

**SOCI 2037/ Traditional Chinese Society (3,3,0) (C)**  
**CHSS 2037**

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) (E)**

Prerequisite: CHSS 1005 Understanding Society: An Introduction to Sociology, SOCI 1005 Invitation to Sociology or SOCI 1007 Hong Kong 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 analyse 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 analysing 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: Contemporary Approaches (3,2,1)**

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 (3,3,0)**

Prerequisite: SOCI 2025 Population Studies

The contents of the course include: the fundamentals of demographic analysis, the meanings and properties of different measures of demographic processes (mortality, fertility, migration, marriage and divorce, etc.); the ideas behind model life tables and demographic models and their applications; and, finally, the technical aspects of population estimation and project. In addition, several demographic computer programmes will be introduced in the course and will be made available to the students to help them understand the applications of the various techniques in demographic analysis.

**SOCI 3007 Global Social Transformations (3,3,0)**

Prerequisite: Non-Year I students

This course will examine major debates on global social, economic, and political transformations. It has three major parts. The first part will study major theorizations of globalization, exploring different social thinkers' visions of socioeconomic arrangements and personal existence under the condition of globality. Relevant social thinkers might include Anthony Giddens, Ulrich Beck, David Harvey, Manuel Castells, Mike Featherstone, among others. The second part will focus on the global integration of economic activities. It will examine whether economic globalization has actually occurred and, if so, the

novel arrangements associated with economic production and coordination. It will also examine the social implications of global economic integration, analysing its impacts on alleviating poverty and income inequality on a global scale, as well as challenges and hardships it imposes on people from different parts of the world. The third part will target on global economic integration and the state. In particular, it will examine whether globalization has led to the eclipse of the developmental and welfare state, and whether the new consciousness of "global citizenship" has emerged. The last point will be explored through case studies of various "global" social movements.

**SOCI 3015 Modernization and Social Change (3,3,0)**

Prerequisite: (1) Non-Year I students and (2) SOCI 1005 Invitation to Sociology or CHSS 1005 Understanding Society: An Introduction 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 selected Southeast Asian societies (China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand).

**SOCI 3016 Political Sociology (3,3,0)**

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

This course is to introduce to students the complex relationships between politics and society. The course studies the characteristics of modern states and their reciprocal relationships with social institutions, with special emphasis on political organizations and social mobilization. Finally, the course concerns itself with the role of politics in social change by focusing upon social movements, democratization, and globalization.

**SOCI 3017 Sociology of Health and Illness (3,3,0)**

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

Medical teaching has traditionally relied heavily upon a biological model of illness, whereas this course places the promotion of health and the prevention and management of disease in a social context, with emphasis upon Chinese communities. The course aims to develop a critical approach to medical care and to give students the ability to assess competing explanations of sickness and well-being. It demonstrates how clinical and social aspects of the medical task are closely interrelated and how they influence patient care and clinical and medical outcomes. It also equips students with conceptual tools that can be applied in a variety of clinical and health service contexts.

**SOCI 3025 The Internet and Society (3,3,0)**

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

The Internet is known in public discourses in Hong Kong as a major media form, a key platform of mass entertainment, and a main basis of the knowledge industry. This course will focus on a relatively neglected side of the internet: its social dynamics and implications. The Internet is in fact one of the most important drivers of social, political, and cultural change in the contemporary world. This course will introduce students to major theories, research subfields, and concepts in critical social studies of the Internet and information and communications technology (ICT). Equipped with these theoretical tools, student will also

learn to interpret the intriguing social implications of ICT for themselves and society.

**SOCI 3026 Work and Society (3,3,0)**

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 sociological studies of work. It will examine how work is culturally understood and socially organized as a human activity, with special focus on employment as a social relationship. It seeks to sensitize students to the changing significance of work as a central human activity, the political-economic conditions of social forms of work and the implications of varying institutional arrangements of work, with special emphasis on conditions of work and workers in Hong Kong and mainland China.

**SOCI 3027 Careers and Life Courses (3,3,0)**

Prerequisite: SOCI 2015 Sociological Theory I: Classical Theory  
This course introduces students to the multi-disciplinary studies of careers and life courses. It reviews research traditions engaged in the studies of life histories and life courses, identifies their basic premises and key concepts, and examines how studies of careers and life courses can inform our understanding of social life. The implications of careers and life courses as imaginative frameworks will be discussed through an examination of the implications of the life course approach in the studies of aging, family changes, work careers, and social stratification and mobility.

**SOCI 3035 Sex, Gender and Society (3,3,0)**

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

This course examines the concepts of sex and gender as they are interpreted through and acted upon within the social and cross-cultural contexts of contemporary social life. Exploring first the foundations of biological and cultural beliefs about sex and gender, the course proceeds to examine theories of gender formation, the social context of genderization, the concepts of masculine and feminine, and the culturally variable context of sexuality. It continues with feminism and its possibilities, the relationship of sexuality and power, and with some of the current issues in the study of sex and gender, such as the representation of gender and sexuality in new media, the advent of globalization and the place of sex in the postmodern world.

**SOCI 3036 Sociology of Media (3,3,0)**

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

“The media do not simply add a new element to the story, they transform it.” (Livingstone 2009)

This course highlights the significance of media in contemporary life, shaping social processes and at the same time shaped by the cultures in which media are used and produced. Reviewing both macro-level social theory of media (i.e. Adorno, Baudrillard, Habermas) and micro-level ethnographic case studies of media production and consumption (i.e. Madianou, Miller, Skeggs), this course provides students with different perspectives in the analysis of mediation and media power. Some of the questions asked in the course include: How does television create symbolic spaces of inclusion and exclusion? How are today's moral panics about the Internet similar to historical concerns about the telephone or the comic book? How have new communications technologies redefined meanings and expectations of friend, family and lover? In asking these questions, the course foregrounds not only the great new possibilities that modern media afford, but also the social inequalities and ethical problems that media contribute to and complicate.

**SOCI 4006 Chinese Family and Kinship (3,3,0)**

Prerequisite: SOCI 2015 Sociological Theory I: Classical Theory or SOCI 2036 Sociology of Marriage and the Family

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.

**SOCI 4007 Chinese Social Thought (3,3,0)**

China has a rich tradition of theoretical thinking on the origins, functions, and problems of politics, government, and society. From the *Book of Change* to Confucian, Taoist, Legalist, Buddhist, neo-Confucian classics to writings of the modern Reformers and Revolutionaries, we find detailed discussions of Chinese social problems, social change and ideas of the ideal society, discussions of which are not any less insightful than prominent theorists in the Western sociological tradition. In today's globalized context, examination of this tradition is valuable to the development of the sociological discipline, as well as to the understanding of continuities and changes in contemporary Chinese societies. This course introduces students to this Chinese intellectual tradition.

**SOCI 4015 East Asia: Economic Miracles and Social Change (3,3,0)**

Prerequisite: Non-first year students

This course intends to examine major theories of development through the lens of the experiences of various East Asian societies. The course has three major parts. The first focuses on the making of the so-called economic miracles. It will introduce the modernization perspective, world-system perspective, and theories on the developmental state by examining the empirical cases of Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong, and China. The second part of the course focuses on the socioeconomic ramifications of the “economic miracles”. It will examine whether the East Asia societies are exemplary cases of “growth with equity”, mechanisms making for the domination and control of workers, varying capabilities of East Asian workers to engage in organized resistance, and the alleged emergence of the middle class. The third part focuses on the political dimension of East Asian development. It will evaluate the relative merit of competing theories for the transitions to democracy as well as examine factors underlying resilience of authoritarian rule in some cases.

**SOCI 4016 Globalization and Development Studies (3,3,0)**

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

The course is designed to critically reflect on the economic, political, social and cultural dimensions of development and globalization as projects to transform social life, and social movements as responses and alternatives to globalization-from-above. Emphasis is on how different social groups, especially those located in the low-income regions of the world, i.e. Global South, encounter global forces and development interventions. Furthermore, this course will lead the students to critically reflect on alternative perspectives and action programmes in rethinking development and globalization. The course encourages students to participate actively to select global or development issues of their concern, and to critically develop their conceptualizations and perspectives.

**SOCI 4017 Management, Organization and Society (3,3,0)**

Prerequisite: SOCI 2015 Sociological Theory I: Classical Theory, SOCI 2035 Social Stratification and Mobility or SOCI 3026 Work and Society

This course is designed to facilitate students understanding of current issues in organization studies. By so doing, it enhances