

SOC 7530 Graduate Seminar on Contemporary Social Issues in China (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: Postgraduate standing

This course involves a guided study of selected contemporary issue(s) in China, which are of academic interests to students and meet the expertise of our teaching staff. The content of the course will vary from semester to semester, and will be decided jointly by both the students and instructor(s), who specialize in the selected area(s). The research areas in which our teaching staff specialize include issues related to gender, population, family, globalization, culture, and consumption. Students are expected to read widely and discuss the different contributions of leading scholars in the selected area(s).

SOC 7540 Chinese Social Demography (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: Postgraduate standing

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the social demography of contemporary China. The focus of the course is on understanding how China's population policies affect fertility and migration. The course also examines several sociological issues related to demographic changes such as family change, rising sex ratio, aging, floating population, migrant workers and ethnic enclaves.

SOC 7550 Population of China (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: Postgraduate standing

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the population of China. Major concerns include basic demographic characteristics of China and the processes producing their changes. The former include size, distribution and composition, and the latter involve mortality, fertility and migration. Finally, major issues related to China's population policies are examined.

SOC 7560 Sociological Issues in Urban and Rural Development (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: Postgraduate standing

This course combines an analysis of theoretical issues relative to urbanization and rural development with a comparative study of these processes in different countries including China. It explores aspects of city size and type. It also examines patterns of urban growth in the capitalist societies of Europe and USA, the Third World and China, and patterns of rural-urban migration. Issues related to the environment and urban planning are considered and special attention is given to the study of patterns of urbanization and rural development in China.

SOC 7570 Chinese Family and Kinship (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: Postgraduate standing

This course focuses on the family and wider kinship in traditional and contemporary China, emphasizing their characteristics and how these have changed. Topics include: the nature of the kinship system and the structure of the family in China, changes in the family institution from the pre-Communist period to the present, and the consequences and attendant problems of changes in the family and kinship systems.

SOC 7580 Women in China (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: Postgraduate standing

This course aims to examine the political, economic, and cultural forces that are shaping the experience and status of women in the People's Republic of China. Specifically, it will investigate the cultural and structural imperatives of patriarchy in pre-socialist China and discuss how the patriarchal order is redefined, manipulated, and transformed under the socialist rule. It will also review the state policies related to women and evaluate the associated impacts on various aspects of women's status, such as employment, reproduction, family relations, and health. Further, it will examine the implications of market reforms for Chinese women.

SOC 7590 Popular Culture and Society in Contemporary China (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: Postgraduate standing

Popular culture refers to a wide range of cultural practices and genres that are consumed by us in our daily lives. While we usually perceive it as a source of entertainment, consumption, and fun, it is in fact much more than that. Popular culture is a powerful force that helps shape social class, nationalism, gender, race, and other socio-cultural constructs of society. It constitutes a major industry and a significant contributor to the GDP. It is the base of youth subcultures, symbolic resistance, and alternative discourses. It is a major factor that shapes contemporary urban formation. And it is a major link through which the local and the global impact on each other. This course introduces students to these sociological and interdisciplinary approaches to understand how popular culture impact on China. By revealing the powerful social functions and impacts of popular culture, these approaches will equip and encourage students to critically assess their own daily consumption of popular culture.

SOCI 1005 Invitation to Sociology (3,3,0) (E)

Sociology is a social science concerned with the study of social interactions in society. As a discipline it is concerned with how society is structured and how it works. Students are invited to recognize not one approach to studying society, but several alternative paradigms. This course focuses on (1) the basic ideas, concepts, approaches and methods in sociology; (2) the interactions between individuals, groups, organizations, and society; (3) analyses of major social institutions such as marriage and the family, power and politics, economy and work, belief and value systems, and health and health care; and (4) selected issues in contemporary society such as sexuality, deviance and social control, social stratification, social mobility and inequalities, urbanization, modernization, modernity, migration, race and ethnic relations, identity, and globalization.

SOCI 1006 Hong Kong Culture and Society (3,2,1)

This course addresses cultural, social and political issues in Hong Kong. Sociologically informed studies will be drawn upon to examine the social, political and cultural processes that transform Hong Kong. The emphasis is on the interconnectedness of social institutions and the interchanges between personal lives and public histories. Special attention will be paid to how economic transformations, governmental projects and social movements re-define social boundaries and re-make cultural practices in Hong Kong.

SOCI 1007 Hong Kong Society (3,3,0) (C)

This course focuses on the social structures and processes of Hong Kong. The topics include demographic processes and changes in the population structure, state-society relationships and forms of public participation, housing and urban development, family structures and processes, economic development and organization of livelihood, social inequalities and social movements.

SOCI 2005 Qualitative Methods of Social Research (3,2,1) (E)

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

This course provides an understanding to qualitative research methods and the intellectual grounds on which they stand. It will address the theoretical, ethical and practical issues that arise in the conduct of qualitative research. The course takes a "hands on" approach and students are expected to learn by practicing a range of qualitative approaches. Readings are concerned with not only the differing research contexts and appropriate methodologies, but also the basic procedures of participant observation, intensive interviewing and focus group interviewing, as well as content analysis and image-based analysis.