



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Academic Year 2024-2025 Term I

COURSE CODE: IDIS110 COURSE TITLE: SOCIAL SCIENCE PRACTICUM

Instructor Name: TSAI Ming-Hong
Title Associate Professor
Tel: 68281905
Email: mhtsai@smu.edu.sg
Teaching Assistant: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, students will explore the issues of youth well-being and propose their solutions to these issues. An external partner, the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF), will support students' explorations. Due to the implementation of research projects in the course, students are expected to complete a collaborative institutional training initiative (CITI) program to learn how to protect participants in research. There is no monetary cost for SMU students to complete this training. Please use an SMU email account to access the training program ([https://smu.sharepoint.com/sites/irb/SitePages/Collabrative-Institutional-Training-Initiative-\(CITI\)-Programme.aspx](https://smu.sharepoint.com/sites/irb/SitePages/Collabrative-Institutional-Training-Initiative-(CITI)-Programme.aspx)). This training program will take a few hours, and students will need to finish the program by the end of the first week of the semester. To acquire relevant knowledge, this course also consists of multiple seminars conducted by invited speakers. Furthermore, students will make group presentations and submit their individual video reflections at the end of the course.

COURSE GOALS

The goals for this class are threefold:

1. Understand well-being from various perspectives
2. Implement research projects to identify the issues pertinent to youth well-being
3. Present research findings and potential solutions to the identified issues regarding youth well-being

COURSE SESSION

The course generally consists of one session per week.

PRE-REQUISITE

NA

ASSESSMENT METHODS

The final course grade is based on a Pass/Fail system. The outcome of “Pass” or “Fail” is derived from the total marks computed from the grade components. If a student is absent for more than 1.5 class sessions without valid reasons and permission from the instructor, the student will fail in the course.

Grade Components

Class attendance and participation (20%)
 In-class group presentation (15%)
 Final group report and presentation (50%)
 Individual video reflection (15%)

Note: There is no final exam in this course.

Class attendance and participation (20%)

○ Attendance (10%):

For each class, students will receive:

Students will receive 0 points for that class date if they are absent without an excused absence.

Students will lose partial credit for attendance if they arrive late or leave early.

Excused absences include:

1. A letter from the Dean’s Office of your School (explaining why the Dean has approved your absence from this class due to an important SMU commitment, such as an athletic event, conference, case competition, study mission abroad, etc.). It is the student’s responsibility to obtain this letter from the Dean before the missed class(es).
2. A letter from your National Service Commander (explaining why the Commander cannot reschedule your reservist training if you have a conflict with attending this class). It is the student’s responsibility to obtain this letter from the Commander before the missed class(es).
3. A valid medical certificate or a photo image of the positive COVID-19 results on the day of the corresponding class, which must be submitted to the instructor and the teaching assistant within one week.
4. All other absences will be considered to be unexcused.

○ Participation (10%):

For each class, the default grade is ZERO. If students intend to achieve a non-zero score for their class participation, students should provide their feedback on other groups’ presentations by 5 PM on the corresponding presentation days. The submission of students’ feedback on others’ presentations will be counted as participation scores for the weeks with students’ presentations. The teaching assistant will share the peer feedback (which will be made anonymous) with the corresponding groups.

To increase participation scores, students should ask questions or make comments regarding the content of the presentations or respond to the questions from the invited speakers or the instructor.

○ Group presentation (15%):

For the group presentation, students will work as a team to make a presentation based on course reading materials. Each presentation should be about 40-45 minutes, excluding the time for “Questions and Answers (10 minutes)”. Students need to submit their group presentation slides via the eLearn dropbox folder based on the assigned readings by 5 PM one day before the corresponding class time. All group members are expected to participate in the presentation although the distribution of the presentation time can be uneven among group members. Students are randomly assigned to different groups and therefore they will be responsible for their assigned topic. The group presentation score will be adjusted based on individual contributions to the project as rated by fellow group members.

○ Final group report and presentation (50%): Students will work as groups to conduct research projects and complete a final report and presentation to an external partner and other relevant parties.

○ Individual video reflection (15%): Students will submit a short video reflection for the public to describe their learning experience. The range of the video length is from 3 to 5 minutes. The content includes but is not limited to new ideas, challenges, and any positive experiences in this course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are not allowed to commit any acts of academic dishonesty. Penalties for violation of academic integrity can result in expulsion. Details on the SMU Code of Academic Integrity can be accessed at <http://www.smuscd.org/resources.html>.

INSTRUCTIONAL EXPECTATIONS

This class is designed to examine whether students can absorb and integrate knowledge from different lectures, be responsible for their learning processes and outcomes, and create a mutual learning environment. Therefore, below are some tips for students to achieve these objectives.

- Contribute to the class discussions with a clear and thought-provoking presentation
- Be punctual for class attendance
- Participate in the discussion following each presentation
- Avoid distracting yourself from absorbing knowledge in class (e.g. browsing the internet, using social media or messaging apps etc.).
- Ask for assistance if there is any something unclear regarding the class

CONSULTATIONS AND TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Students can consult with the instructor or teaching assistant by email or appointment. To facilitate email communication regarding this class, students can type IDIS110 as part of the subject line in an email to the instructor or TA.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS

SMU strives to make learning experiences accessible for all. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers due to disability, please let me know immediately. You are also welcome to contact the university's disability support team if you have questions or concerns about academic accommodations: included@smu.edu.sg

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING (EPTL)

As part of emergency preparedness, Instructors may conduct lessons online via the WebEx platform during the term, to prepare students for online learning. During an actual emergency, students will be notified to access the WebEx platform for their online lessons. The class schedule will mirror the current face-to-face class timetable unless otherwise stated.

READINGS FOR CLASS

Assigned readings will be announced later.