

Course Description (For Study Plan SOC22)

SOCY1000 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

SOCY1001 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: None

SOCY1002 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

SOCY1003 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: None

SOCY2000 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

SOCY2001 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: SOCY1003 Social Research Methods

SOCY2002 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

SOCY2003 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

SOCY2005 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: SOCY1003 Social Research Methods

SOCY2006 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

SOCY2007 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

SOCY2008 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

SOCY2009 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

SOCY2010 INTRODUCTION TO 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

SOCY2011 SOCIOLOGY OF ADDICTIVE BEHAVIOUR

This course will focus on several major types of addictive behaviour, including substance abuse, gambling addiction, Internet addiction, and video addiction. In each of these domains, we will discuss (1) the nature and distribution of the addictive behaviours; (2) the causes of the behaviours; (3) the psychological and social consequences of the behaviours; (4) the prevention and treatment of the addictive behaviours. Special focuses will be given to drug abuse and treatment in the greater China region, especially Macao and mainland China.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCY2015 POLICING

This course aims to provide students with a criminological understanding of police and policing in a historical and comparative perspective.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCY2016 CULTURAL SOCIOLOGY

Culture is one of the most complicated terms in the human vocabulary. It refers to particular cultural products and formats, such as arts, music, and literature, as well as the meanings, symbols, ideas, and habits that make us who we are. To familiarize students with the field, this course will explore major sociological approaches to culture (sociology of culture vs. cultural sociology) and introduce representative themes, theories, and methodological debates regarding culture. Students will also have opportunities to connect the cultural theories to their own life experiences, studying the significance of culture in political, economic, and social settings more generally.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCY3000 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, popular culture, national and international politics and welfare systems. The aim is to provide students with sociological ways of thinking about gender and sexuality.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCY3001 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: SOCY1003 Social Research Methods

SOCY3002 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: None

SOCY3004 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 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

SOCY3005 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

SOCY3006 SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND COLLECTIVE BEHAVIOUR

This course focuses on theories of social movements and collective behaviour through an examination of contemporary movements. The goal is for students to learn the analytic tools necessary to examine and critically assess the role of social movements in our society. Students will learn the theoretical frameworks and perspectives to understand social movements and collective actions. The selected texts include articles from academic journals and case studies of movements which will further our theoretical and conceptual understanding of social movements.

Pre-requisite: None

SOCY3007 FUNDAMENTALS OF URBAN STUDIES

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

SOCY3012 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

SOCY3013 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

SOCY3015 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

SOCY4000 RESEARCH PROJECT

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: None

SOCY4001 INDEPENDENT STUDY IN SOCIOLOGY

This course is designed to provide the student with an opportunity to gain or enhance sociological knowledge and to explore an area of interest related to sociology or criminology research under the supervision of a professor.

Pre-requisite: SOCY4000 Research Project

SOCY4002 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

SOCY4003 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

SOCY4004 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: SOCY1000 Introduction to Sociology, SOCY1001 Reading Sociology and SOCY2000 Sociological Theory