COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 科目簡介

COURSES FOR 4-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

SOC2101 Introduction to Sociology (3 credits)
(Restriction(s): Students who have obtained Grade D or above in AL Sociology are not allowed to take this course. Students are not allowed to take both this course and CUS3213 Culture, Power and Government)
This is an introductory course in Sociology, starting with an overview of the nature of the discipline, followed by a survey of various aspects of the structures and dynamics of social life. General and specific examples are used to illustrate how thinking sociologically adds to our knowledge of the world around us.

SOC3001 Principles and Practice of Social Policy (3 credits)
This module introduces students to the academic discipline of social policy. It provides an overview of key concepts and ideologies in social policy study, and outlines core areas of social provision with examples of policy goals, policy instruments and policy problems within them. Although the main focus of the course is Hong Kong, social policies are considered within an international context and issues are examined using ideas, examples and evidence from across the globe.

SOC3002 Family and Society (3 credits)
(Restriction(s): Students are not allowed to take both this course and SOC3319 Family, Gender and Society)
Familes play an important role in individual development, social organisation and social processes. This course introduces students to sociological approaches to the study of the family as institution, process and practice. The course also focuses on the use of relevant empirical data, research findings and the application of sociological concepts and theories to analyse issues relating to contemporary families in Hong Kong and elsewhere.

SOC3003 Ethnicity and Ethnic Minorities (3 credits)
From Term 2, 2023-24
Ethnicity is a key component of identity and an aspect of everyday life. This course introduces students to understand the definition and issues of ethnic minorities in the context Hong Kong, mainland China, and the United States, with the purpose of promoting a socially inclusive world. The central theme of the course focuses on the role of power and privilege in majority-minority relations. Topics to be covered include the creation of dominant and subordinate groups, inter-group conflicts, institutional factors that perpetuate inequalities, and policy solutions to ethnic conflicts.

From 2020-21 to Term 1, 2023-24
Ethnicity is a key component of identity and an aspect of everyday life. This course introduces students to understand ethnic minorities via hands-on experience (Service Learning component) and promote a socially inclusive East Asian society by the case of Hong Kong. It begins by distinguishing ethnicity from race, and nationality and proceeds to address the issue of ethnic minorities in society. A key focus of this course is the relevance of ethnicity in Hong Kong, what is Chinese ethnicity, what are the experiences of ethnic minorities in Hong Kong, and how do issues of gender and class intersect with them to promote social inclusion?

In 2019-20 or before
Ethnicity is a key component of identity and an aspect of everyday life. This course

introduces students to sociological definitions and classifications of ethnicity. It begins by distinguishing ethnicity from race, and nationality and proceeds to address the issue of ethnic minorities in society. A key focus of this course is the relevance of ethnicity in Hong Kong, what is Chinese ethnicity, what are the experiences of ethnic minorities in Hong Kong, and how do issues of gender and class intersect with them? The final part of the course focuses on how people 'feel' ethnic and in turn how new ethnicities emerge and are performed in connection with media and online technologies.

SOC3004 Community and Society (from Term 2, 2020-21)/
Community Studies (in Term 1, 2019-20 or before) **(3 credits)**

This course introduces the fundamental concepts and perspectives in the sociological studies of community. In conceiving community as a product of modernity and social change, this course charts its transformation from territorial-bounded groups and organizations in urban and rural areas, to the diverse and spontaneous social groups proliferating in recent years, including transnational, electronically mediated, identity based and other novel forms of association. Against this background, the changing contour of communal life in Hong Kong and elsewhere will be explored and explained.

SOC3101 Sociological Research Methods (3 credits)

(Note: From 2020-21, students under Health and Social Services Management Stream of BSocSc programme have to take this course in their year 3.)

This course introduces students to the logic behind qualitative and quantitative methods used in sociological research. Students will be equipped with the essential tools to conduct sociological research as well as to comprehend and evaluate different types of research output.

SOC3102 Mass Communication (3 credits)

From 2026-27

Globalisation and the changing media landscape are actively shaping and reshaping social and policy issues. As media and communication technology become more embedded in contemporary lives, an understanding of media and communication mechanisms is thus required to explain social phenomena and facilitate policy processes.

This course examines the nature, theories, and role of the mass media in contemporary society. This course will discuss classic mass communication theories, mass media (e.g., newspapers, radio, television), and new media (e.g., social media and the Internet). Issues in mass media, including how the media environment is regulated, and how communication plays an essential part in social and policy processes, will be discussed.

In 2025-26 or before

This course examines the nature, theories and influence of the mass media in contemporary society. This course will discuss major mass communication theories including Mass Society Theory, Limited Effects Theory, Active Audience Theories, and Critical Cultural Studies. These theories will be discussed together with major mass media channels including newspapers, television, movies, video games, social media, and the Internet. Issues in mass media such as objectivity and freedom of the press will also be discussed.

SOC3201 Classical Sociological Theory (3 credits)

(Prerequisite(s): (a) SOC2101 Introduction to Sociology, or (b) Grade D or above in AL Sociology)

This course introduces you to three major thinkers - Karl Marx, Max Weber and Emile Durkheim - and the traditions of social thought they helped to establish. These authors are typically regarded as classical thinkers because they helped establish the key coordinates of

sociology as a discipline. Sociological classics are not timeless, nor are they an authoritative guide to many modern problems. Nonetheless, they do provide some vital intellectual resources for the student of society; people who think that they can dispense with the classics would be best advised to understand them first. Reinventing the wheel is as common in sociology as it is elsewhere. I will suggest that each of these thinkers offer complementary insights into modern society, and into the methods with which it is best studied.

SOC3202 Contemporary Sociological Theory (3 credits)
(Prerequisite(s): (a) SOC2101 Introduction to Sociology, or (b) Grade D or above in AL Sociology)
This course is designed to acquaint you with the main schools of modern sociological theory. We will scrutinize key concepts and key thinkers. And we will show how sociological theory is relevant to understanding modern life. Two approaches are pursued. First, we outline the main traditions of theorizing, linking these to their classical counterparts: the conflict tradition, sociological rationalism, the Durkheimian tradition, and the microinteractionist tradition. Second, and simultaneously, we will employ these currents to illuminate a range of pertinent problems and questions: What is "scientific" knowledge in the social sciences? How much impact can individuals have in shaping social structure? What is the nature of social action, social conflict and social ritual?

SOC3203 Social Gerontology (3 credits)
From 2026-27
Gerontology is a multi-disciplinary subject covering the interrelated biological, medical, psychological, and social aspects of human ageing. This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary area of *social* gerontology and its concerns with the impact of human ageing on all aspects of society. It examines contemporary social issues and cultural aspects of ageing. Older persons and ageing are regarded as part of the life course. The course encourages students to think about, analyse and project the impacts of population ageing and ageism on the old, the young, and society as a whole. The course considers a range of individual, family, and socio-economic issues, such as social perceptions of older people, ageing and health, work-to-retirement transition, intergenerational relations, elder care arrangements, gerontechnology, and older persons' quality of life.

In 2025-26 or before
This course aims to demonstrate how and why many societies globally in East and West are growing older ("demographic ageing") and what can happen when this occurs. The course aims to show how older persons and their families are viewed and act in society. Major social theories of ageing are introduced and concepts such as Productive ageing, Successful ageing, and the WHO policy framework on Active Ageing. Selected main biological explanations for ageing are also discussed because, when individuals age, biological changes may be accompanied by changes in behaviour, social integration and economic status. These can lead to changes in social relations and attitudes towards life and some people cope better than others ("successful ageing"). The course aims to show positive and negative socio-economic perspectives on ageing. Potential negative stereotyping is discussed as sometimes older persons may be presented in an unfavourable light. Occasionally, 'scapegoating' (blame of older people) or a 'moral panic' attitude to growing numbers of older people is to be seen in the media, among some politicians and policymakers and even among some academics. Positive approaches to ageing are presented, as well as successful, productive and active ageing and Gerontechnology. Increasingly, the older population is being regarded as a positive social and economic source and resource, sometimes called the 'silver market'. The importance of an age-friendly and supportive environment for older persons can be seen in the WHO's 2015 World report on ageing and health.

SOC3204 Society and Social Change (3 credits)
This course is about one of the most important concerns of our time: social change. Given that social change is happening everywhere and is at times a dramatic feature of society, the course will introduce the nature of social change and fundamental concepts related to social change, illustrated by real-life case examples from Hong Kong and around the world. This course will also deal with questions of how society changes, in what direction, and what forces drive this change.

SOC3212 Hong Kong Society (3 credits)
This course introduces students to the history, culture, social structure and social changes in Hong Kong since 1841. While many students may have some knowledge of these aspects of our society, a comprehensive overview will provide them with the necessary facts and perspectives demanded by a liberal arts education.

SOC3311 Urban Sociology (3 credits)
(Prerequisite(s): SOC2101 Introduction to Sociology)
From Term 2, 2023-24
This course trains students to learn how classic and contemporary urban theories can be used to explore such topics as urbanization, globalization, social inequality and conflict, community development, and the functioning of various urban institutions. The analysis of the course subjects features a comparative perspective between Hong Kong, mainland China, and the United States, with a particular focus on urban problem solving under different cultural and socio-political contexts.

From 2017-18 to Term 1, 2023-24
This course explores the key theoretical works in urban sociology; globalisation and the city; the sociology of the contemporary city; the changing nature of community and neighbourhood; social inequality and conflict in the city; and the changing nature of the urban experience in a digital world. Students will be introduced to key conceptual approaches to urbanism and urbanisation in urban sociology, and will reflect on contemporary urban issues.

In 2016-17 or before
This course explores important aspects of the urban environment: the changing nature of community, the effects of design and planning policies, social inequality, social problems, globalisation, and social conflicts in the city. Students will be introduced to core schools of thoughts in urban sociology, and reflect on contemporary urban social issues.

SOC3312 Health and Social Care Services for Older Persons in Hong Kong (3 credits)
(deleted from 2024-25)
(Restriction(s): Students are not allowed to take this course with Health, Illness and Behaviour under the 3-year System)
The adequate and appropriate provision of health and social care are important policy concerns for an aging population. This course introduces students to models and issues relating to health and social care policies and provisions for older persons. Students will also learn how to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of various policy models relating to health and social care for older persons.

SOC3217 Quantitative Research Methods (from 2020-21)/
Statistics for Social Sciences (in 2019-20 or before) **(3 credits)**
(recoded to SOC4217 from 2020-21) (recoded from SSC3217 from 2017-18)

SOC3318 Economic Change and Social Stratification (3 credits)
(deleted from 2021-22)
(Restriction(s): Students are not allowed to take both this course and Social Stratification and Inequality (from 2025-26)/ SOC3338 Social Stratification (in 2024-25 or before).)
What is the role of the economy in social change? Why are some people - and some nations - richer and more powerful than others? What role does macroeconomic policy, social structure and power play in an economy's success or lack of it? How does stratification affect every aspect of life? To what extent are economic, cultural and political ideas and institutions becoming globalised? These are the key questions that this course will address. It does so by examining a range of theories of economic change and social stratification and by providing actual case studies of modern economies, Western and Asian.

SOC3320 Population Dynamics and Policy (3 credits)
(recoded from SSC3320 from 2020-21)
(deleted from 2024-25)
This course starts with an introduction to the global trends and patterns in fertility, mortality and migration. It is followed by discussions on the patterns and social consequences of various population policies aimed at monitoring population growth, structure, quality and movement. Special focuses will be put on the convergent and divergent of population dynamics and policies between the more developed and the less developed societies. Population issues and policies specific to Hong Kong will also be discussed.

SOC3323 Organisations and Bureaucracy (3 credits)
Organisations are a dominant component of contemporary society, and they affect almost every aspects of everyday life. Hence, they play a very important role in modern society. In this course, we will cover three major perspectives of organisations -- Rational Systems Perspective, Natural Systems Perspective, and Open Systems Perspective. These perspectives will add in the analysis of concepts and issues in organisations and bureaucracy. Topics such as workplace stress, leadership, conflict, as well as the issues related to changing organisational environment will be discussed.

SOC3327 Social Welfare and Social Problems in Hong Kong (3 credits)
(recoded from SSC3327 from 2020-21)
This course provides students with conceptual tools to understand and analyse social problems and social welfare policies in a cross-national perspective. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to critically assess problems, values, and institutions underpinning social welfare and social security policies, to understand the determinants of such policies in a cross-national perspective, and to understand the important social welfare policy models and paradigms. They will be equipped to apply these analytical principles to contemporary issues in social welfare and social security in Hong Kong and other countries.

SOC3330 Crime and Delinquency (3 credits)
(Prerequisite(s): (a) SOC2101 Introduction to Sociology)
This course aims to introduce students to the nature of crime and delinquency, its causes and correlations, several updated theories, as well as the current strategies being used to control and eliminate delinquency.

SOC3334 Science, Technology and Society (3 credits)
This course will examine and reflect on science and technology's impact on the world economically, politically, socially and environmentally. The course will start with examining the important questions of what science and technology are and their impacts in contemporary society. The focus will then shift to (1) the various theoretical underpinnings

of science and technology in society, (2) impacts of science and technology on international relations, social institutions, social groups and everyday life, and (3) the future of science and technology in human civilisation. The material presented in class will be supplemented with readings and students' reflections on their daily life experiences

SOC3335 Housing and Society (3 credits)
(recoded from SSC3002 from 2020-21)
This course explores key aspects of the relationship between housing and social structures. In doing so, it will introduce students to the important conceptual and policy debates in the housing field and draw on local, national and international examples. Students will be encouraged to reflect critically on contemporary housing issues and to connect academic and policy in housing to the wider social science literature.

SOC3336 Digital Society (3 credits)
(recoded from SSC3003 from 2020-21)
Contemporary modern life can be described as digital society, but also as mobile, networked, visual, and cyborg society. As most humanity increasingly lives in urban settings, this course seeks to look at how digital society is part of Sociology and the Smart cities we now live in. It addresses mobility, big data, risk, and the social consequences of our online lives. Students will explore the emergence of digital sociology and the topics of affordances, digitised social interactions, online communities, attention economy, algorithms, digital divides, research in the digital age, and the like. Ultimately, the course will prepare students for life and work in the digital society.

SOC3337 Smart Cities Seminar (3 credits)
(recoded from SSC3004 from 2020-21)
This course introduces the concept of Smart Cities, a vision of the 21st century city which has achieved global recognition. It provides an exploration of the key themes and emerging research in this important area. Drawing on the Hong Kong government's Smart Cities initiative, the courses includes a variety of seminars that introduce students to scholars, entrepreneurs, and policymakers, pioneering new urban models. The seminar is designed to include lecture components, seminars by guest speakers, field trips, and class course work. Drawing on interdisciplinary insights, this course orients students toward in indepth understanding of the diversity of the Smart Cities paradigm, and equips them for further study in connected courses.

SOC3338 Social Stratification and Inequality (from 2025-26)/ **Social Stratification** (in 2024-25 or before) **(3 credits)**
(Prerequisite(s): SOC2101 Introduction to Sociology)
(Restriction(s): Students are not allowed to take both this course and SOC3318 Economic Change and Social Stratification.)
This course introduces students to sociological perspectives on social stratification and inequality. In addition to classical theories proposed by the founders of sociology, students will learn state-of-the-art concepts and methods to understand the mechanisms and trends of social stratification and inequality through the lens of power, wealth/income, occupation/class, gender, race/ethnicity, education, religion, and genes, among others. Contents include a comparative perspective with emphasis in East Asia. Students will also conduct basic computational analyses, using secondary data, to investigate the implications of AI for social inequalities.

SOC3339 Global Health (3 credits) (recoded to SOC4339 from 2014-15)

SOC3340 Consumption and Society (3 credits)

Consumption activities constitute an important part of everyday life; consumer culture plays an important role in shaping our affinities and identities; consumption interweave politics, economics and social processes. This course addresses these issues through the sociology of consumption - a sub-field in sociology which examines material cultures, identities, social inequalities, environmentalism, social movements, globalisation and more. Students will be introduced to the main issues and debates in the sociology of consumption, with a focus on topical issues that are particularly relevant to Hong Kong and the region.

SOC3341 Social Innovation Seminar: Dialogue with Change-Makers (3 credits)
(Restriction(s): Students who have completed HSM4005 Social Innovation and Social Enterprises are not allowed to take this course.)
Today's global challenges – from climate change to health emergencies and poverty – require citizens to have the vision of adopting innovative approaches to drive social change. With a growing role of the third sector in filling the space between the government and the private sector, more and more social innovators have emerged in the past decades as change agents aiming to build a better society in Hong Kong and elsewhere. This course provides an opportunity for students to understand how these change-makers lead in offering innovative solutions for some of the significant challenges encountered by modern societies.

SOC3342 Non-Profit Organizations and the Voluntary Sector (3 credits)
This course introduces the concepts of non-profit organization and the voluntary sector, with an emphasis on their application. The course will critically examine the development of local and international non-profit organizations in changing policy contexts, as well as the role of the voluntary sector in providing human services. Informed by relevant literature and research, this course will discuss the opportunities and challenges facing the organizations and practitioners involved in a range of non-profit activities, such as community development, volunteering, philanthropy, and so on. With this background knowledge, students will be equipped for their study, participation or career in community and non-profit services.

SOC3343 Understanding Social Impact (3 credits)
This course introduces the essential concepts and methods of evaluating social impact in relation to the field of social innovation and social entrepreneurship. Given the changing role of the non-profit sector and private enterprises in addressing social problems, it is of vital importance to prove and improve the social impact and social change that are generated by various intervention schemes. This involves the knowledge and skills to map out the stakeholder groups, to articulate the experiences and models of change, and to assess the social values being created. Against this backdrop, the conceptual and methodological approaches to social impact assessment (SIA) will be explored.

SOC3344 Measuring Society (3 credits)
(Prerequisite(s): SOC2101 Introduction to Sociology)
(Restriction(s): Students who have completed *SOC4102 Public Opinion and Opinion Survey*/*SOC4219 Methods and Practice of Social Survey* are not allowed to take this course.)
This course introduces students to different processes of data generation. Students will be equipped with the basic knowledge in survey methodology, including development of questionnaires, evaluation of questions, interviewing, nonresponse, post-collection processing of survey data, and practices for maintaining scientific integrity. In addition to basic knowledge of survey methodology, the course includes an overview of the generation processes of data that are found using novel computational methods such as online trace data, natural language processing, and AI-powered tools. Applying principles of theory-driven research, the course delves into the integration of theory in the data generation

process with applications in diverse fields, such as social stratification, cultural sociology, or subjective well-being. Upon finishing this course, students will develop their understanding of different processes of data generation for applications in the academia and the industry. The course does not require previous knowledge of any statistical software because students will be introduced to R from scratch.

SOC4001 Historical Justice and Collective Memory (3 credits)
How can we deal with the legacies of historical injustices and gross human rights violations? The course examines various measures of dealing with the past and their ability to meet diverging needs of divided societies. Namely, the course will examine the ability of various measures of justice to deal instances of historical injustices committed by Japan in Asia, the apartheid in South Africa, the military dictatorships in Argentina, Chile, and Myanmar; the communist regimes in Eastern Europe, war in former Yugoslavia, genocide in Rwanda and Cambodia, and other instances. It will focus on the ability of truth commissions, lustrations, trials, amnesties, reparations, and apologies to deal with these historical legacies and at the same time assess their ability to meet various social needs for justice and reconciliation. It is an interdisciplinary course that welcomes students of sociology, psychology, political science, history, philosophy and other subjects.

SOC4002 Gender and Society (3 credits)
(Restriction(s): Students are not allowed to take both this course and SOC3319 Family, Gender and Society)
Gender as a social division is integral to many individual experiences and actions, as well as social processes and phenomenon. The course surveys major theoretical perspectives on gender, from social evolutionary theories, systems theory, psychoanalytic theories to classic and contemporary feminist theories. Students will be introduced to research findings on gender-related issues in society, and are encouraged to engage with topical and relevant debates in the study of gender.

SOC4101 Qualitative Research Methods (3 credits)
(Prerequisite(s): SOC3101 Sociological Research Methods)
This course is designed for students opting for a disciplinary major (DM) in Sociology who want to learn more about the principles and applications of qualitative research methods. It will introduce students to the logic behind qualitative methods commonly used in the social sciences and the essentials for conducting sociological research. Through seminar presentations and discussions, students will be introduced to research design and different types of qualitative methods in research practice, such as interview techniques, ethnographic research, content analysis, participant observation, and focus group sessions. This course will benefit students who need to work on their Junior and/or Senior Thesis using qualitative methods.

SOC4102 Public Opinion and Opinion Survey (3 credits) (deleted from 2024-25)
From 2021-22
This course introduces students to social scientific perspectives on public opinion, including its impact on individuals and societies. In addition to basic theories, students will obtain practical skills to conduct an opinion survey independently whilst critically assessing the validity, applicability, and limitations of prior work. After learning relevant concepts and methods, students will be required to design and implement an opinion survey; analyse its result; and reflect the entire process of the survey for further development. This course is particularly useful for those who are interested in marketing and social research among others.

In 2020-21 or before
This course provides students with knowledge in the production and analysis of public opinion, as well as skills in undertaking an opinion survey. The relationship between public opinion and the process of opinion change will be discussed, followed by survey research methods commonly used in opinion studies. We will also examine social issues in relation to public opinion. The course will be useful for students who are interested in a career in marketing and social research.

SOC4103 Social Issues in Contemporary Chinese Societies (3 credits)
The aim of this course is to examine the emergence of the contemporary Chinese societies. Issues about wealth gap and poverty, labour, environmental issues, gender inequalities, one-child policy, ageing, migration, education, social security and health care system will be discussed. It will focus mainly on studying the issues in mainland China, and analysing some related issues in Hong Kong, Taiwan as well as overseas Chinese. The nature of the selected key social issues and their possible causes will be critically examined using sociological concepts and theories. Their social and economic implications to Chinese societies will also be discussed. This course provides students with a solid understanding of the issues in current Chinese societies.

SOC4104 Special Topics in Sociological Analysis (3 credits)
This course is designed for students opting for a disciplinary major (DM) in Sociology. A select number of topics in sociological analysis will be introduced and discussed in class. Faculty members and guest speakers will share with students their current research interests and specialties in the field. Through seminar discussions and presentations, students will be familiarised with how sociological analysis is done by practising professionals, and how these selected issues impact and relate to society and individuals. Weekly seminars will provide an opportunity for students to raise questions and to participate in discussions, thereby deepening their understanding of issues involved in sociological analysis.

SOC4213 Risk, Society and Modernity (3 credits)
From 2017-18
The concept of 'risk society' has been influential in understanding contemporary society and the challenges of global modernity. How does society manage concerns about globalisation, climate change and terrorism in an increasingly complex and interdependent world? How have everyday activities such as commuting, travel, eating and exercise become risky pursuits in light of growing uncertainties in human knowledge and professional expertise? How do governments, the media and the public exert influence on risk-related policies at the local and global level? It is these kinds of questions that the course will tackle in reference to key contributions to the wider social science literature on 'risk'.

In Term 2, 2016-17 or before
Over the past decade, 'risk society' has become one of the most fertile fields of sociological and cross-disciplinary investigation. The focus of early modernity may be preoccupied with wealth accumulation, but in late modernity concerns about risk distribution and man-made hazards have emerged as important themes that span our identities, social discourses and public policies.

This course examines risks in modernity such as environmental pollution, mutating epidemics, food safety and financial crises. Theoretical concepts are mainly based on 'risk society' by Ulrich Beck and Anthony Giddens; cases are drawn from social issues close to our lives.

SOC4217 Quantitative Research Methods (from 2020-21)/
Statistics for Social Sciences (in 2019-20 or before) **(3 credits)**
(recoded from SOC3217 from 2020-21)

The course is designed to provide research training in quantitative statistics and aims to help students to develop practical skills in data analysis, using a standard statistical package (SPSS).

The course covers much of the subject matter taught on a traditional statistics course, but focuses in particular on the analysis of survey data. It demonstrates statistical techniques using real questionnaire data from contemporary research projects conducted in Hong Kong and/or elsewhere.

Students will learn how to critically interpret the results of quantitative analyses and to write up their own results in a clear and informed manner. The course is also designed to help students to go on to learn more specialised techniques as required in any further quantitative research that they may undertake.

SOC4219 Methods and Practice of Social Survey (3 credits)
(recoded from SSC4219 from 2020-21) (deleted from 2024-25)

This course is a practical course. It starts with the conceptual knowledge about the nature, logic and process of social survey. It is followed by the learning of the procedure of survey design, including such areas as setting research questions and hypothesis, conducting literature review, constructing theoretical or analytical framework, measuring variables, defining population and choosing sampling methods, conducting pretest and validity and reliability tests, and processing data and analyzing data. Finally, students will be taught the guidelines and format of writing a research report.

SOC4321 Social Justice (3 credits)

(Prerequisite(s): (a) SOC2101 Introduction to Sociology, or (b) Grade D or above in AL Sociology, or (c) GOV2101 Introduction to Political Science (coded as POL2101 in 2021-22 or before)

Social justice is concerned with the ways in which valued resources are distributed in society. This is a topic of interest and importance for a wide range of academic disciplines, including sociology, public and social policy, social theory, political philosophy. Students will be introduced theories and concepts on social justice, as well as their application to contemporary social issues such as equality, equity, rights and discrimination.

SOC4324 Work and Occupation (3 credits)

From 2020-21

In this course, we will discuss multi-disciplinary approaches to work and occupations across time and in modern society. Many adults spend almost a third of their time working in the paid labor force each week, and yet, working in the labor force is not the only type of work that people engage in. We will discuss the many types of work that people do every day and we will examine a variety of perspectives on work and occupations.

In 2019-20 or before

Most people are engaged in work throughout or part of their adult lives. Work accounts for a greater part of their days. Fresh graduates, in particular, concern the most about the roles as future workers. Given the tremendous importance of work in one's life, understanding of work world in advance is both intellectually satisfying and pragmatic. This course as an upper-level sociology course will gain a general understanding of the multi-disciplinary approach to understand work and occupation across time and in modern society.

SOC4328 Ageing, Adaptation and Change (from Term 2, 2021-22)/
Ageing, Modernisation and Adaptation (in Term 1, 2021-22 or before) **(3 credits)**
(recoded from SSC4328 from 2020-21)

From Term 2, 2021-22

The world has been undergoing unprecedented changes brought by modernization, urbanization, globalization and technological developments. This course critically reflects on how such changes have impacted the way of life, social status, and quality of life of older persons. Focusing on older persons in Hong Kong, China, Asia and beyond, it starts with an examination on the social perception and image of older persons and later life, followed by a discussion of the positive and negative impacts of socio-economic and technological changes on older persons. More importantly, it discusses how older persons experience and make adaptation to such changes in local and international contexts. In response to population ageing and extended longevity, this course invites students to rethink their own perception towards ageing and their role in building an age-friendly society that benefits both the young and the old.

In Term 1, 2021-22 or before

This course tries to re-examine the relevancy and applicability of the various theories in explaining the social status and quality of life of older persons in the modern word. It also tries to decode the cultural stereotypes about ageing and older persons. It starts with an examination on the functional relationship between modernization and population ageing. It is followed by the discussions about the impacts of modernization on social and economic well-being of older persons in later life. In response to extended longevity, the course advocates students of the importance of pre-retirement planning and highlights the ways to achieve successful ageing.

SOC4329 Global Health (3 credits) (recoded from SOC4339 from 2015-16)
(recoded from SSC4339 from 2020-21)

(Restriction(s): Students are not allowed to take both this course and SOC4333 Health, Illness and Behaviour)

This course explores changes in health globally and considers how these may have emerged over time and how they are likely to develop as well as how these are seen locally and in the region. It asks many questions. What is global health (GH)? How is GH changing and what is likely to happen in different areas? What factors or risks affect health? Are health status and health risks becoming more or less similar in different places? How is health affected by human activities such as urbanization, conflicts, politics and environment? We see and hear of examples locally and globally every day. The course alerts participants to the existing, emerging and potential risk factors and behaviour influencing GH patterns. It will consider how health policies, health services and technology have, with varying success, attempted to address health needs of people in different locations around the globe. Examples are seen in all regions including the Asia-Pacific and especially Hong Kong, which is situated at the centre of travel and other networks.

SOC4339 Global Health (3 credits) (recoded to SSC4339 from 2015-16)

SOC4340 Digitisation and Datafication of Social Policy (3 credits)
(from 2026-27)

This course introduces the concepts of digital social policy and digital welfare, with an emphasis on how digital technologies reshape the landscape of social policy and delivery of public service. The course will critically examine the sociotechnical challenges facing welfare states and social protection in changing contexts of digital capitalism and platform economy, as well as the interplay between state, market, and society. Informed by relevant

literature in the fields of social policy and sociology, this course will discuss the dynamics of digital platforms, AI, datafication, platformisation, and automation, such as digital citizenship, algorithmic power, digital inequalities, and digital health. With this background knowledge, students will be equipped for their study, participation or career in social services and the public sector.

SOC4341 Integrative Seminar in Global Media and Society (3 credits)
(from 2026-27)
(Prerequisite(s): One Social Science Research Methods course)
(Note: Students should preferably have completed SOC3102 Mass Communication or SOC3336 Digital Society or SOC3202 Contemporary Sociological Theory.)
People rely on the media to learn the latest news in faraway places. Legacy media such as newspapers and TV used to shape our perceptions of other communities. In the digital age, the interconnectedness of the internet has fundamentally changed the dynamics of international communication. This course addresses this social transformation, both online and offline, through three steps. First, students will learn the historical and theoretical perspectives that scrutinize global media systems. Systemic change of the media landscape vis-à-vis social change in the digital age will be discussed. In this seminar-style course, students will complete their readings before class and bring in their knowledge in various fields to contribute to an interdisciplinary discussion in class. Second, students will utilize their analytical skills in social science to examine the intersections between media and social issues worldwide. Digital media is more than a platform for communicating current affairs, but a field where actors actively shape trajectories of publics and policies. Finally, the internet empowered users to be prosumers of information. It becomes essential to learn and grow abilities in actively engaging and producing digital media content. After the course, students will be capable of interacting in the global digital media on social issues effectively, as well as informing policymaking and communicating policy change.