As applicants for a professional course, you will be expected to recognise the importance of written ideas and to have established the habit of reading. Several aspects of society and human behaviour are of great importance in social work, and it is reasonable to expect someone wishing to make a career in social work to be aware of at least some of these. Applicants are therefore required to demonstrate some understanding of the knowledge and skills required for social work practice, and to have an awareness of issues relating to, for example, poverty, class, race, gender and human development. This list is only intended to guide you to understanding more about social work theory, knowledge and skills, and social policy issues. You are not expected to read every book on this list but we expect that you undertake some preparation for the course by reading elements of one or two of these or similar texts that go beyond the depth and scope of that found in novels or on websites.

**Introductory Texts**


**Useful Websites include the following:**

International Federation of Social Workers: [http://ifsw.org/](http://ifsw.org/)
The British Association of Social Workers: [http://www.basw.co.uk/](http://www.basw.co.uk/)
Health and Care Professions Council (regulatory body for social work): [www.hpc-uk.org](http://www.hpc-uk.org)

You will also find the **Society** section of *The Guardian* newspaper on Wednesdays of interest, especially in relation to contemporary affairs in social care.