

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: Social Science Perspectives

Course Code: SS5401

Course Duration: One semester

No. of Credit Units: 3

Level: P5

Medium of Instruction: English

Medium of Assessment: English

Prerequisites: Nil

Precursors: Nil

Equivalent Courses: Nil

Exclusive Courses: Nil

Part II

Course Aims:

This course aims to introduce the basic aspects of modern social sciences. While the aim is to survey all the basic social science perspectives, special emphasis will be placed on a range of major social science perspectives related to Applied Sociology.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs):

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

No.	CILOs	Weighting
1.	identify the nature and changing conceptions of major social science perspectives related to Applied Sociology;	25%
2.	map particular social science approaches and methods into the broad social science traditions;	25%
3.	differentiate the inter-disciplinary nature of social science theories and practices when they are applied in real-life settings and changing situations; and	25%
4.	analyze critically social, technological, and environmental changes as well as evaluate their impacts on individual and society.	25%

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	Hours / course (if applicable)
CILO 1	√	√		
CILO 2	√	√		
CILO 3	√	√	√	
CILO 4	√	√	√	

TLA1: Lecture

There will be weekly lectures, with topics prepared and presented by lecturers. The lectures may assign students to read essential and/or supplementary readings concerning the topics.

TLA2: Tutorial

In each weekly lecture, approximately one hour will be reserved for tutorial discussion. The purpose of it is to allow students to discuss the concepts related to a particular perspective.

TLA3: Student presentation

Students are required to form small groups to conduct a group project. Each group conducts a 30-minute presentation.

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 1-3	AT1: Journal Article / Book Chapter Review	20%	
CILO 3-4	AT2: Group Project	45%	
CILO 1-4	AT3: Quiz	35%	

AT1: Journal Article / Book Chapter Review

Each student submits one journal article/book chapter review of no less than 1,500 words. They could choose any one journal article or book chapter recommended by the lecturer. Students can also ask the lecturer for approval should they want to conduct the review on an article or book chapter not given by the lecturer.

AT2: Group Project

Each group submits a paper of no less than 2,000 words. The topic should be related to the topic of “What is social change?” and “What are its impacts on individuals and society?” In preparing for the presentation and write-up, each group chooses one empirical case of social change as the subject of analysis. Then, one social science perspective is chosen to explain various phenomena related to the case of social change in question. Afterwards, the group should compare and contrast the findings identified with other social science perspectives. Finally, each group should conduct a critical analysis of “What is social change?” and “What are its impacts on individuals and society?”

AT3: Quiz

A quiz (with a duration less than 3 hours) will be given to students to test their knowledge of the various perspective learnt in the course, and their application to understanding social phenomena.

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+ A A-	Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize information about social changes/phenomena from social science perspectives; superior grasp of knowledge; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
B+ B B-	Evidence of grasp of knowledge; some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of social changes/phenomena from social science perspectives; evidence of familiarity with literature.
C+ C C-	Profiting from the learning experience; understanding of social changes/phenomena from social science perspectives; ability to develop satisfactory analysis based on the material in the field of social sciences.
D	Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.
F	Little evidence of familiarity with concepts in social sciences; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of literature.

Part III

1. Keyword Syllabus:

Sociology and social action; Society, social institutions and regulation; Social psychological perspectives on individual, group and inter-group behaviour; Crime, control and social justice; Diversity, exclusion and inclusion; Globalization and anti-globalization; Development and underdevelopment; Political-economic perspectives and politics.

2. Recommended Reading:

Danermark, B., Ekstrom, M., Jakobsen, L., & Karlsson, J. C. (2002). *Explaining society: Critical realism in the social sciences*. London: Routledge.

Hamilton, P., & Thompson, K. (Eds.). (2002). *The use of sociology*. Milton Keynes: The Open University.

Hedstrom, P. (2005). *Dissecting the social: On the principles of analytical sociology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Kivisto, P. (2005). *Illuminating social life: Classical and contemporary theory revisited* (3rd ed.). California: Pine Forge Press.

Webber, M., & Bezanson, K. (Eds.). (2004). *Rethinking society in the 21st century: Critical readings in sociology*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press Inc.