

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

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 learn to interpret the intriguing social implications of ICT for themselves and society.

SOCI 3026 Work and Society (3,3,0) (C)

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

This course provides an introduction to sociological studies of work. It will examine how work is culturally understood and socially organized as a human activity, with special focus on employment as a social relationship. It seeks to sensitize students to the changing significance of work as a central human activity, the political-economic conditions of social forms of work and the implications of varying institutional arrangements of work, with special emphasis on conditions of work and workers in Hong Kong and mainland China.

SOCI 3027 Careers and Life Courses (3,3,0) (C)

Prerequisite: SOCI 2015 Sociological Theory I: Classical Theory
This course introduces students to the multi-disciplinary studies of careers and life courses. It reviews research traditions engaged in the studies of life histories and life courses, identifies their basic premises and key concepts, and examines how studies of careers and life courses can inform our understanding of social life. The implications of careers and life courses as imaginative frameworks will be discussed through an examination of the implications of the life course approach in the studies of aging, family changes, work careers, and social stratification and mobility.

SOCI 3035 Sex, Gender and Society (3,3,0) (E)

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

This course examines the concepts of sex and gender as they are interpreted through and acted upon within the social and cross-cultural contexts of contemporary social life. Exploring first the foundations of biological and cultural beliefs about sex and gender, the course proceeds to examine theories of gender formation, the social context of genderization, the concepts of masculine and feminine, and the culturally variable context of sexuality. It continues with feminism and its possibilities, the relationship of sexuality and power, and with some of the current issues in the study of sex and gender, such as the representation of gender and sexuality in new media, the advent of globalization and the place of sex in the postmodern world.

SOCI 3036 Sociology of Media (3,3,0)

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

“The media do not simply add a new element to the story, they transform it.” (Livingstone 2009)

This course highlights the significance of media in contemporary life, shaping social processes and at the same time shaped by the cultures in which media are used and produced. Reviewing both macro-level social theory of media (i.e. Adorno, Baudrillard, Habermas) and micro-level ethnographic case studies of media production and consumption (i.e. Madianou, Miller, Skeggs), this course provides students with different perspectives in the analysis

of mediation and media power. Some of the questions asked in the course include: How does television create symbolic spaces of inclusion and exclusion? How are today's moral panics about the Internet similar to historical concerns about the telephone or the comic book? How have new communications technologies redefined meanings and expectations of friend, family and lover? In asking these questions, the course foregrounds not only the great new possibilities that modern media afford, but also the social inequalities and ethical problems that media contribute to and complicate.

SOCI 4006 Chinese Family and Kinship (3,3,0) (E)

Prerequisite: SOCI 2015 Sociological Theory I: Classical Theory or SOCI 2036 Sociology of Marriage and the Family

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.

SOCI 4007 Chinese Social Thought (3,3,0)

China has a rich tradition of theoretical thinking on the origins, functions, and problems of politics, government, and society. From the *Book of Change* to Confucian, Taoist, Legalist, Buddhist, neo-Confucian classics to writings of the modern Reformers and Revolutionaries, we find detailed discussions of Chinese social problems, social change and ideas of the ideal society, discussions of which are not any less insightful than prominent theorists in the Western sociological tradition. In today's globalized context, examination of this tradition is valuable to the development of the sociological discipline, as well as to the understanding of continuities and changes in contemporary Chinese societies. This course introduces students to this Chinese intellectual tradition.

SOCI 4015 East Asia: Economic Miracles and Social Change (3,3,0) (E)

Prerequisite: Non-first year students

This course intends to examine major theories of development through the lens of the experiences of various East Asian societies. The course has three major parts. The first focuses on the making of the so-called economic miracles. It will introduce the modernization perspective, world-system perspective, and theories on the developmental state by examining the empirical cases of Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong, and China. The second part of the course focuses on the socioeconomic ramifications of the “economic miracles”. It will examine whether the East Asia societies are exemplary cases of “growth with equity”, mechanisms making for the domination and control of workers, varying capabilities of East Asian workers to engage in organized resistance, and the alleged emergence of the middle class. The third part focuses on the political dimension of East Asian development. It will evaluate the relative merit of competing theories for the transitions to democracy as well as examine factors underlying resilience of authoritarian rule in some cases.

SOCI 4016 Globalization and Development Studies (3,3,0)

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

The course is designed to critically reflect on the economic, political, social and cultural dimensions of development and globalization as projects to transform social life, and social movements as responses and alternatives to globalization-from-above. Emphasis is on how different social groups, especially those located in the low-income regions of the world, i.e. Global South, encounter global forces and development interventions. Furthermore, this course will lead the students to critically reflect on alternative perspectives and action programmes in rethinking