

Hong Kong Shue Yan University
Minor Programme for the Academic Year 2016/17

Department of Sociology

Minor Programme Offered: Minor in Sociology

- 1) Students are required to complete a minimum of 15 credits by choosing 5 courses out of the 10 courses offered:

Course List			
<i>Course Code</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Pre-requisite(s)</i>
<i>Compulsory Course</i>			
SOC107	Understanding Sociology	3	NIL
<i>Choose 1 course at Level 2</i>			
SOC231	Social Problems	3	NIL
SOC259	Race and Ethnicity	3	NIL
<i>Choose 3 courses at Level 3 and 4</i>			
SOC301	Hong Kong in a Global World	3	NIL
SOC321	Economic Sociology	3	NIL
SOC333	Urban Sociology	3	NIL
SOC339	Sociology of Religion	3	NIL
SOC341	Sociology of Development	3	NIL
SOC356	Gender Relations	3	NIL
SOC410	Sociology of Organizations	3	NIL

* *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. 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 and policy implications related to the governance of multi-ethnic societies. At the same time, students 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

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. 321 Economic Sociology

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. 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

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.