## Palliative Care in Social Work

**Course Description**

Palliative care social workers provide emotional support, counseling, and psychotherapy to patients and their families who are experiencing psychological and emotional difficulties in terminal illness. Currently in Pakistan, Palliative care is vigorously promoted by Shaukat Khanum Cancer Hospital to help cancer patients.

**Course Objectives**

This course aims at preparing social workers to work with people experiencing terminal illnesses. Social workers can offer psycho-social support in various settings such as cancer and HIV care.

**Learning Outcomes**

* The student will have understanding of concepts and methods related to palliative care
* The student will know relationship between palliative care and social work practice
* To learn skills required to work with palliative care patients and families

**Teaching Method**

This course will be based on interactive discussions; student centered learning activities and research projects. The preferred teaching approach will be ‘active learning’ in which students solve problems, answer questions, formulate questions of their own, brainstorm, discuss, explain and debate. Co-operative learning will be encouraged through group discussions, assignments and projects. Periodical assessments and evaluation through class participation, quizzes, assigned tasks, research project, Mid Term and End Term examinations will be a part of this course.

**Course Content**

1. Definitions and scope of Palliative care
2. Contextual understanding for palliative care: psychosocial, cultural, economic and spiritual pain
3. Models of palliative Care
4. Palliative care practice & interdisciplinary teamwork
5. Guidelines for palliative care
6. Roles of Patients and Family Members
7. End of Life Decisions
8. Ethical Issues
9. Scope and need of Palliative care in Pakistan
10. Role of social worker in palliative care

**Suggested Readings**

Quill, T. E., Holloway, R. G., Shah, M. S., Caprio, T. V., Olden, A. M., & Storey, C. P. (2014). Primer of palliative care. Chicago, IL: American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

Sumser, B., Leimena, M., & Altilio, T. (Eds.). (2019). *Palliative Care: A Guide for Health Social Workers*. Oxford University Press.