

SOC 1150 Hong Kong Society (3,3,0) (E/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.

SOC 1160 Introduction to Social Research (3,2,1) (E/C)

Prerequisite: CHSS 1110 or SOC 1110 Invitation to Sociology

This course examines the intellectual setting and fundamental techniques of the research process in contemporary sociology. Students will be introduced to both qualitative and quantitative approaches to social research, and the intellectual and conceptual frame works underpinning these. They will be introduced to the classic model of social research and to current critiques of this. This will include *inter alia* an exploration of the nature of social research, the importance of research design, the nature and practice of data collection in different settings and the evaluation and presentation of the results of the research/field experience. This course is open to Sociology major/option only.

SOC 1610 Social Problems (3,3,0) (E)

Prerequisite: SOC 1110 Invitation to Sociology

This course examines globally and comparatively current social problems and issues in contemporary societies, with particular emphasis on Hong Kong and other Chinese societies. It attempts macro-sociological as well as micro-sociological analyses of a range of social problems: social inequality; social deviations such as crime and delinquency, suicide; mental illness; ageism; and domestic violence. The course also considers preventive and treatment policies.

SOC 1620 Hong Kong: Cultures, Politics and Communities (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course addresses cultural, social and political issues in Hong Kong from sociological perspectives. Sociologically informed studies will be drawn upon to examine the social, political and cultural processes that transform possibilities of life and give rise to issues of public concerns in 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 population dynamics, economic transformations, governmental projects and social movements re-define social boundaries and re-make communities within and beyond Hong Kong.

SOC 2130 Quantitative Methods of Social Research (3,2,1) (E/C)

Prerequisite: CHSS 1110 or SOC 1110 Invitation to Sociology and SOC 1120 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 research from which they learn how to formulate a research problem, draw a sample, construct a questionnaire, carry out an interview, code and input data, analyse and present data, and write a research report. This course is open to Sociology major/option only.

SOC 2140 Qualitative Methods of Social Research (3,2,1) (E/C)

Prerequisite: CHSS 1110 or SOC 1110 Invitation to Sociology and SOC 1160 Introduction to Social Research

This course is designed to widen the range of social science methods available to students studying sociology. Qualitative research is a particular tradition in social science that depends on observing people in their own environment and interacting with them in their own language, and on their own terms. In this tradition, meanings rather than frequencies assume paramount significance in the studying of social life. There are increasingly sophisticated procedures to guide the interpretive acts of social researchers in reaching higher reliability and validity. This course

is designed to widen the range of social science methods available to students, as the claims of qualitative researches have been gaining ground in the social sciences in recent years. The course seeks to elaborate both qualitative techniques and the intellectual grounds on which they stand. Each topic extends the boundaries of methodological discourse in which the students are involved, at the same time providing examples and concrete experiences to assist students to develop research themes with imagination and skill. This course is open to Sociology major/option only.

SOC 2150 Sociological Theory I: Classical Theory (3,2,1) (E)

Prerequisite: Year II standing in Sociology major, and CHSS 1110 or SOC 1110 Invitation to Sociology

This course provides an introduction to the classical theorists of the sociological tradition by considering three central themes, namely, rationalization, religion and revolution in the modern world. The rationalization of society as an on-going process, the legacy of religious and metaphysical concerns, and the prospects of radical change are all important issues that affect individuals and society at large. This course seeks to explicate the roles played by these three factors in the works of Marx, Durkheim, Weber and Freud. It also attempts to reconstruct the projects of these thinkers as the legacy of Enlightenment rationalism; they are then truly modernist projects.

SOC 2220 Population Studies (3,2,1) (tbc)

Prerequisite: Year II standing and CHSS 1110 or SOC 1110 Invitation to Sociology

This course introduces students to demographic concepts and theories in the analysis of population phenomena. The emphasis is on developing an understanding of demographic structures and processes and their relationship with the social, economic and cultural context in both more developed and less developed countries.

SOC 2230 Sociology of Marriage and the Family (3,3,0) (E/C)

Prerequisite: Year II standing and CHSS 1110 or SOC 1110 Invitation to Sociology

This course is concerned with sociological approaches and theories about contemporary forms of marriage and the family. It examines different family structures and the interpersonal relationships within these. It is also concerned with the recent debates about the nature of gender socialization, dating and mate selection, parenthood, retirement and family crises such as divorce, death and bereavement, single-parent family and family violence.

SOC 2240 Modern Chinese Society (3,3,0) (E/P)

Prerequisite: Year II standing and CHSS 1110 or SOC 1110 Invitation to Sociology

This course enables students to critically evaluate various theoretical attempts to explain the nature and form of social change in China from the Republican era to the emergence of the Socialist Revolution and from the consolidation of the Socialist regime to the emergence of post-Socialist China. The course examines the interplay among ideology, state, economy and society. It explores the tension between social forces at the macro level and social action at the individual level, which constitutes the dynamics of social change in China.

SOC 2250 Traditional Chinese Society (3,2,1) (tbc)

Prerequisite: Year II standing

This course aims to provide 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.