

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

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 standing 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) (C)

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) (E)

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) (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)

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