Non-Geography Elective Courses

MSocSci In Planetary Health and Wellbeing

Correct as of 14 October 2026
To refer to Courses - NUSMods for updates

Social Work

SWM5213 Practice with Persons with Disability
It is estimated that in any given society 3-10% of the population has some form of disability. This increases to 15% when the definition of disability includes people who are limited in activity due to chronic conditions. This course will provide disability-specific knowledge and perspectives and emphasize addressing economic, environmental, and cultural barriers. With this knowledge, social work students will also learn to incorporate social work theories in supporting people with disabilities and their caregivers holistically.

SWM5217 Continuum of Care and Healthy Ageing
The course provides advanced knowledge and skills of gerontological social work in community- based and residential care settings. It considers how the concept of healthy ageing can take a preventive role in enabling older adults to age well in the community and examines how the concept of continuum of care can be applied in long term care context to support frail older adults to age in place and families in caregiving. The use of multidisciplinary approaches and collaborations in managing complex care needs of vulnerable adults will be covered.

SWM5218 Practice with Persons with Addiction
This course aims to equip students with recent theories on addiction leading to an in-depth understanding of addictive behaviours, and the application for social work practice. Topics include models of addiction, etiology and recovery, assessment and treatment modalities, crisis intervention and relapse prevention. This course also focuses on alcoholism and problem gambling, as there is a wide scope for social work intervention in these problem areas. Social drinking and recreational gambling are prevalent in our society. When alcohol and gambling issues become problematic, individuals and families can experience several psychosocial problems.

SWM5219 Palliative and End-Of-Life Care
This course covers important issues encountered by social workers involved in palliative and end-of-life care. Key topics include 1) assessment and intervention strategies based on the bio-psychosocial-spiritual perspective, 2) potential ethical dilemmas encountered in end-of-life care, 3) impact of personal values and biases on quality of care, 4) grief and bereavement and 5) end-of-life care for special populations. At the end of the course, students will be able to a) explain influence of personal values and biases on end-of-life (EOL) care, b) implement assessment and intervention strategies for end-of-life care and c) describe key aspects of the dying process.

Sociology & Anthropology

GSA5402 Who Cares? Family, Intergenerational Relations and Long-Term Care
This course offers a sociological exploration of family dynamics, intergenerational relations, and trends in long-term care provision in rapidly aging societies. It examines how structural, cultural, and demographic factors influence family transformations and caregiving patterns for older persons. Additionally, it investigates the theoretical underpinnings, the social and policy implications of rapid population aging for intergenerational relations. Furthermore, the course analyzes the role of social institutions, such as healthcare systems and social welfare policies, in shaping caregiving practices and addressing the care needs of diverse families. Finally, it delves into the sociological complexities inherent in private and public long-term care provision.

GSA5403 Life-course perspectives on Ageing and Health
This course shall explore social factors that predict health and well-being across the life course. It will adopt a life course framework to understand and address health disparities. Students will review sociology, demography, and epidemiological research on critical social determinants of health and mortality, such as gender, race, socioeconomic status, education, social capital and family. Furthermore, students will apply critical sociological theories and biosocial perspectives such as the fundamental causes of health, the role of chronic stress, weathering, and cumulative disadvantage. The course will help students gain a deeper understanding of how social and contextual circumstances shape health and ageing.

GSA5404 Policy and Business Strategies for Population Aging
The course highlights the challenge and opportunity of the unprecedented population aging in the globe. Starting with theoretical and historical reviews on reasons for population aging, this course focuses on the implications of this significant demographic trend on society and the economy in the near future. It introduces policy solutions and business strategies to deal with and/or take advantage of the rapid changes in population transformations. The key message is that although the world is swept by a grey wave, the future could still be golden as long as we can properly capture new chances arising from this trend.

GSA5407 Religion and Health
Religion is a social determinant of health. Despite the secular currents of globalization and information revolution, its prevalence is consistently observed in health behaviors, lifestyles, and various health outcomes. The course aims to study the relationships that religion and spirituality have with various dimensions of health, such as mental well-being, coping mechanisms, physical morbidities, activity limitations, aging, dying and death, and bioethics. The course provides an in-depth understanding of how religious beliefs, norms, and activities relate to individual and public health. It will equip the students with the knowledge and analytical skills necessary for their future careers.

English Language and Theatre Studies

TPS5201Collaborative Performance Creation
Through studying collaborative performance histories and methodologies from across the globe and engaging in practical exploration, students are invited to consider the intersections of performance, power, technique, aesthetic, and context. While all performances may be considered intrinsically collaborative, this course zeros in on companies that highlight collaboration as a feature to drive or reimagine creation and performance processes. From the most politically engaged theatre to aesthetically inspired performance-making, this course thinks across place, time, and agenda to study companies that stake claims on collaborative performance.

TSP5203 Movement as Critique
Without movement, there would be no performance. The way we move is shaped by prevailing ideologies, sociocultural beliefs and material conditions. Treating human movement on the stage as a mode of critical inquiry, we will examine the way movement has shaped performance style and practice. In addition, students will learn the fundamentals of the moving body, conduct physical assessment, and formulate safe movement strategies for the stage. The practical components of the course are conceived as interventions that respond to discourses relating to capitalism, efficiency and aesthetics.

Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health

SPH5408 Public Health and Ageing
This course will give the students an in-depth understanding of the recent trends in population ageing globally and in Singapore, and its relevance for public health planning and policy. Major topics include demography of ageing, clinical implications of the ageing process, concepts of intrinsic capacity and functional ability, life course approach to healthy ageing, health and social services and policies for older persons. Students will learn the use of evidence-based public health to design and appraise health and social services for older persons, including medico-legal and ethical principles surrounding end-of-life care.

SPH5418 Public Health Policy: A Systems Approach
In today's dynamic public health landscape, practitioners must be adept at viewing public health challenges through a systems lens, recognising the interconnections and feedback loops inherent in policy design, execution and evaluation. This course offers an immersive exploration of current public health policies, uniquely weaving in the principles of systems thinking to equip students with both theoretical insights and practical tools. The course prepares students to lead with agility, ensuring they can both shape and respond to the ever-evolving demands of Public Health policy with a comprehensive, systems-oriented perspective.

Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

PP5166 Globalization, Health, and Human Development
This course examines issues around health and human development in the global economic context, drawing evidence from various settings. We will begin with a life-cycle approach to health and development and discuss how early life conditions shape long-run health and human capital outcomes. The global pandemic underscores the need to examine the contributing factors and the broader social and economic ramifications of global health shocks, as well as the intersections of health and other fields. Echoing this, the course will look closely at: (i)The interaction between the environment (e.g., land use, extreme weather conditions) and public and population health; (ii) The origin and economic impact of epidemics; (iii) Issues around new drug diffusion in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), especially regarding vaccines; and (iv) Behavioral and mental health. We will also discuss innovative ideas to solve global health problems and the emerging role (and limitations) of artificial intelligence in health.

PP5222 Population, Health, and Social Policy
This course introduces social policies – which are policies directed towards meeting a population's social needs—can support better overall health of, as well as a more equitable distribution of health outcomes within, a population. Focusing on countries in Asia, students will be introduced to trends and challenges affecting population health, including but not limited to climate change, demographic shifts; income inequality; globalization and migration. We will also examine how social policy across various domains (e.g. education, public health, social support, and housing) affect population health, with a focus on socially vulnerable populations and health disparities.

PP5278 Health Economics and Public Policy
The health care system is among the most heavily regulated sectors in many societies, and it faces unique challenges with far-reaching implications. This course will introduce students to a wide range of topics in health policy and provide an overview of the economic concepts and theories most relevant to health and health care. Topics covered in class include health behaviors, demand for health insurance, adverse selection in health insurance markets, physician behavior and decision-making, hospital competition, and the pharmaceutical industry. This course seeks to help students understand major challenges facing health care systems by connecting theories and empirical research. We will examine evidence from both high- and middle/low-income settings. Many of the discussions will center on the role of governments and the impact of regulations and public policy interventions.

PP5541 Policies for Healthy Cities
This course will provide students with an overview of how the environment affects health outcomes and health behaviors. Students will examine how policies that influence the various dimensions of the environment can affect population health, even if these policies do not directly target health as an outcome. For example, building a new expressway might have unanticipated negative effects on residents nearby due to the noise generated both by construction and car-traffic. Through this course, students will gain insights on how to integrate public health considerations into policy-making and planning, and help achieve better health and health equity in urban environments.

PP5542 Economics of Ageing
Increasing longevity and declining fertility rates have shifted the age distribution of populations around the globe. Economics of Ageing as a field has become increasingly important as many countries are facing rapid population ageing. This course will examine the economic challenges and opportunities associated with an ageing population eg. how the demographic shift affects labor supply and productivity, retirement saving and wealth, intergenerational transfers, social security and pension design, healthcare financing, long-term care. Students will gain an understanding of how demographic changes shape the economy, as well as policy responses to address the challenges of an ageing population.

PP5544 Urban Interventions
The course examines why and how governments intervene in the development of urban areas. Students will review debates about what a 'good city' should be and examine models of a 'good city' which have inspired planners past and present. We will examine the goals and urban interventions typically implemented as part of each model; as well as critiques. Students will be equipped with knowledge and skills to critically assess typical urban policies, plans and projects that contribute positively or otherwise to the many facets of a 'good city'.