

Course Outline of SOWK 6263 / 7007

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1. Overview

This is the first part of the research training for SWSA RPG students. The second part will be taught by Dr. Yu-te Huang in the second semester.

The objective of the first part is to **provide exposure and training in doing quantitative research**, and the second semester will be more on qualitative training. Also, there will be at least three separate half-day workshops on qualitative and quantitative research method training in 2024/2025. It is also important for all of you to attend research seminars in the department and others to enrich your research experience and exposure.

In the first part, I shall invite faculty members and experts who have the expertise in various areas of importance as well as some senior RPG graduates to take part in the course. It is an action-type teaching. We hope we can induce enough stimulation for every one of you to find something for yourself and you can take this up and try to start your learning and research.

2. Teaching and Learning Strategies

It is a tentative plan and is subject to change and availability.

There should be three major assessments as well: 1) a critique review on a paper, 2) a good systematic review, and 3) a refined and revised research proposal.

Also, I would like to identify some good sources of data for research in Hong Kong, in Mainland and in other countries (for example, the OECD database).

- Lectures
- Assignment
- Class Presentation

3. A Tentative Teaching Plan (tentative plan)

Semester I (Sept-Dec 2024)

Date	Topic
Sept 8	1. An overview of research
Sept 15	2. Research design and methods, Government and official statistics
Sept 22	3. Scoping/Systematic review and meta-analysis
Sept 29	4. Scale development, Validity and reliability

Oct 6	5. Social policy and programme evaluation
Oct 13	
Oct 20	6. Demographic perspectives on social science research
Oct 27	7. Causal inference
Nov 3	8. Longitudinal data analysis-cross lagged modelling (I)
Nov 10	9. Longitudinal data analysis-cross lagged modelling (II)
Nov 17	10. Network analysis and its applications
Nov 24	11. Spatial analysis and its applications
Dec 1	12. Big data analytics and its applications

Assessment and assignment:

1. A critique review of a research paper (Oct 16, 2025)
2. A systematic review of a selected research question (Nov 17, 2025)
3. A revised version of your research proposal (Dec 20, 2025)

Remarks:

1. *Complete your assignment on time*
2. *Attend seminars*
3. *Try to have a good research timetable and habit*
4. *Stay in close contact with your supervisor(s)*
5. *Try to do and learn as much as you can*