

of a number of modules which may be taught by one or more staff.

SOC 7020 Advanced Seminar on Contemporary Sociological Issues (3,0,3) (E)

Prerequisite: Postgraduate standing

This course will involve a semester's guided study in an area apposite to the major research interest of the student. This may include for example such areas as "Feminism and Work", "The Culture of Poverty", "Occupational Identities and Life Course Trajectories", "Social Networks and Stratification", and "Gender, Media and Modernity". Students will be expected to read widely and discuss the differing contributions of leading scholars in the selected fields. They will be required to identify the theoretical paradigms used and the methodological implications of these, to develop an annotated bibliography, and to make regular written and oral presentations of their work.

SOC 7310 Globalization and Development: Visions and Issues (3,3,0) (E)

This course aims to: (1) familiarize students with issues and approaches in globalization and development; (2) provide opportunities for students to engage in conceptualizing issues in globalization and development; and (3) enable students to reflect critically about alternative approaches to globalization and development.

SOC 7320 Health Inequalities in a Global Context (3,3,0) (E)

This course aims to: (1) introduce to students the sociological concepts and methods to the study of health; (2) develop in students an awareness of the social, economic, and political forces at the micro and macro levels that shape the understanding of health, health behaviors, distribution of diseases, and organization of health care; and (3) sensitize students to the challenges of achieving health as a collective good.

SOC 7510 Social Networks in the Contemporary Chinese Society (3,3,0) (P)

Prerequisite: Postgraduate standing

This course introduces students to the approach and methodology of social network analysis, the most prominent form of structural sociology. Furthermore, it aims to provide students with a critical understanding of contemporary Chinese society through the angle of social network analysis. Specifically, it will identify the key social network concepts and examine major areas of empirical research in social network analysis, particularly those related to Chinese societies.

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) (E)

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

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) (E)

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)

This course introduces some basic sociological concepts, theories and methods to appreciate and evaluate social phenomena or issues in the modern world. The course aims to highlight the relevance of sociology for understanding everyday life or experiential contexts. Six topics/areas will be the focus of this course; they will be illustrated with examples from the Hong Kong and China contexts with which students are by and large familiar. The six topics/areas are: (1) globalization; (2) gender and sexuality; (3) love, romance and intimacy; (4) inequalities; (5) social movements; and (6) body and society. Through a sociological lens, students will develop a sensitivity to and think critically about the nature of the world that they live in.