

health movements, and the role of media in global civil society. Empirically, the course will critically assess the functions, experiences, and aspirations of non-governmental organizations and their political/social implications for world politics and for China.

SOSC 7350 Global Cultural Industries (3,3,0) (E)

This course aims to offer a multidisciplinary analysis of “global culture industries”— the increasingly powerful, centralized corporate conglomerates in television, music, advertising, marketing, cinema, social networking, and the like — and their relationship to the political, social and economic changes taking place in countries around the world. It will help the students learn the process of cultural production of various types, especially in the digital age. The course will also provide students opportunities to examine the development of cultural industries in a particular region (such as Asia or the Greater China) via case studies. By doing so it attempts to encourage the students to ponder and explore the effects of globalization on local cultural production, its promise on cultural innovation, and its relationship with cultural homogeneity and heterogeneity.

SOSC 7360 Global Urban Systems (3,3,0) (E)

This course focuses on the importance of global forces in shaping urban development and the changing role and functioning of cities and metropolitan regions in the global-city network, and their implications for individual welfare. It is also concerned with environmental challenges such as climate change, air pollution, solid waste crisis, and unfolding global pandemics which are closely linked with urbanization and the growth of cities as well as the recent emphasis on developing sustainable and smart cities. Wherever feasible, examples will be drawn from Asian global cities.

SOSC 7370 Independent Project on Global Society (3,0,0)

The project offers an important opportunity for students to integrate and consolidate learning through planning and carrying out an independent scholarly pursuit under the guidance of a supervisor. It can be an empirical study or a critical literature review depending on the topic chosen from an aspect of global society.

SOSC 7380 Medicine, Society & Culture: Public Health Perspectives (3,3,0) (E)

Medicine and health issues are the mirrors reflecting the ideology, and social and cultural beliefs and values of a society. This course intends to allow students to understand medicine and health issues from a social science angle. With the application of various social science traditions and public health principles, students are enabled to critically examine the issues of health, disease, and illness from a socio-cultural perspective. They can understand a wide range of factors – biological, social, cultural, and environmental – in shaping people’s health beliefs, illness experiences, and health behaviors.

SOSC 7390 Overseas Field Studies on Cities and Regions (3,*,*)

This course exposes students in person to an overseas locality the unfolding processes of globalization and urban transformation and their local ramifications and responses. By attaching to an overseas university and attending lectures given by and conducting fieldworks under the guidance of both local experts and HKBU teaching staff, students will have a better grasp of global-local interdependencies in a specific urban and regional setting. At the same, students will be able to develop field study skills including on-site observations, identifying and interviewing relevant government officials, representative of NGOs, and various stakeholders involved in major urban development projects, etc. By requiring students to write and orally present an essay on aspects of the field exercises, which involve both individual and team works, the course will also help enhance students’ writing and presentation skills as well as abilities to undertake team projects.

SOSC 7400 Professional Placement (3,*,*)

This course aims to provide students with a capstone experience that can consolidate their classroom-based learning through placement with an external organization. In addition to providing learning opportunities to put knowledge and skills into practice and to gain on-the-job experience in a professional setting, the placement also stimulates students to reflect on the potential of transdisciplinary scholarship in real world applications, and what it means, personally, to apply a whole person ethos in “global society”.

SOSC 7410 Research Methods for Global Studies (3,3,0) (E)

The primary objectives of this course are to impart a functional ability to reason well and to improve students’ critical thinking. In addition to familiarizing students with methods of building strong arguments, the course further aids students in understanding the essential methodologies involved in scientific research. The course will equip students to address the breadth of subject matters, philosophical approaches, research methods, and data sources that are relevant to analyzing global issues. By working on cases of disciplinary and transdisciplinary research, students will learn how to apply the methods to various domains. The reasoning and writing skills students develop in this class will serve them across all academic disciplines and in the workplace.

SOSC 7420 Socio-spatial Dynamics of Cities (3,3,0) (E)

This course provides students with theoretical and empirical understanding on how urban spaces are constructed and reconstructed by social political processes such as industrialization and the development of capitalism, rural-to-urban migration, urban renewal, suburbanization and deindustrialization, segregation and gentrification, immigration, technological innovation, and the changing relation between the built environment and human behavior. It aims to teach students that spaces are not static geographical units, but are socially constructed and are overlaid with unequal power relations and policy implications. In addition to basic theoretical concepts, case studies are also explored to help students better understand the relationship between theory and practice. Students are encouraged to design their own research projects on a specific topic related to urban dynamics in China.

SOSC 7510 Project (3,*,*)

Prerequisite: (1) Students who intend to take this course are requested to get permissions from Coordinators in respective Concentrations. Students without intentions/permissions are suggested to take one more elective course instead; and (2) Year 1 postgraduate standing in full-time mode, or Year 2 postgraduate standing in part-time mode

The course aims to offer an opportunity to students’ competence in exploring in depth an aspect of contemporary China. The topic should be chosen from the major concentration. Students are required to discuss with their project supervisors about the topic and research methodologies, and to meet them regularly to report progress, review work completed, and finalize the written report.

SOWK 1001-2 Integrative Tutorial I (0,0,3)

SOWK 2001-2 Integrative Tutorial II (0,0,3)

SOWK 3001-2 Integrative Tutorial III (0,0,3)

Integrative tutorials aim to develop students’ academic and professional competence by helping them to assimilate knowledge gained through a wide range of related courses. It provides the opportunity for students to discuss, digest, and integrate what they have learned in a small group setting. Tutorials run through the three years of the programme and will be led by staff members of the Department of Social Work.

SOWK 1005 Social Work in Contemporary Society (3,3,0) (E)

This course enables students to understand the emergence of social welfare and social work in Western as well as Hong Kong societies.