

FB8055I: SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES AND RESEARCH METHODS

Effective Term
Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title
Sociological Theories and Research Methods

Subject Code
FB - College of Business (FB)

Course Number
8055I

Academic Unit
College of Business (CB)

College/School
College of Business (CB)

Course Duration
One Semester

Credit Units
3

Level
D8 - Professional Doctorate

Medium of Instruction
Chinese (Putonghua)

Medium of Assessment
Chinese

Prerequisites
Nil

Precursors
Nil

Equivalent Courses
Nil

Exclusive Courses
Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to give an overview of sociological theories and research methods to students and how they can apply these theories and research methods in business and management.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Understand and explain contemporary issues and research topics related to sociological theories and research methods.		x	x	x
2	Identify potential research questions, related sociological theories, and research methods.		x	x	x
3	Introduce new social theories and research methods under the digitization of Chinese society.		x	x	x
4	Critically analyse relevant research literature, summarising and synthesising major findings in a field of study.		x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	LTA 1	Seminars, in-class discussions, assignments	1, 2, 3, 4	
2	LTA 2	Reading and discussion of research papers	1, 2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	In-class activities: including attendance, case discussion, and participation.	1, 2, 3, 4	30	The use of generative AI tools is recommended. However, copyright compliance must be carefully considered to avoid legal risks.	Yes

2	Assignment	1, 2, 3, 4	70	The use of generative AI tools is recommended. However, copyright compliance must be carefully considered to avoid legal risks.	Yes
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Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

In-class activities: including attendance, case discussion, and participation.

Criterion

Through in-class participation and discussion, students will gain a better understanding of the course.

Excellent

Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

Good

Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.

Fair

Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.

Marginal

Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.

Failure

Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.

Assessment Task

Assignment

Criterion

Students are required to choose a research topic or problem which they are interested in addressing and can contribute to their jobs or industries and submit a research proposal including the research topic/problem, concept map/research framework, methods and expected contributions. Individual research proposal will be assessed in terms of significance of the research problem, innovation of the research, feasibility and expected contributions, etc.

Excellent

Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

Good

Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.

Fair

Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.

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Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.

Failure

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Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

1. Social Theory is designed to introduce students to contemporary social theorists.
2. The theories will be examined chronologically and conceptually; highlighting the historical context in which the theories were written as well as key concepts that can be applied to social issues today.
3. Develop foundational knowledge of key sociological methods.
4. Develop research questions and apply appropriate methods for research.
5. Conduct original research using quantitative, qualitative, and historical research methods.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	An up-to-date reading list containing book chapters and recent journal articles on each specific topic will be distributed in class.