

SOC 7510 Social Networks in the Contemporary Chinese Society (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: Postgraduate standing

This course introduces students to the approach and methodology of social network analysis, the most prominent form of structural sociology. Furthermore, it aims to provide students with a critical understanding of contemporary Chinese society through the angle of social network analysis. Specifically, it will identify the key social network concepts and examine major areas of empirical research in social network analysis, particularly those related to Chinese societies.

SOC 7530 Graduate Seminar on Contemporary Social Issues in China (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: Postgraduate standing

This course involves a guided study of selected contemporary issue(s) in China, which are of academic interests to students and meet the expertise of our teaching staff. The content of the course will vary from semester to semester, and will be decided jointly by both the students and instructor(s), who specialize in the selected area(s). The research areas in which our teaching staff specialize include issues related to gender, population, family, globalization, culture, and consumption. Students are expected to read widely and discuss the different contributions of leading scholars in the selected area(s).

SOC 7540 Chinese Social Demography (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: Postgraduate standing

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the social demography of contemporary China. The focus of the course is on understanding how China's population policies affect fertility and migration. The course also examines several sociological issues related to demographic changes such as family change, rising sex ratio, aging, floating population, migrant workers and ethnic enclaves.

SOC 7550 Population of China (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: Postgraduate standing

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the population of China. Major concerns include basic demographic characteristics of China and the processes producing their changes. The former include size, distribution and composition, and the latter involve mortality, fertility and migration. Finally, major issues related to China's population policies are examined.

SOC 7560 Sociological Issues in Urban and Rural Development (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: Postgraduate standing

This course combines an analysis of theoretical issues relative to urbanization and rural development with a comparative study of these processes in different countries including China. It explores aspects of city size and type. It also examines patterns of urban growth in the capitalist societies of Europe and USA, the Third World and China, and patterns of rural-urban migration. Issues related to the environment and urban planning are considered and special attention is given to the study of patterns of urbanization and rural development in China.

SOC 7570 Chinese Family and Kinship (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: Postgraduate standing

This course focuses on the family and wider kinship in traditional and contemporary China, emphasizing their characteristics and how these have changed. Topics include: the nature of the kinship system and the structure of the family in China, changes in the family institution from the pre-Communist period to the present, and the consequences and attendant problems of changes in the family and kinship systems.

SOC 7580 Women in China (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: Postgraduate standing

This course aims to examine the political, economic, and cultural forces that are shaping the experience and status of women in the People's Republic of China. Specifically, it will investigate the cultural and structural imperatives of patriarchy in pre-

socialist China and discuss how the patriarchal order is redefined, manipulated, and transformed under the socialist rule. It will also review the state policies related to women and evaluate the associated impacts on various aspects of women's status, such as employment, reproduction, family relations, and health. Further, it will examine the implications of market reforms for Chinese women.

SOCI 1005 Invitation to Sociology (3,3,0) (C)

Sociology is a social science concerned with the study of social interactions in society. As a discipline it is concerned with how society is structured and how it works. Students are invited to recognize not one approach to studying society, but several alternative paradigms. This course focuses on (1) the basic ideas, concepts, approaches and methods in sociology; (2) the interactions between individuals, groups, organizations, and society; (3) analyses of major social institutions such as marriage and the family, power and politics, economy and work, belief and value systems, and health and health care; and (4) selected issues in contemporary society such as sexuality, deviance and social control, social stratification, social mobility and inequalities, urbanization, modernization, modernity, migration, race and ethnic relations, identity, and globalization.

SOCI 1006 Hong Kong Culture and Society (3,2,1)

This course addresses cultural, social and political issues in Hong Kong. Sociologically informed studies will be drawn upon to examine the social, political and cultural processes that transform 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 economic transformations, governmental projects and social movements re-define social boundaries and re-make cultural practices in Hong Kong.

SOCI 1007 Hong Kong Society (3,3,0) (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.

SOCI 2005 Qualitative Methods of Social Research (3,2,1) (E)

Prerequisite: SOCI 1005 Invitation to Sociology or CHSS 1005 Understanding Society: An Introduction to Sociology

This course provides an understanding to qualitative research methods and the intellectual grounds on which they stand. It will address the theoretical, ethical and practical issues that arise in the conduct of qualitative research. The course takes a "hands on" approach and students are expected to learn by practicing a range of qualitative approaches. Readings are concerned with not only the differing research contexts and appropriate methodologies, but also the basic procedures of participant observation, intensive interviewing and focus group interviewing, as well as content analysis and image-based analysis.

SOCI 2006 Social Statistics (3,2,1) (E)

This course is an introduction to descriptive and inferential statistics. Major topics include measures of central tendency and dispersion, the concepts of normal distribution and sampling, the logic of hypothesis testing, and various parametric as well as nonparametric tests and measures.

SOCI 2007 Quantitative Methods of Social Research (3,2,1) (C)

Prerequisite: (1) SOCI 1005 Invitation to Sociology or CHSS 1005 Understanding Society: An Introduction to Sociology and (2) SOCI 2006 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, through which they would learn how to formulate a research problem, construct a questionnaire, draw a sample, conduct an interview, code and input data, analyse and present data, and write a research report.

SOCI 2015 Sociological Theory I: Classical Theory (3,2,1) (E)

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 the classical sociological tradition. The classical tradition is commonly understood to refer to a body of work produced in the period from the latter half of the 19th century to the early decades of the 20th century. It principally comprises the writings of Karl Marx, Max Weber and Emile Durkheim, although other thinkers have been added by various commentators. The writings of Georg Simmel are typically included today in the classical tradition. Together these writers are widely seen as responsible for the establishment of sociology as an integrated discourse of social analysis and theory-building. Each of these are thinkers of immense intellectual power and scope, drawing upon earlier traditions of thought and reformulating them into novel and distinctive forms. More importantly, they were able to crystallize fundamental social processes in providing remarkably insightful and compelling accounts of key historical developments and transformations. Their separate and in many ways alternative explanations of the rise and course of modern capitalist society and economy continue to be invaluable resources for sociological analysis. Their works help us answer questions concerning the relationship between the individual and society, the basis of social order and social change, the nature of social constraint and structure, and the bases and possibilities of individual and collective action. On completion of this course students will understand the major concepts and arguments in classical sociological theories and be able to apply the various theoretical perspectives in analyses of social conflict, solidarity, and social change.

SOCI 2016 Modern Chinese Society (3,3,0) (E)

Prerequisite: (1) Year II standing and (2) SOCI 1005 Invitation to Sociology or CHSS 1005 Understanding Society: An Introduction to Sociology

This course provides students with an introduction to contemporary China from a sociological perspective. China not only represents one of the major civilizations in the world, it is also a society that has gone through tremendous social changes in the past six decades. This course examines the interplay among ideology, state, economy and society, which constitutes the dynamics of social changes in China. It will cover macro-level topics, such as social organization, social control, social stratification and social mobility, as well as micro-level topics such as family, gender and other topics related to lives of individuals in contemporary China.

SOCI 2017 Popular Culture and Society (3,3,0) (C)

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 (3,3,0) (E)

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 (3,3,0) (E)

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 (3,3,0) (E)

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) (C)

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.