

SOCI 2037/ Traditional Chinese Society (3,3,0) (C)
CHSS 2037

Prerequisite: Year II standing

This course provides an understanding of traditional Chinese society and culture by investigating the nature of Chinese society from the Qing to the Republican eras. It does this by (1) focusing on such themes as family and kinship, political organization and power, social mobility, education, and economic and social differentiation; and (2) exploring the effects of traditional ideologies on these themes, and on the society on the eve of the Revolution.

SOCI 2045 Critical Urban Studies (3,3,0) (E)

Prerequisite: CHSS 1005 Understanding Society: An Introduction to Sociology, SOCI 1005 Invitation to Sociology or SOCI 1007 Hong Kong Society

As a result of continuous urbanization, especially in the developing countries, the majority of the world's population today does not only live in cities, but in large metropolitan city-regions of more than one million inhabitants. This concentration of population in the 400 metropolitan city-regions in the world causes dramatic changes in the form and function of cities: in the ways the urban political economy is organized; in the cultural composition of the population; and in the very nature of urbanism as a way of life. These changes have stimulated new ways to understand the city and the urbanization process. This introductory course on urban studies showcases how urban scholars analyse and interpret the restructuring of the metropolitan city-regions. Instead of simply describing the various functions of the city-regions, we will take a more critical perspective in analysing the major problems in our modern city-regions. After taking this course, students should be able to re-discover the hidden and marginalized voices in our fast-growing city-regions today. Specific attention will be given to the city-regions in Hong Kong, China and Taiwan.

SOCI 3005 Sociological Theory II: Contemporary Approaches (3,2,1)

Prerequisite: SOCI 2015 Sociological Theory I: Classical Theory

This course is concerned with various theoretical perspectives for analysing contemporary social life. The course both builds upon and challenges the theoretical legacy of classical sociological thinkers examined in SOCI 2015 Sociological Theory I and demonstrates how this legacy is reflected and reconstructed in contemporary sociology. On completion of the course, students are expected to obtain an understanding of the major contemporary approaches to theorize society, such as Functional theorizing, Conflict theorizing, Interactionist theorizing, Feminist theorizing, Critical theorizing and Postmodern theorizing.

SOCI 3006 Demographic Analysis (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: SOCI 2025 Population Studies

The contents of the course include: the fundamentals of demographic analysis, the meanings and properties of different measures of demographic processes (mortality, fertility, migration, marriage and divorce, etc.); the ideas behind model life tables and demographic models and their applications; and, finally, the technical aspects of population estimation and project. In addition, several demographic computer programmes will be introduced in the course and will be made available to the students to help them understand the applications of the various techniques in demographic analysis.

SOCI 3007 Global Social Transformations (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: Non-Year I students

This course will examine major debates on global social, economic, and political transformations. It has three major parts. The first part will study major theorizations of globalization, exploring different social thinkers' visions of socioeconomic arrangements and personal existence under the condition of globality. Relevant social thinkers might include Anthony Giddens, Ulrich Beck, David Harvey, Manuel Castells, Mike Featherstone, among others. The second part will focus on the global integration of economic activities. It will examine whether economic globalization has actually occurred and, if so, the

novel arrangements associated with economic production and coordination. It will also examine the social implications of global economic integration, analysing its impacts on alleviating poverty and income inequality on a global scale, as well as challenges and hardships it imposes on people from different parts of the world. The third part will target on global economic integration and the state. In particular, it will examine whether globalization has led to the eclipse of the developmental and welfare state, and whether the new consciousness of "global citizenship" has emerged. The last point will be explored through case studies of various "global" social movements.

SOCI 3015 Modernization and Social Change (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: (1) Non-Year I students and (2) SOCI 1005 Invitation to Sociology or CHSS 1005 Understanding Society: An Introduction to Sociology

This course introduces contemporary theories concerned with social change, structural differentiation and development. The course examines the economic, political and social processes involved in societal change and considers *inter alia* the significance of capitalist and socialist modes of production. It explores the tension between treating development as a matter of economic growth and the need to see development as involved with environmental issues and an improvement in the quality of life. Students are at different points in the semester invited to consider the relationship between social position, political power and policy making. Detailed studies are made of selected Southeast Asian societies (China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand).

SOCI 3016 Political Sociology (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: (1) Year II standing and (2) SOCI 1005 Invitation to Sociology or CHSS 1005 Understanding Society: An Introduction to Sociology

This course is to introduce to students the complex relationships between politics and society. The course studies the characteristics of modern states and their reciprocal relationships with social institutions, with special emphasis on political organizations and social mobilization. Finally, the course concerns itself with the role of politics in social change by focusing upon social movements, democratization, and globalization.

SOCI 3017 Sociology of Health and Illness (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: SOCI 1005 Invitation to Sociology or CHSS 1005 Understanding Society: An Introduction to Sociology

Medical teaching has traditionally relied heavily upon a biological model of illness, whereas this course places the promotion of health and the prevention and management of disease in a social context, with emphasis upon Chinese communities. The course aims to develop a critical approach to medical care and to give students the ability to assess competing explanations of sickness and well-being. It demonstrates how clinical and social aspects of the medical task are closely interrelated and how they influence patient care and clinical and medical outcomes. It also equips students with conceptual tools that can be applied in a variety of clinical and health service contexts.

SOCI 3025 The Internet and Society (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: SOCI 1005 Invitation to Sociology or CHSS 1005 Understanding Society: An Introduction to Sociology

The Internet is known in public discourses in Hong Kong as a major media form, a key platform of mass entertainment, and a main basis of the knowledge industry. This course will focus on a relatively neglected side of the internet: its social dynamics and implications. The Internet is in fact one of the most important drivers of social, political, and cultural change in the contemporary world. This course will introduce students to major theories, research subfields, and concepts in critical social studies of the Internet and information and communications technology (ICT). Equipped with these theoretical tools, student will also