

SOC3101 Sociological Research Methods (3 credits)

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.

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?

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.