

City University of Hong Kong

**Information on a Course
offered by Department of Applied Social Sciences
with effect from Semester A in 2012/2013**

Part I

Course Title:	Applied Sociology
Course Code:	SS5400
Course Duration:	One semester
No. of Credit Units:	3
Level:	P5
Medium of Instruction:	English
Medium of Assessment:	English
Prerequisites: (Course Code and Title):	Nil
Precursors: (Course Code and Title):	Nil
Equivalent Courses: (Course Code and Title):	Nil
Exclusive Courses: (Course Code and Title):	Nil

Part II

Course Aims:

This course is to enable students to:

- Distinguish various sociological concepts and theories;
- Evaluate the adequacy and limitations of the concepts and theories;
- Analyze critically the impacts of social and technological changes on society; and
- Apply the theories and research in seeking improvements to public or organizational policies or programmes.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

No.	CILOs	Weighting
1.	Distinguish various concepts and theoretical paradigms of	30%

	the discipline;	
2.	Evaluate the adequacy and limitations of the concepts and theories;	20%
3.	Analyze critically the impacts of social and technological changes on society; and	30%
4	Apply the theories and research in seeking improvements to public or organizational policies or programmes.	20%

Teaching and learning Activities (TLAs)

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

CILO No.	TLA1	TLA2	TLA3	TLA4	Hours / course (if applicable)
CILO 1	√	√	√	√	
CILO 2	√	√	√	√	
CILO 3	√	√	√	√	
CILO 4	√	√		√	

TLA1: Lectures

To introduce sociological concept and theories, as well as to illustrate how sociological knowledge can be applied to improve public policies or to induce positive social changes.

TLA2: Individual Term Paper

Each student is required to submit a **term paper**, of not more than 3,000 words, to **critically evaluate some government policies, programmes or campaigns and make concrete recommendations on the ways of making improvements.**

TLA3: Class Assignments (individual / group)

Assignments are provided to help students understand the applications of sociological theories and related concepts.

TLA4: Individual Presentation

Each student is required to do a small presentation. The presentation should centre around an issue he/she is going to tackle.

Assessment Tasks/Activities

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

CILO No.	Type of Assessment Tasks/Activities	Weighting	Remarks
CILO 2-3	AT1: Individual Term Paper	30%	
CILO 1-4	AT2: Class assignments (Individual / Group)	30%	
CILO 1-3	AT3: In-class test	30%	
CILO 2-3	AT4: Individual presentation	10%	

AT1: Individual Term Paper

Each student has to write up a problem-solving proposal (2,500 words). And it should be about an applied research project which is supposed to improve an organization's sustainable development and it should be related to a specific sociological perspective/ problem-solving approach.

AT2: Class assignments (Individual / Group)

Both individual and group assignments on selected issues of academic and practical interests are introduced so as to assess students' understanding and application of sociological theories and related concepts.

AT3: In-class test

The in-class test (2 hours) consists of multiple-choice type and short questions testing on students' understanding of concepts and principles of applied sociology.

AT4: Individual presentation

Each student is required to do a presentation. The presentation is related to the problem-solving proposal that he/she is going to submit.

Grading of Student Achievement:

Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Degrees.

Letter Grade	Grading criteria in relation to CILOs
A+	Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of knowledge of applied sociology; evidence of extensive knowledge in applied sociology.
A	
A-	
B+	Evidence of grasp of applied sociology, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues in applied sociology; evidence of familiarity with literature.
B	
B-	
C+	Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of applied sociology; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.
C	
C-	
D	Sufficient familiarity with applied sociology to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.
F	Little evidence of familiarity with applied sociology; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.

Part III

1. Keyword Syllabus:

Origin and development of Applied and Clinical Sociology; The relationship between theory and practice; Roles of Sociologists; Sociology in applied settings; Developing Applied techniques: impact assessment, program development and evaluation; Improving Social Institutions: Organizational function and reengineering; Providing Social services: community networks, educational services, health services; mediation and leadership.

2. Recommended Reading:

Essential Readings

Darling, R. B. (2000). *The Partnership Model in Human Services: Sociological Foundations and Practices*. New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers.

Straus, R. A. (Ed.). (2002). *Using Sociology: An Introduction from the Applied and Clinical Perspectives* (3rd ed.). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Supplementary Readings

Bennis, W., & Goldsmith, J. (1994). *Learning to Lead: A Workbook on Becoming a Leader*. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley.

Bruhn, J. G. (2005). *The Sociology of Community Connections*. New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers.

Bruhn, J. G., & Rebach, H. M. (1996). *Clinical Sociology: An Agenda for Action*. New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers.

Du Bois, W., & Wright, R. D. (2001). *Applying Sociology: Making a Better World*. Boston: Allen & Bacon.

Flynn, P., & Hodgkinson, V. A. (Eds.). (2001). *Measuring the Impact of the Nonprofit Sector*. New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers.

Jorgensen, N. (1995). *Investigating Family and Households*. London: Collins Educational.

Langton, P. A., & Kammerer, D. A. (2005). *Practicing Sociology in the Community: A Student's Guide*. New Jersey: Pearson.

Rebach, H. M., & Bruhn, J. G. (Eds.). (2001). *Handbook of Clinical Sociology*. New York : Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers.

Steele, S. F. et.al. (1999). *Solution-Centered Sociology: Addressing Problems through Applied Sociology*. California: Sage Publications.

Steele, S. F., & Price, J. (1999). *Applied Sociology: Terms, Topics, Tools, and Tasks*. Canada: Thomson.

Thomas, J. Sullivan (1992). *Applied Sociology: Research and Critical Thinking*. New York : Macmillan.

Weber, L. R. (1995). *The Analysis of Social Problems*. Boston : Allyn and Bacon.

Weber, L. R., & Carter, A. I. (2003). *The Social Construction of Trust*. New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers