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Professional social work targets the disadvantaged and the needy and has high expectations of the competence level of practitioners. We work in an ever-changing social, economic and cultural context where new problems are constantly emerging. Switching from the frontline social work profession, I hope I can nurture more social workers-to-be to serve the community.

Developing professional competence requires empowering and promoting reflexivity in students as lifelong learners to enable them to cope with change. As a teacher on this demanding professional degree, my goal is to sensitise the empathetic hearts of my students in responding to the suffering of disadvantaged groups, ignite their passion to promote change and initiate their knowledge-based and purpose-driven careers. Inspired by “He who has a why to live for can bear almost any how”, the famous quote from Nietzsche, I believe that cultivating a purpose-driven learning environment is the foundation of good teaching. In parallel, my teaching is steered by this purpose-driven theme, which helps me to overcome different challenges. Some of my students are struggling through their earlier difficult experiences induced from family issues, poverty, or health challenges. I am so proud to see the transformation of their suffering to motivation to serve those who are still struggling in adverse life experiences. They also act as teachers to other students who have less diversified life experiences. More importantly, it evidences that people can change and grow through suffering.

This purpose-driven teaching philosophy is working for non-social work students too. Students taking my common core courses on dying and bereavement as well as mental health, shared that they had better understanding on how to support their friends or family members who are facing bereavement or mental health challenges.

I do believe that university is a place for students to search for their life meaning and to develop their empathy. That is the reason why I stay in the teaching profession.



STUDENTS' WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Dr Amy Chow has been an excellent mentor, teacher and supervisor. As a research postgraduate student under her supervision, I have been inspired by her passion for research and teaching. Dr Chow is not only knowledgeable in research methodology, she teaches us to ask constructive research questions that can benefit the society. I have learned more under the supervision of Dr Chow than I have in any class room through her method of experiential learning where we all have hands-on experience with data sets, teaching tutorials, research and literature review. The successful experience in muddling through the process develops our confidence to move on our own studies. She respects our interest and tries to inspire us to develop our own focus in the academic world. Dr Chow cares about all of her students deeply and she makes sure that we are headed in the right direction both personally and academically. It requires time and patience to guide all of us along our path, and I feel that Dr Chow sets time aside out of her extremely busy schedule for all of us. By following her example, I can see that caring for the students is fundamental for the growth of the students. I have learned from her to really listen to the students.

Monica BORSCHEL

PhD, current student

I took Dr Amy Chow's elective course 'Frontiers in Interventions around Death, Dying and Bereavement' last year. Dr Chow is undoubtedly a passionate teacher who emphasises on all-round learning experiences. Apart from normal teaching and student presentations, she has prepared experiential workshop, field visits, lesson activities and guest lecture. It was the most fruitful journey of learning that I have experienced in HKU. She is good at enhancing and deepening our learning through innovative way. I could still remember how she used TVB drama to illustrate and analyse the grieving reactions of losing spouse. It was impressive to me that how theories and teaching could be linked up closely with my daily lives.

Amy is not just a scholar but experienced frontline counsellor as well. With her expertise in counselling and casework, she shared her clinical experience and personal stories to demonstrate how different theories apply to the real case scenario. Her teaching enriched my profession and my understanding on knowledge; her passion and empathetic attitude towards social work profession have greatly encouraged me to devote in the field of grief and bereavement counselling after graduation. I was moved in numerous moments during her lecture. She let me know that working with elderly, patients and bereaved family could be a great blessing, not just towards clients but towards workers as well.

Jason WONG Tsz Leung

MSW, current student

OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD

Dr Amy Chow is a responsible and humble teacher who really pays effort in teaching. Before each lecture, she uploaded detailed PowerPoint note or tidy and informative teaching note for students to prepare the lesson. As I have taken Dr Chow's course since Year 1 (around three courses until Year 3 Semester 1), I can see her consistent sincerity towards teaching across different nature of courses. She is highly impressed as a diligent teacher who includes up-to-date literature and references (which include publication of the recent months). Dr Chow also spent her time to read different literature and references in order to teach some topics that are new to her. Following her role model, we have no excuses for not reading. Her kindness, friendly attitude towards students, willingness to share her own experience in social work field and her effort made in academic work gained lots of positive comments from different year's students. Her attitude towards teaching and learning is a good model for students to follow.

LAM Tsz Ki

BSW, current student

I consider Dr Amy Chow to be one of the best lecturers at the University of Hong Kong. I have known her for more than two years, and as far as I have observed, Dr Chow has been very passionate towards her teaching and research, and also always well prepared for her lecture. She is very responsive towards her students not only on the academic area, but also other general issues, like future planning. As a student of Dr Chow, I have received lots of valuable feedbacks and advices regarding my study, as well as strong encouragement. She is very friendly and considerate, thus enables students to bring out their maximum potentials and interests under the easy and clear instruction. Moreover, Dr Chow is also very attentive on her students, and never fails to discover our difficulties and limitations on learning. Indeed, she tries her best to improve the learning environment of her students.

Ye Ji PARK

BSW, current student

Dr Amy Chow is not only a great teacher in class, but also an excellent mentor after class. Dr Chow engages very well with our learning during the lectures. She asks us about our understanding of the content from time to time, to make sure we can catch up with her. Furthermore, she is patient to answer our questions with detailed explanations. Not only does she offer assistance to my coursework, such as research project; she also gives me much advice to my future career. Whenever I come across with questions or confusion about the project, she does not hesitate to talk to me after class and gives me much assistance. Besides, Dr Chow is a great mentor regarding my future career. She inspires me with the multiple choices or directions to pursue my goal. More importantly, Dr Chow always encourages me, which gives me loads of confidence.

KAN Man Ki

BSocSc, current student