

Subject card

Subject name and code	Philosophical Foundations of Social Work and Social Policy, PG_00151069						
Field of study	Social Work						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject			2026/2027		
Education level	Master's studies	Subject group			Obligatory subject group in the field of study Humanistic-social subject group Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study		
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery			e-learning		
Year of study	1	Language of instruction			Polish		
Semester of study	1	ECTS credits			2.0		
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form			credit		
Conducting unit							
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Łukasz Stankiewicz				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 30.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30		0.0		20.0	50
Subject objectives	To familiarise students with the basics of philosophical knowledge linked to the issues addressed by social work and social policy. To shape reflective attitude in relation to practice related to the profession of social worker. Developing skills to formulate practical problems and issues in philosophical terms.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[PRACSOCMU2_W09] knows and has in-depth understanding of views on selected structures and institutions and categories of social bonds in the field of social work, knows the process of their historical evolution	The student knows and understands to a deeper degree the views on selected structures and institutions and categories of social bonds in the field of social work, knows the process of their historical evolution and philosophical conceptualisation.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[PRACSOCMU2_W01] knows and has in-depth understanding of: the nature of social work, its sources and place in the system of sciences and relations to other sciences, such as philosophy, sociology or psychology	The student knows and understands to a deeper degree the nature of social work, social work, its sources and place in the system of sciences and relations to other sciences, among others such as: philosophy, among others.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[PRACSOCMU2_U05] is able to using normative systems and ethical rules, solve numerous ethical dilemmas that appear in the practice of social work when activities are undertaken in the work with the client, with colleagues, with institutional limitations, and also understand and use knowledge about the paradoxes of professional activity, make use of skills and support in supervisory activities, autobiographies	Students are able, using normative systems and ethical rules, to solve numerous ethical dilemmas arising in the practice of social work on the level of working with the The student is able to use normative systems and ethical rules to solve numerous ethical dilemmas appearing in the practice of social work on the level of acting with the customer, with colleagues, with institutional constraints, as well as understand and be able to use the knowledge of philosophical knowledge in the framework of supervision activities and social work.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
Subject contents	<p>Social theories in social work Systems theories Conflict theories Feminist theories Anti-discrimination theories Philosophical approaches to social work Modernism vs. postmodernism Critical realism Social constructionism Social justice Definitions and concepts of social justice The role of social work in promoting social justice Anti-discrimination practices Philosophy and social policy The influence of philosophy on social policy making Critical analysis of social policy The role of social work in social policy making</p>		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	none		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	test	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	<p>Allan, J., Briskman, L., & Pease, B. (2009). Critical social work: Theories and practices for a socially just world. <i>International Journal of Social Welfare</i>, 18(2), 195-202. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2397.2008.00626.x</p> <p>Fook, J. (2002). Theorizing from practice: Towards an inclusive approach for social work research. <i>Qualitative Social Work</i>, 1(1), 79-95. https://doi.org/10.1177/147332500200100106</p> <p>Gray, M., & Webb, S. A. (2013). <i>The new politics of social work</i>. Palgrave Macmillan.</p> <p>Hare, I. (2004). <i>Defining social work for the 21st century: The International Federation of Social Workers' revised definition of social work</i>. International Social Work.</p> <p>Healy, K. (2005). Modernist and postmodernist approaches to social work: Reflecting on the current debate. <i>Australian Social Work</i>, 58(4), 349-356. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1447-0748.2005.00231.x</p> <p>Houston, S. (2001). Beyond social constructionism: Critical realism and social work. <i>British Journal of Social Work</i>, 31(6), 845-861. https://doi.org/10.1093/bjsw/31.6.845</p> <p>Mullaly, B. (2007). <i>The new structural social work: Ideology, theory, practice</i> (3rd ed.). Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Parton, N., & OByrne, P. (2000). Constructive social work: Towards a new practice. <i>Social Work Education</i>, 19(2), 228-229. https://doi.org/10.1080/02615470050003516</p> <p>Payne, M. (2014). <i>Modern social work theory</i> (4th ed.). Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Reamer, F. G. (2013). <i>Social work values and ethics</i> (4th ed.). Columbia University Press.</p>
	Supplementary literature	<p>Kaushik, V., & Walsh, C. A. (2019). Pragmatism as a research paradigm and its implications for social work research. <i>Social Sciences</i>, 8(9), 255. https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci8090255</p> <p>Houston, S. (2001). Beyond social constructionism: Critical realism and social work. <i>British Journal of Social Work</i>, 31(6), 845-861. https://doi.org/10.1093/bjsw/31.6.845</p> <p>Healy, K. (2005). Modernist and postmodernist approaches to social work: Reflecting on the current debate. <i>Australian Social Work</i>, 58(4), 349-356. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1447-0748.2005.00231.x</p>
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Role of social contract theory in modern social philosophy	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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