understanding Human Service Organizations

- System perspective
- Organizational goals
- Organizational structure & technology subsystem
- Organizational psycho-social subsystem

5. Contexts of Human Service

- Local context of practice: auspices of service delivery and financing of human service
- Trends in human service in contemporary society
- Human service as professional career

Teaching/Learning Methodology

Lectures will emphasize clarification of concepts, delineation of theories and summarization of contextual information. Seminars will emphasize application of concepts/principles and contextual reflection, using an interactive approach.

Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes

Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)					
		a	b	c	d	e	f
1. Seminar Presentation	15%	√	V	V	1	√	$\sqrt{}$
2. Seminar Paper	25%	1	√	√	1	1	√
Lecture and Seminar Participation	10%	V		V	√	V	V
4. Examination	50%	√	√	V	1	√	√
Total	100%						

The assessment methods are a combination of formative and summative assessment. The methods provide students with opportunities to improve themselves through assessment as a form of feedback and to enable them to demonstrate their competence and mastery of the subject.

The assessment methods can serve as a feedback to the students' understanding of the theories/ concepts discussed in lectures and in seminars, as well as their performance in the subject. Close relationship between the tutor(s) and the students will facilitate this.

Seminar Presentation and Participation:

Students will present their findings and hold discussions on a selected topic in seminar as assigned. They will be expected to prepare a document or PowerPoint presentation summarizing and identifying the key points emerging from their presentation for discussion to illustrate their competence and effectiveness in public presentation and communication.

Seminar Paper:

Students will write a 2,000-word seminar paper on the information they collected from library research or other relevant sources on a selected topic. This will enable students to demonstrate their library research skills and their competence in conducting critical analysis from their researched materials.

Examination:

Students will be examined at the end of the semester on substantive knowledge they have learnt. In examination, students' ability in understanding and application of the concepts/ theories are assessed.

Student Study	Class contact:					
Effort Required	■ Lectures 28					
	■ Seminars	14 Hrs.				
	Other student study effort:					
	 Self-directed studies 	53 Hrs.				
	 Preparation for group presentation 	10 Hrs.				
	Preparation for seminar paper	30 Hrs.				
	Total student study effort	135 Hrs.				
Medium of Instruction	English supplemented with Chinese					
Medium of Assessment	English					
Reading List and References	 Major Reference Woodside, M. (2011) An Introduction to Human Services (7th edition). Belment, CA: Brooks/Cole. Recommended References Bloom, S. & Farragher, B. (2011). Destroying Sanctuary: the Crisis in Human Service Delivery Systems. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011. Hasenfeld, Y. (1983) Human Service Organizations. N.J.: Prentice-Hall. Hasenfeld, Y. (ed.) (1992) Human Service as Complex Organizations. Sage. Harris, H.S., & Maloney, D.C. (2004) Human Services: Contemporary Issues and Trends. Boston: Allyn & Bacon. Martin, M. (2011) Introduction to Human Services: Through the Eyes of Practice Settings. (2nd edition). Boston: Allyn & Bacon. Mehr, J.J. (2004) Human Services: Concepts and Intervention Strategies. Boston: Allyn & Bacon. Neukrus, E. (2008) Theory, Practice and Trends in Human Services: An Introduction. Pacific Grove, CA.: Thomson Brooks/Cole. Schram, B., & Mandell, B. R. (2009) An introduction to Human Services: Policy and Practice (7th edition). Boston: Allyn & Bacon. Recommended Academic Journals Social Policy and Administration. Oxford, UK: Blackwell. 					