

## THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

### Course Outline

#### Part I

<b>Programme Title</b>	: Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Social Entrepreneurship and Development Studies
<b>Programme QF Level</b>	: 5
<b>Course Title</b>	: Leadership in Social Innovation and Development
<b>Course Code</b>	: PUA3016
<b>Department</b>	: Social Sciences and Policy Studies
<b>Credit Points</b>	: 3
<b>Contact Hours</b>	: 39
<b>Pre-requisite(s)</b>	: Nil
<b>Medium of Instruction</b>	: EMI
<b>Course Level</b>	: 3

#### Part II

The University's Graduate Attributes and seven Generic Intended Learning Outcomes (GILOs) represent the attributes of ideal EdUHK graduates and their expected qualities respectively. Learning outcomes work coherently at the University (GILOs), programme (Programme Intended Learning Outcomes) and course (Course Intended Learning Outcomes) levels to achieve the goal of nurturing students with important graduate attributes.

In gist, the Graduate Attributes for Sub-degree, Undergraduate, Taught Postgraduate, Professional Doctorate and Research Postgraduate students consist of the following three domains (i.e. in short "PEER & I"):

- Professional Excellence;
- Ethical Responsibility; &
- Innovation.

The descriptors under these three domains are different for the three groups of students in order to reflect the respective level of Graduate Attributes.

The seven GILOs are:

1. Problem Solving Skills
2. Critical Thinking Skills
3. Creative Thinking Skills
- 4a. Oral Communication Skills
- 4b. Written Communication Skills
5. Social Interaction Skills
6. Ethical Decision Making
7. Global Perspectives

## 1. Course Synopsis

The past decade has seen a phenomenal surge of interest in social innovation as a new way to address pressing economic, social and environmental challenges facing local, national and global development. The demand for social innovation is made more urgent in the context of economic recession and fiscal constraints when the widening gap between what the governments provide and the socio-economic development needs of the citizens propels the entrance of a variety of new socially responsible innovators and the emergence of various socially innovative and entrepreneurial initiatives in the societal problem-solving arena. This course aims to prepare students to develop a critical understanding of the potential, strength and limitation of the emerging strategies and practices of social innovations as well as the way in which social innovation and responsible leadership can bring about positive social change and sustainable development outcomes. Instructive case studies of socially innovative action in a diversity of development contexts will be examined to reveal the emergence of new ways of doing things in public, private, and not-for-profit sectors to deal with challenges to inclusive social and economic development. The objective is to equip student with the concepts, mindset, skills and relationships needed for them to develop creative and innovative solutions cutting across organizational, sectoral and disciplinary boundaries.

## 2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

*Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:*

- CILO<sub>1</sub>: explain how various forms of social innovation and social enterprise strategies drive economic and social transformation;
- CILO<sub>2</sub>: critically appraise the changing relationship between the government, business and the not-for-profit sectors in social innovation and entrepreneurship;
- CILO<sub>3</sub>: analyze the framework conditions, governance approaches and policy instruments for fostering the development and diffusion of social innovations; and
- CILO<sub>4</sub>: apply their acquired knowledge to develop their own innovative solutions to selected development problems.

## 3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
a. Social innovation: concept, theory and practice b. Social economy and social enterprise	CILO <sub>1,2,3</sub>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lectures: presentation and discussion of the concepts, theories, practices and synthesis of key references</li><li>Group work: students to present their innovative solutions to chosen problems; comment on the presentations</li><li>Guest lecture by practitioners: provide with real life examples of best practices in social innovation and entrepreneurship</li></ul>
c. Social innovation and poverty d. Social innovation and employment e. Social innovation and housing f. Social innovation and environmental sustainability	CILO <sub>2,3,4</sub>	
g. Social innovation and community development h. Good governance for scaling social innovations	CILO <sub>2,3</sub>	

#### 4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILO
(a) Class discussion and participation: Students are expected to read relevant readings before s/he attends the lectures and must participate actively in class discussion	20%	CILO <sub>1,2,3,4</sub>
(b) Group presentation: Students are required to work as a team, develop an innovative solution to a chosen development problem and make a presentation	30%	CILO <sub>1,2,3,4</sub>
(c) Individual essay: Students are required to prepare his/her individual essay based on the chosen group presentation topic. It is expected that each individual will focus on one dimension of the chosen group presentation topic for elaboration	50%	CILO <sub>1,2,3,4</sub>

#### 5. Use of Generative AI in Course Assessments

☐ **Not Permitted:** In this course, the use of generative AI tools is not allowed for any assessment tasks.

☒ **Permitted:** In this course, generative AI tools may be used in some or all assessment tasks. Instructors will provide specific instructions, including any restrictions or additional requirements (e.g., proper acknowledgement, reflective reports), during the first lesson and in relevant assessment briefs.

#### 6. Required Text(s)

Ayob, N., Teasdale, S., & Fagan, K. (2016). How Social Innovation ‘Came to Be’: Tracing the Evolution of a Contested Concept. *Journal of Social Policy*, 45(4), 635–653.  
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S004727941600009X>

#### 7. Recommended Readings

Amin, A. (2009). *The social economy: International perspectives on economic solidarity* (1st ed.). London: Zed Books.

Anheier, H., Krlev, G., & Mildemberger, G. (2019). *Social innovation: Comparative perspectives*. New York: Routledge.

Baglioni, S., & Sinclair, S. (2018). *Social innovation and social policy: Theory, policy and practice*. Bristol, UK: Policy Press.

- Cajaiba-Santana, G. (2014). Social innovation: Moving the field forward. A conceptual framework. *Technological Forecasting & Social Change*, 82, 42–51.
- Egger, W.D., & Macmillan, P. (2013). *The solution revolution: How business, government, and social enterprises are teaming up to solve society's toughest problems*. Boston, Massachusetts: Harvard Business Review Press.
- Franz, Y., Blotevogel, H., & Danielzyk, R. (2018). *Social innovations in urban and regional development*. Australian Academy of Sciences Press.
- Jegou F., & Bonneau M. (2015). *Social Innovation in Cities*. Urbact II Capitalisation.
- Moulaert, F., Diana, M., Abid, M., & Abdelillah, H. (2014). *The international handbook on social innovation: Collective action, social learning and transdisciplinary research*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
- Parés, M., Sonia, O., & Subirats, J. (2017). *Social innovation and democratic leadership: Communities and social change from below*. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar.

## 8. Related Web Resources

OECD report <https://www.oecd.org/unitedstates/publicationsdocuments/reports/>  
 Social innovation at MIT <https://shass.mit.edu/research/impact/social-innovation>  
 Social innovation exchange <https://socialinnovationexchange.org/>  
 Social innovation +change at Harvard <https://sici.hks.harvard.edu/>  
 Transformative social innovation theory <http://www.transitsocialinnovation.eu/home>  
 World Business Council for Sustainable Development <https://www.wbcsd.org/>

## 9. Related Journals

*Community Development Journal*  
*Innovation and Development*  
*Innovation: Technology, Governance, Globalization*  
*Journal of Business Ethics*  
*Journal of Social Entrepreneurship*  
*Social Enterprise Journal*  
*Social Policy and Society*  
*Stanford Social Innovation Review*  
*Sustainability*  
*World Development*

## 10. Academic Honesty

The University upholds the principles of honesty in all areas of academic work. We expect our students to carry out all academic activities honestly and in good faith. Please refer to the *Policy on Academic Honesty, Responsibility and Integrity* (<https://www.eduhk.hk/re/uploads/docs/000000000016336798924548BbN5>). Students should familiarize themselves with the Policy.

## **11. Others**

Nil

Last updated: 21 July 2025