Course Title: Understanding Social Problems in Hong Kong

Course Code: C C S S 4 0 0 5

Aims and Objective

This course aims at introducing various issues of social concerns and related sociological perspectives and theories to students through discussion of selected social problems in Hong Kong. The course has two components – the first component focuses on sociological perspectives and theories, whereas the second component deals with selected case studies in Hong Kong. Emphasis will be placed on how sociological perspectives can be applied to the selected problems and what arguments and understandings in relation to Hong Kong society could be achieved.

Intended Learning Outcomes of the Course

On completion of the module, students should be able to

ILO1. explain concepts and theories that are related to the study of social problems;
ILO2. describe different social problems in Hong Kong;
ILO3. develop sociological reasoning to explain social problems in Hong Kong by applying concepts and theories;
ILO4. develop related understandings on the nature of Hong Kong society through the study of local social problems.

Syllabus

Theoretical Perspectives

1. Functionalism
   a. Structure and function
   b. Merton’s theory of strains towards anomie

2. Labelling Perspective
   a. The creation of label,
   b. The application of label, and
   c. The reaction to label

3. Marxism
   a. Superstructure and infrastructure
   b. Exploitation
4. Feminism
   a. Sex and gender
   b. Patriarchy

Problems

Any five of the following issues

5. Youth Problem
   a. Youth problem
   b. Problematic Youth

6. Poverty and welfare abuse
   a. Absolute poverty, relative poverty, and social exclusion
   b. “CSSA feeds the lazy”

7. Exploitation and Working Poor
   a. Unemployment and underemployment
   b. Marginal workers and the working poor

8. Population and Ageing problem
   a. Demographic Transition Model and the Population Pyramid
   b. Trends in Birth Rate and Fertility Rate

9. Hong Kong-Mainland Conflict
   a. The Basic Law and the historical background
   b. 2003 measures – CEPA and Individual Visitors Scheme
   c. Recent trends

10. Domestic Violence
    a. Trends and Statistics
    b. Causes and government measures

Assessment

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Assessment (Weighting)</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continuous Assessment (50%)</td>
<td>Group project and presentation (20%)</td>
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<td>Class participation (10%)</td>
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<td>Term paper (20%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examination (50%)</td>
<td>Written Examination</td>
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</tbody>
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Pre-requisite(s)

Nil
### Required and Recommended Reading

**Suggested Reading:**

19. 邵家臻：《逆構青年》（香港：香港政策透視，2001）
20. 黃洪：(香港勞工的邊緣化與勞工政策) 收於陳錦華、王志錚編：《香港社會政策評論》（香港：中文大學出版社，2004）
21. 黃洪、李劍明：(香港貧窮線研究)（香港：香港城市大學社會科學部，2002）
23. 呂大樂：《四代香港人》（香港：進一步多媒體，2007）
24. 謝均才編：《我們的地方, 我們的時間：香港社會新編 - Our place, our time : a new introduction to Hong Kong Society》（香港：香港牛津大學出版社，2002）

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