

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.

SOCI 2006 Social Statistics (3,2,1) (E)

This course is an introduction to descriptive and inferential statistics. Major topics include measures of central tendency and dispersion, the concepts of normal distribution and sampling, the logic of hypothesis testing, and various parametric as well as nonparametric tests and measures.

SOCI 2007 Quantitative Methods of Social Research (3,2,1) (C)

Prerequisite: (1) SOCI 1005 Invitation to Sociology or CHSS 1005 Understanding Society: An Introduction to Sociology and (2) SOCI 2006 Social Statistics

This course develops students' understandings of the basic principles and procedures in carrying out quantitative social research. Students will be required to participate in a survey, through which they would learn how to formulate a research problem, construct a questionnaire, draw a sample, conduct an interview, code and input data, analyse and present data, and write a research report.

SOCI 2015 Sociological Theory I: Classical Theory (3,2,1) (E)

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 the classical sociological tradition. The classical tradition is commonly understood to refer to a body of work produced in the period from the latter half of the 19th century to the early decades of the 20th century. It principally comprises the writings of Karl Marx, Max Weber and Emile Durkheim, although other thinkers have been added by various commentators. The writings of Georg Simmel are typically included today in the classical tradition. Together these writers are widely seen as responsible for the establishment of sociology as an integrated discourse of social analysis and theory-building. Each of these are thinkers of immense intellectual power and scope, drawing upon earlier traditions of thought and reformulating them into novel and distinctive forms. More

importantly, they were able to crystalize fundamental social processes in providing remarkably insightful and compelling accounts of key historical developments and transformations. Their separate and in many ways alternative explanations of the rise and course of modern capitalist society and economy continue to be invaluable resources for sociological analysis. Their works help us answer questions concerning the relationship between the individual and society, the basis of social order and social change, the nature of social constraint and structure, and the bases and possibilities of individual and collective action. On completion of this course students will understand the major concepts and arguments in classical sociological theories and be able to apply the various theoretical perspectives in analyses of social conflict, solidarity, and social change.

SOCI 2016 Modern Chinese Society (3,3,0) (E)

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

This course provides students with an introduction to contemporary China from a sociological perspective. China not only represents one of the major civilizations in the world, it is also a society that has gone through tremendous social changes in the past six decades. This course examines the interplay among ideology, state, economy and society, which constitutes the dynamics of social changes in China. It will cover macro-level topics, such as social organization, social control, social stratification and social mobility, as well as micro-level topics such as family, gender and other topics related to lives of individuals in contemporary China.

SOCI 2017 Popular Culture and Society (3,3,0) (C)

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

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 the study of popular culture. 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 2025 Population Studies (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 introduces students to the major concepts and theories in the analysis of population phenomena. The emphasis is on the understanding of population structures and processes and their relationships with the social, economic and cultural context in both more developed and less developed countries.

SOCI 2026 Self and Society (3,3,0)

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

This course explores the dynamics of interactions between individual, group, and society in the context of a mediated and globalizing world. It aims to show how culture, social structure, and social institutions influence human behaviour, and how individuals acting as a group reproduce and transform these same social forces. Across different case studies, the focus is on the relationship between structure and agency, and notions of

emancipation and oppression, creativity and constraint. The course begins with a review of classic sociological theories on the self and identity. Succeeding weeks explore identity politics, the consequences of mass and new media to identity construction and the management of relationships, and the challenges of nationalism and cosmopolitanism to the construction of the self and relating with various “others”.

SOCI 2027 Social Problems (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: SOCI 1005 Invitation to Sociology

This course examines contemporary social problems and issues in diverse empirical contexts. It introduces different sociological perspectives and theoretical approaches to analyse social problems such as: poverty, distant suffering and humanitarian crises, isolation and anomie, racism, and precarious labour. In addition to analysing specific case studies of social problems, it presents a critique of neoliberalism and its role in solving—and amplifying—social problems. It also identifies the media’s role in constructing—and constituting—social problems in an age of globalization and digitization.

SOCI 2035 Social Stratification and Mobility (3,3,0)

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

This course introduces classical and contemporary approaches to the study of social stratification and mobility. It examines how life-chances are available to differently situated social groups as a result of economic, cultural and political processes. It discusses, on one hand, both how institutional arrangements structure the rights and privileges of different groups, and on the other, how social practices alter these structures as active moments of the stratifying processes. The course seeks to sensitize students to the normative concerns underlying stratification and mobility studies, and makes accessible to them techniques developed to assess the empirical claims of different theories.

SOCI 2036 Sociology of Marriage and the Family (3,3,0) (E)

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

This course attempts to develop a critical consciousness of the family as an idea, as a small group and as a social institution. Drawing upon critical theory and the new scholarship on power, conflict and gender/generation politics in the family, the course explores new ways of thinking about the family and marriage.

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

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)

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 2046 Introduction to Sociological Thinking and Writing (3,3,0)

This course will introduce students to sociological styles of thinking and writing. Students will be introduced to (i) the character of sociological thinking and writing, (ii) the nature of sociological research and also to (iii) the basic requirements for conducting sociological research. Students will be shown that sociological thinking operates with concepts, typically treated as ‘variables’, and devises ways to apply such concepts in the analysis of and explanation about social relationships, events and processes. Students will also be shown that sociological analysis contributes to either ‘theory building’ or ‘theory testing’. Students will be shown that sociological explanation makes sense of relationships, events or processes in terms of their function, their contribution to or dependence on social change and social stability. Finally, students will be shown that sociological writing, which reports on the processes and outcomes of different forms of sociological thinking and research, draws on data and reports of research findings as well as the content of existing literatures, the theories that may apply to the data and findings and also reflects on the methods that are used in identifying and collecting and processing data.

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

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) (E)

Prerequisite: Non-Year I standing

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