

**Hong Kong Shue Yan University  
Minor Programme**

**Department of Sociology**

**Minor Programme Offered: Minor in Sociology**

**(Available for Year 1 Entry: 2021 cohort onwards; Year 2 Entry: 2022 cohort onwards; Year 3 Entry: 2023 cohort onwards)**

- 1) Students are required to complete a minimum of 15 credits by choosing 1 Compulsory course, 1 course at Level 2 and 3 courses at Level 3 and 4:

<b>Course List</b>			
<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Pre-requisite(s)</b>
<b>Compulsory Course</b>			
SOC107	Understanding Sociology	3	NIL
<b>Choose 1 course at Level 2</b>			
SOC206*	Social Stratification	3	NIL
SOC231	Social Problems	3	NIL
SOC259	Race and Ethnicity	3	NIL
<b>Choose 3 courses at Level 3 and 4</b>			
SOC301 <sup>#</sup>	Hong Kong in a Global World	3	NIL
SOC302*	Environmental Sociology	3	NIL
SOC307	Entrepreneurship and Society	3	NIL
SOC308	Culture, Heritage and Society	3	NIL
SOC321 <sup>#</sup>	Economic Sociology	3	NIL
SOC333	Urban Sociology	3	NIL
SOC337*	Criminology	3	NIL
SOC339	Sociology of Religion	3	NIL
SOC341	Sociology of Development	3	NIL
SOC356 <sup>#</sup>	Gender Relations	3	NIL
SOC410	Sociology of Organizations	3	NIL
SOC440*	Collective Behaviour and Social Movements	3	NIL

\* Newly added courses from 2023/24AY

<sup>#</sup> Removal of courses from 2023/24AY

*Remark: The course list is subject to change without prior notice.*

**DESCRIPTION OF COURSES (MINOR IN SOCIOLOGY)**

**Soc. 107 Understanding Sociology**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course provides a concise introduction to sociology for non-major students and enables them to obtain a better understanding of human society. This course concentrates upon the key paradigms in sociology, the importance of culture and socialization, the dynamics of social interactions in everyday life, and various essential institutions of modern society.

**Soc. 206 Social Stratification**

**(Newly added course from 2023/24AY)**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

The course introduces students to the key sociological concepts and theories concerning social stratification. It aims to assist students in developing specific knowledge and analytic skills necessary to evaluate the sources, patterns, and consequences of social stratification systems in contemporary society.

### **Soc. 231 Social Problems**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course aims to give students a comprehensive understanding of the conceptual framework of social problems, and to appraise the various perspectives in studying and solving social problems. The course also critically reviews a selection of contemporary social problems at the individual, societal, and global levels.

### **Soc. 259 Race and Ethnicity**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

With colonization, globalization and migration, societies have become much more heterogeneous than before. Even countries that are not migrant societies now have to deal with ethnic minorities and the challenge of multiculturalism. This course examines social differentiation based on notions of race and ethnicity. Such notions will be explored in both colonial and postcolonial contexts, as well as societies that claim to be relatively homogeneous. This course will introduce major theories, issues, controversies will be encouraged to reflect on the existence of ethnic minorities in the contexts of China and Hong Kong, and the challenges this poses for both state and society.

### **Soc. 301 Hong Kong in a Global World (To be removed from 2023/24AY)**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course enables students to reflect upon the formation of Hong Kong in relation to colonial encounter, Cold War and the contemporary global politics. An interdisciplinary approach is adopted in order to articulate the varying social, cultural and political impacts upon Hong Kong's Chinese identity from the changing global order. The overall objective is not to give more facts but instead analytical concepts and skills for students to make sense of the interplay between the global world and the society in which they live.

### **Soc. 302 Environmental Sociology (Newly added course from 2023/24AY)**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

*Environmental Sociology* provides a framework for understanding the relationship between human societies and the physical environment. The main objectives of this course are to introduce students to research in environmental sociology and to reveal how sociological perspectives can inform our understanding of how human activity has contributed to the current ecological crisis. This course will present a broad spectrum of theoretical perspectives and research methods employed by environmental sociologists to analyse and evaluate existing efforts in mitigating global and local environmental problems.

### **Soc. 307 Entrepreneurship and Society**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course will introduce a rigorous sociological approach to study both social and commercial entrepreneurship and the role of entrepreneurship in enhancing balanced development of the community. This course will first introduce the principles of entrepreneurship including the economics of entrepreneurship and innovation, how to attract talents and how to develop creativity. Second, it will examine what social enterprises are and how they relate to social economy. It explores responsible management in relation to the sustainability of social enterprises, including how social entrepreneurs generate income, how to secure social and ethical capital, and how to measure social impact assessment. Third, it will discuss the challenges faced by entrepreneurship in enhancing sustainable development in the community.

### **Soc. 308 Culture, Heritage and Society**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course examines the intersection between culture and heritage, and the impact that they have on modern society. This course articulates heritage as a cultural fact and looks into how it organizes meaning in everyday life, with implications for the production of cultural identities and capitalistic consumption. The course also surveys the different ways in which heritage issues have become increasingly important in the context of the nation-state. This course equips students with an understanding of how culture and heritage are relevant to different aspects of society and serves as an introduction to the Concentration on “Culture, Heritage and Innovation”.

### **Soc. 321 Economic Sociology (To be removed from 2023/24AY)**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course provides a broader understanding of the social aspects of the economy in our society. It involves a sociological examination of the structure and organization of economic institutions, relations and networks that form the basis of our economic system. At the end of the course, students will gain an in-depth understanding of how economic activities are embedded in, conditioned, modified and determined by social relations, structures and values.

### **Soc. 333 Urban Sociology**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course introduces students to a range of topics in urban sociology. It starts with the history of urban life and urban theories. It then proceeds to investigate the relationship between urban space and social life through analysing the spatial structure and social aspects of public space in local and global contexts. The second half of the course focuses on current issues around the making of livable and sustainable cities, including the study of social networks, urban problems, sustainability, redevelopment and globalization. By comparing the similarities or differences between Hong Kong and other global cities, students can make use of local and global cases to evaluate cities, communities, and their consequences.

### **Soc. 337 Criminology (Newly added course from 2023/24AY)**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course aims to introduce the study of crime, criminal behaviour, and criminalization. It will offer a general overview of the history and development of criminology and identify the multi-disciplinary perspectives on crime and criminal behaviour. It will also examine various research methods that are used to collect crime data, as well as their strengths and limitations. Towards the end of this course, we will assess the criminal justice system in Hong Kong, as compared to other countries, and will discuss effective methods for the prevention of crime.

### **Soc. 339 Sociology of Religion**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

Religious resurgence around the world in recent decades has prompted reconsideration of the proposition that religion declines as modernization progresses. What are the controversies over secularization? What are the implications and consequences of the shift towards rational scientific paradigm for the sociology of religion? This course explores the distinctive features of religion and examines the different ways of studying it. The first half of this course deals with theoretical perspectives. It discusses classical theories of religion articulated by Marx, Durkheim, and Weber, as well as contemporary theories such as rational choice theory. It addresses some methodological issues related to studying religion. The second half of this course deals with a range of substantive topics including individual religiosity, religious organizations and movements, fundamentalism, gender and religion, mysticism, and problems of rationality.

### **Soc. 341 Sociology of Development**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

The course introduces students to the key sociological concepts and theories concerning social transformation and development processes with a special focus on developing countries. It aims to assist students in developing specific knowledge and analytic skills necessary to explore various substantive development problems and issues faced by Third World countries. Topics covered include decolonization, neo-colonialism, industrialization, democratization, debt crisis and globalization.

### **Soc. 356 Gender Relations**

**(To be removed from 2023/24AY)**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course introduces a series of gender issues through feminist critiques, history, cultural studies, political science and, above all, sociological analysis. The first half of the course concentrates upon the gender structures, ideologies and practices from cultural, social, economic, daily and political dimensions. The second half of the course explores the nature of patriarchal system, the roots of women's subordination, the gender negotiation process and feminist movements. Upon completion of this course, students could do feminist observation and critical research of the gender circumstance in the Chinese society they live.

### **Soc. 410 Sociology of Organizations**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course aims to provide students with a deeper understanding of the nature of complex organizations in a modernized, industrialized and urbanized setting. In this context, organizations are viewed as structural entities as well as dynamic processes that exert immense influences on individuals, groups, institutions and societies in the areas of economic, political, social and even cultural development.

### **Soc. 440 Collective Behaviours and Social Movement**

**(Newly added course from 2023/24AY)**

**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course enables students to analyse social movement and contentious politics through a sociological lens. The main objectives of this course are to examine research in the sociology of contentious politics and to reveal how sociological perspectives can inform our understanding of state-society dynamics. This course will present a broad spectrum of theoretical perspectives and research methods employed by sociologists to study social movement.