SOCI 2017 Popular Culture and Society (3,2,1) (tbc)
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 (3,2,1) (tbc)
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 (3,2,1) (tbc)
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 (3,2,1) (tbc)
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 (3,2,1) (tbc)
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 (3,2,1) (tbc) Family
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 (3,2,1) (tbc)
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) (tbc)
Prerequisite: CHSS 1005 Understanding Society: An Introduction to Sociology, SOCI 1005 Invitation to Sociology or SOCI 1007 Hong Kng 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 analyze 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 analyzing 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 3005 Sociological Theory II: (3,2,1) (tbc) Contemporary Approaches
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 (3,2,1) (tbc)
Prerequisite: SOCI 2025 Population Studies

The contents of the course include: (1) the fundamentals of demographic analysis, and the meanings and properties of different measures of demographic processes (mortality, fertility, migration, marriage and divorce, etc.); (2) the ideas behind model life tables and demographic models and their applications; and (3) the technical aspects of population estimation and project. In addition, several demographic computer programmes will be