

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 majors only.

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

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)

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 (3,2,1)

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 (3,2,1)

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)

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.

SOC 2260 Popular Culture and Society (3,2,1)

Prerequisite: CHSS 1110 or SOC 1110 Invitation 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.

SOC 2610 Modernization and Social Change (3,2,1)

Prerequisite: Year II standing and CHSS 1110 or SOC 1110 Invitation 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 two selected Southeast Asian societies (mainland China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand).

SOC 2620 Sociology of Work and Industry (3,2,1)

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

This course introduces alternative theoretical paradigms in the study of work and industry. It examines the interplay between culture and political economy in shaping the conditions of work. This course helps students to be sensitive to the issues of work and industry in Hong Kong and China.

SOC 2630 Social Stratification and Mobility (3,2,1)

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

This course introduces contemporary approaches to the study of social stratification and mobility. The course 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.

SOC 2640 Political Sociology (3,2,1)

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

The core of this course is to introduce students to the complicated relationships between politics and society by referring to the Western and Chinese classics for an understanding the emergence of politics, government, and state in the ancient Chinese and Western society. The course then studies the role of national constitutions in the formation of modern society, with special reference to political institutions, political organization and political process. Finally, the course concerns itself with the role of politics in social change by focusing upon modernization, social engineering and future development.