

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 科目簡介

COURSES FOR 4-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

SDA1001 Introduction to Social Data Science (3 credits) (from 2025-26)

This course provides students with a foundational understanding of how techniques in data science can be utilized to address complex social issues. This interdisciplinary course explores the intersection of social sciences and data science, focusing on issues such as the ethical implications, methodologies, and applications of social data. With the background focusing on research methods in social sciences, this course emphasizes how the gathering, interpretation, and analysis of quantitative data using data-science techniques can allow social scientists to address questions related to people and the society more effectively, efficiently, and creatively.

SDA3001 Social Networks (3 credits) (from 2025-26)

(Prerequisite: SDA1001 Introduction to Social Data Science or at least one research methods course offered under the Faculty of Social Sciences)

Social networks are integral in everyday life and a central field in sociology since 1960s. Consider how these networks can influence everything from the spread of diseases to finding a job or even a romantic partner. This course introduces students to the study of social networks and how to think sociologically about them. Between the studies of interactions among individuals and the grand theory approach to conceptualise society, social networks provide a meso-level perspective to illustrate how institutions work as an aggregate of social relationships. Along the course, students will be able to connect contemporary social network research with foundational debates in sociology (e.g., Simmel, Durkheim). The course will also introduce to different types of network data and the basic skills to analyse and visualize them utilizing Gephi, an open-source, free, and intuitive software for social networks analysis.