

For students admitted from 2017/2018 onwards

Course Description

SOCB110 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

This course is designed to study how society works, (e.g. culture, groups and societies), why it works that way (e.g. socialization, social interaction, conflict theory, functionalism), in what way we are all affected (e.g. gender, race, class, deviance), and in what way we can change society (e.g. social movements). By the end of the course, students should understand society better and their relation to it more clearly.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB111 READING SOCIOLOGY

This course aims to inculcate students with the basic reading skills that are necessary for understanding sociological literature, and in this way to acquaint students with the distinctive approach of sociology as an academic discipline and a way of seeing. Foundational concepts such as culture and social interaction are introduced by way of intensively reading elementary and classic texts. By the time the students finish this course, they should be able to read and analyze sociological texts with a reasonable level of language proficiency and intellectual literacy.

Pre-requisite: Sociology majors only

SOCB120 INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY

Anthropology is the study of the human species in all its aspects: biological, social and cultural; behavioral and psychological; spiritual and symbolic; historic, environmental and material. This course concentrates on the multiple dimensions of cultural anthropology, or what it means to be human, through an examination of different cultures, topics and case studies taken from around the world. Goals of the course include appreciation of the variety and range of human achievement, the understanding of change and progress, and the imagination of alternative possibilities for much of what we take for granted in everyday life.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB121 SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS

This course introduces to students some of the basic concepts and practices of social research as adopted and codified by social sciences in general and sociology in particular. Comprehensive treatment of major research methods, including survey, in-depth interview, ethnography, and comparative-historical method, will be offered. The logic of social research will also be discussed, with the purpose of clarifying fundamental issues such as the nature of causality and correlation, the criterion and procedure of scientific falsification, etc. Methodological problems in the broad sense, such as the distinction among positivist, interpretive and critical approaches to social reality, will be covered as well.

Pre-requisite: Sociology majors only

SOCB210 SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

This course introduces and familiarizes sociology students with the major theoretical paradigms as they have emerged and evolved in the classical foundation and contemporary development of the discipline. Accordingly the course is intended to be at once analytical and historical, examining the shifting contexts within which various concepts and approaches have been formulated. We will focus on four sociological traditions, namely, rational choice, class analysis, institutional analysis, and symbolic interactionism. The course will also highlight the relevance and applicability of these perspectives to real social life.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB220 SOCIAL STATISTICS

The primary purpose of this course is to provide students with the basic skills and understanding to conduct data analysis in social research. It aims to equip students with the statistical techniques used most commonly by social scientists. In addition, students are also instructed on the relationship between social theory and empirical analysis. At the end of the course, students should be able to understand research reports in social science publications and in the mass media, and should also be able to evaluate the accuracy and adequacy of the conclusions reached.

Pre-requisite: SOCB121 Social Research Methods

SOCB250 POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

This course examines major theoretical questions about power, politics, and the state from a sociological perspective. We will explore the dynamics of political institutions and processes, on the basis of which issues concerning state formation and nationalism, social movements, globalization, political culture and participation, and civil society etc. will be discussed.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB251 SOCIAL STRATIFICATION AND INEQUALITY

This course overviews the major sociological approaches to the study of social stratification and inequality. We begin with an examination of the concepts of social stratification and social inequality, with an emphasis on the major dimensions of stratification including caste, class, gender, and ethnicity. The consequences of stratification on life chances and life style and on social mobility will be explored. The empirical relevance of these issues to the changing stratification system of Macao will also be addressed.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB252 DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBALIZATION

In its connotations of growth and progress, the concept of development never fails to occupy a prominent place in public and sociological discourses. In recent years the terms of debate have been recast with reference to the seemingly inevitable trend of globalization. In this course, development and globalization in all their diverse models and forms will be

covered. We will first examine the causes and consequences of economic growth, political democratization and social development, and then discuss the dialectical relationship between globalization and localization as well as the correlative growth of global interconnectedness and inequalities. Upon completing this course, students should have a renewed understanding of how “we” are all connected in one single albeit profoundly unequal world.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB253 QUALITATIVE SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS

This course is designed to introduce students to the principles and methods of qualitative research. It aims to guide students to appreciate the value of qualitative research as well as to get a practical grasp of a variety of qualitative research strategies and techniques. We will examine some of the main methods used by qualitative researchers in social sciences and in particular sociology such as participant observation, interviewing, documentary research, and content analysis etc. Our examination will consist of both readings and actual practice. The purpose is not only to understand the comparative strengths and weaknesses of each method but also to gain experience using them.

Pre-requisite: SOCB121 Social Research Methods

SOCB256 SOCIOLOGY OF DEVIANCE

We will study how and why certain behaviors are considered dangerous enough to deserve negative sanctions, how deviant careers are socially constructed, and how deviants and conventional society cope with each other. In addition to theories, we will study criminal behavior, drug use, heterosexual and homosexual deviance, physical deviance such as body piercing and tattooing, religious deviance, and mental disorders, etc.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB257 SOCIOLOGY OF GAMING

This course will cover topics related to gaming and society. We will examine briefly the history of the gaming industry in leading casino cities, and the social consequences generated by it. This course will focus on four tendencies in the development of the gaming industry: legalization, popularization, entertainment, and modernization. The development of Macao’s casino industry and the challenges it faces will be emphasized.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB259 ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY

This course addresses the complex and often problematic relationships and connections between humans and natural and built environments by examining how cultures and societies construct knowledge about nature and attribute value to it, how they use or abuse environments and resources, and how human activity, culture and social organization have always been deeply linked to the natural, material world. It also examines how factors such as gender, race, class, ethnicity, and cultural/historical experience influence the ways people perceive, understand, interact with, and are affected by the environments in which

they live.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB262 THEORY IN ANTHROPOLOGY

This course examines why theory matters and how and why anthropological theories have influenced and been influenced by empirical studies of human communities and on-going debates about culture. We will discover why theory in anthropology has often been contentious, controversial, and marked by many productive disagreements and varieties of approach. The goals are to foster critical understanding of the aims and scope of any theory by examining, in historical context, the ideas of some of the discipline's most influential thinkers and evaluating their continued relevance to contemporary research.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB263 CRIMINOLOGY

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the major issues in the field of criminology, i.e., various approaches to criminology, concepts of crime and law, theories of crime causation, types of crime, and the criminal justice system. In other words, we are studying the what, why and how of crime and justice. The course is characterized by class discussions, presentations, mini-lectures, guest lectures, field trips, videos, and a major research project

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB264 DRUGS AND CRIME

This course considers issues in alcohol misuse, licit and illicit drug use, and the criminal justice system. An emphasis on social science research methodology will frame each sub-topic with current and classic, state-of-the art research studies providing evidence associating alcohol misuse, drug abuse, and criminality. The link between drugs and crime will be thoroughly examined, and policy questions and approaches will be considered.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB265 GAMBLING AND CRIME

This course explores the connections and relationships between legalized casino gambling and crimes such as loan sharking, money laundering, prostitution, drug trafficking, and employee theft. We will examine the particular social milieu created by casinos and gambling-related entertainment venues, analyze the social and business contexts that may or may not encourage such crimes, and evaluate programmes and policies designed to prevent or limit their occurrence.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB266 MACAO SOCIETY

This course intends to familiarize students with the political, economic, and social aspects of Macao and to foster better understanding of how it has developed to what it is today. We will examine issues like the political and economic transformations of Macao, the clash or cooperation of civilizations, religious life of people both Chinese and Portuguese,

literature and the arts about Macao, and social issues and problems. By the end of the class, students should have a very good idea of Macao's political, economic, cultural, and social past, present, and future.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB267 CHINESE SOCIETY

The course is structured not as an historical chronology but rather as a thematic discussion of some of the major issues in contemporary China. We will explore the basic institutional make-up of Chinese society, the structural changes brought forth in the reform era, and the impacts on the daily existence of the people therein. It is expected that after taking the course, students would not just know, but could also make sense of, what is going on in Chinese society today

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB269 POLICING

This course aims to provide students with a criminological understanding of police and policing in a historical and comparative perspective. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to master key concepts and theories of policing; critically analyze various issues and controversies on contemporary policing; understand social structural factors in shaping police practice in a given country; locate a local police issue in a historical and global context; and understand future development of policing.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB350 GENDER AND SOCIETY

This course studies how pervasive gender is in organizing our social life. We shall examine how gender organizes everything from our sense of personal identity to our daily face-to-face interactions, and how gender is embedded in institutions such as the family, labor market, religious institutions, and the state. The aim is to provide students with sociological ways of thinking about gender.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB352 SURVEY METHODS AND SAMPLING

This course aims to teach students how to design a questionnaire and implement surveys using simple random, systematic, stratified, clustered or multistage sampling designs. Students are also expected to learn how to estimate sample size, test hypothesis and adjust for non-response upon successfully completing this course.

Pre-requisite: SOCB121 Social Research Methods

SOCB353 INTERNSHIP

This course is designed as a field practice course. Students will learn how to apply what they have learnt in class to a practical situation. They are expected to write reports and meet with the instructor regularly, in groups and/or in person, to share their experiences and discuss what they have learnt.

Pre-requisite: With instructor's approval

SOCB354 LAW AND SOCIETY

This course examines the legal order as an established institution and how it interacts with our social life. We shall discuss the various approaches to law, the impact of law on our behavior and hence our daily lives, law and social change, legal equality, and the negotiations of the legal order, etc.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB355 RELIGION AND SOCIETY

This course examines the various approaches and studies pertaining to the complex interrelationships between religion and society. Some of the major themes it covers include: the classic secularization debate, sect and cult as the agents of religious and social change, the social and symbolic functions of ritual, the ambiguous power relationship between church and the state, the role of different religions in the making of modern civil society, as well as the resurgence of religions in the age of globalization. Examples from religions in Macao and other societies will be used in the illustration and discussion of relevant concepts and theories.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB356 SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION

This course examines the articulation of education with the broader social system. The various issues of educational attainment, ideologies and hidden curriculums, classroom as an interaction system between teachers and students, and the role of social, symbolic and cultural capitals in the determination of educational success and the reproduction of society, will be discussed.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB357 SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

This course will engage students with some of the larger theoretical debates in the study of social movements and the broader area of contentious politics. We will be concerned with the social and political context of protest, focusing on the circumstances in which social movements emerge and the political tactics and strategies involved. We will also examine the ways social movements are related to other forms of contention. In this exercise, the "voices", "silences", and emotions engendered in contentious politics will be given particular attention.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB361 URBAN ANTHROPOLOGY

More and more people in today's world live in cities. This course examines the special and often unique problems and challenges of both urban living and doing anthropological research on distinctly urban cultures, lifestyles and communities. Topics include the material and symbolic implications of increased urbanization worldwide; continuity and change in urban cultures; new opportunities, values and ways of life made possible in cities; concepts of space and place; and the conflicts and problems generated by recent trends

in urban policy, planning, community development, and environmental impacts.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB362 CULTURE AND GLOBAL TOURISM

Tourism is now one of the world's largest industries and virtually no place on earth is untouched by its grasp. This course provides students with the tools to critically evaluate the effects of tourism, for both good and ill, upon cultures and communities at local, national, and regional levels. Topics include the relationships between culture, education and wealth and the impact of tourism upon social stratification; culture as symbol, as commodity, and as entertainment in a global marketplace of ideas and experiences; internal versus externally directed cultural expressions; cultural resource management; and the ability or inability of communities to sustain, enhance or develop distinctive, locally relevant cultural expressions in the face of increased access to and interest in travel and the consumption of culture on a global scale.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB363 CULTURE, ETHNICITY AND TRANSNATIONALISM

The course questions old, place-based models of culture and ethnicity by examining a range of new, cutting-edge theories that see them as dynamic and shifting processes no longer confined to separate or discrete culture areas, nations or regions. Questions addressed include how new forms of communication technology, travel, and the increased ability of people and ideas to move quickly around the world have created new conditions, requirements and possibilities for social action, cultural expression, and the realization of ethnic and other identities. Topics include the concept of thinking globally but acting locally; new media as resources for the projection of local concerns onto a global stage; and the development of transnational networks that provide economic, educational, social, and cultural support to the organization of new social movements and cultural communities separated by distance throughout the world.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB364 COMMUNITY AND CRIME

This course introduces contemporary literature on neighborhoods and crime. Community has been in the center of social and criminological research. Both quantitative research and ethnographic studies have considered community as a focal point where social processes occur. The classical theories of "Chicago School" have had a profound influence on contemporary perspectives on community and crime. This course will be organized around both theoretical and methodological debates in the neighborhood effects literature to discuss the role of community in crime and social problems.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB365 SOCIAL CHANGE AND CRIME

This course addresses problems of social control, crime and criminal justice in the context of profound social change in mainland China and Macao. Topics include crime trends, social sources of crime, theoretical explanations, Chinese approaches to social control,

crime control policy, and the criminal justice system, as well as some key issues in rule of law and contemporary Chinese criminal justice reform.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB366 HEALTH AND SOCIETY

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the major social variables—social class, race, gender, poverty, income distribution, social networks/support, community cohesion, the work and neighborhood environment—that affect population health. The course covers the theoretical underpinnings of each construct, and surveys the empirical research linking each to population health status. Methods are introduced to operationalize each construct for the purposes of empirical application in epidemiologic research.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB367 WHITE-COLLAR CRIME

This course provides an examination of theory and research in the field of white-collar crime. Classic theoretical works will be considered as well as contemporary writings. The course will begin with an introduction to the field, including definitional and theoretical issues regarding the areas of white-collar, occupational, organizational, and corporate crime. Following this, we will examine various forms of white-collar crime including: consumer crime, corporate crime, computer crime, and financial fraud. Finally, we will review salient issues regarding the causes, prevention, enforcement, and sanctioning of white-collar crime.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB368 GENES AND SOCIETY

The course focuses on how genetics can enrich the social sciences. Topics include an introduction to biometrics (inferring genetic influences using genetically related individuals); an introduction to basic principles of molecular genetics; joint influences of social contexts and genetic heritage to human behaviors; history of human evolution and contemporary race/ethnicity; evolutionary psychology; sex, gender, and genetics; ethnical, legal, and social issues in genetic studies; genetic testing; and epigenetics – the potential links between genes and environment.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB369 CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN CHINA

The landscape of crime and criminal justice system in China has under dramatic changes in the past six decades. While pre-reform China has been regarded as a “crime-free” society, the crime rate has soared in the recent three decades due to rapid industrialization, urbanization and modernization. China’s incarceration rate is around the world average, but its wide use of death penalty makes it one of the most punitive countries in the world. How to understand the unprecedented change of crime and Chinese government’s effort in controlling crime? What are similarities and differences of Chinese experience of crime and its control in a global perspective? This course will provide a criminological analysis on various issues on crime, policing and punishment in China.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB370 PSYCHOLOGY OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

This course focuses on biological, environmental and personality factors that influence delinquency and crime. Major topics of discussion will include psychopathology, maladjustment patterns, psychoses, personality disorders, alcohol and drug dependency, and the relationships between aforementioned factors and criminal behavior. The course may also cover offender profiling, sexual violence, and psychological treatment of criminal offenders.

Pre-requisite: None

(TBC) CRIME, DEVIANCE AND EVERYDAY LIFE

This course provides an illuminating glimpse into roots of criminal behavior, explaining how crime can touch us all in both small and large ways. Encouraging students to take a closer look at the true nature of crime and its effects on their lives, the course offers updated research on rational choice theory, routine activity theory, and opportunity theory as well as vivid examples of practical application of these criminological theories. It shows how opportunity is a necessary condition for crime to occur, while exploring realistic ways to reduce crime and improve security in natural and effective ways.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB410 HONOURS THESIS I

This course aims to help final-year students to consolidate and deepen their understanding of sociological perspectives by applying them to the analysis of social phenomena and specific issues. Students are responsible for defining a research topic, articulating a research problem, and designing a feasible research project. Emphasis will be put on training the competence of the students to position their research projects in the broader relevant fields of the discipline, and to conduct constructive dialogues with the existing literature.

Pre-requisite: Sociology majors only

SOCB450 HONOURS THESIS II

In this complementary course to the Research Project class, students will implement their research projects under instruction by chosen supervisors. Students will be guided throughout the process, from data collection through data analysis to report writing. At the end of the course, students are expected to produce theses that achieve an appropriate level of mastery of the theoretical and empirical issues involved.

Pre-requisite: SOCB410 Research Project and with instructor's approval

SOCB451 SELECTED TOPICS IN SOCIOLOGY

This course is designed to be highly flexible to allow examination and discussion of specific issues in sociology not included in the regular degree curriculum. Discussion topics will be selected by the instructor and may vary from year to year.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB452 SELECTED TOPICS IN ANTHROPOLOGY

This course is designed to be highly flexible to allow examination and discussion of specific issues in anthropology not included in the regular degree curriculum. Discussion topics will be selected by the instructor and may vary from year to year.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCB454 SOCIOLOGY OF CONSUMPTION AND LEISURE

Consumption and leisure is an intrinsic part of modern life and the dominant economy in Macao. But what is a “consumer society”? What is the essence of economic and social relationship in consumer society and how is it different from other ways of structuring society? What is “consumerist culture” that is blamed for causing family disintegration and social alienation? This course will take students through the key readings and theories on consumption and leisure and on modernity and globalization at large, which are built upon classical sociological theories. The theories will be combined with topical discussion and case studies.

Pre-requisite: Students are required to take and pass SOCB110, SOC111 and SOCB210 prior to this course