

# SS1024: SOCIAL ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

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## Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Social Issues and Problems

### Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

### Course Number

1024

### Academic Unit

Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS)

### College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

### Course Duration

One Semester

### Credit Units

3

### Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

### Medium of Instruction

English

### Medium of Assessment

English

### Prerequisites

Nil

### Precursors

Nil

### Equivalent Courses

Nil

### Exclusive Courses

Nil

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

This course aims to: 1) develop students interest by examining selected social issues in the light of the emerging technologies with different social science perspectives; 2) use different social science perspectives and theories to

understand selected social issues and social problems with special focus in Hong Kong and selected societies; 3) enable students to apply theories to examine the social problems and identify solutions to these problems.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1 identify the basic and essential concepts and principles of social sciences theories for the analysis of social problems and issues;	40	x	x	
2 apply social sciences concepts, perspectives and analysis to the interpretation of social problems and issues in light of the emerging technologies;	40	x	x	x
3 appraise the social policies and innovatively identify practical solutions to tackle the social issues and problems.	20	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: Lectures	Students will engage in formal weekly lectures, with topics concerning theories on social problems and social issues, prepared and presented by lecturer.	1, 2, 3	
2 LTA 2: Tutorials	Students will engage in one-hour tutorials for class discussion.	1, 2, 3	

### Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	AT1: Term Paper	1, 2, 3	40	Allow AI to (1) conduct proof editing; (2) generate initial ideas; (3) conduct preliminary analyses	Yes
2	AT2: Student Presentation	1, 2, 3	35	Allow AI to (1) conduct proof editing; (2) generate initial ideas; (3) conduct preliminary analyses	Yes
3	AT3: Class Participation	1, 2, 3	25	-	Yes

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

100

**Examination (%)**

0

**Additional Information for ATs**

AT1: Term Paper (40%) Students are required to submit an academic paper on topics related to the subject matter. They have to apply one relevant theory to analyse a social problem and to identify practical solutions for this problem. Max word length: 1,500.

AT2: Student Presentation (35%) Students are required to form in groups and pick up one social issue or problem as their topic. They need to select one or more theoretical perspective to analyse the issue. They have to collect information from existing literature to substantiate their arguments. They are also required to give a short evaluation of the current policies adopted to tackle the problem.

AT3: Class participation (25%) The students are required to participate in a wide variety of assignments, ranging from assigned readings, video viewing, group discussions, quiz and problem-solving activities.

**Assessment Rubrics (AR)****Assessment Task**

1. Term Paper

**Criterion**

- Present the ideas in logical manner- Use of proper references and evidences to illustrate the ideas
- Identify a social problem
- Apply a theory to analyse the problem critically- Identify practical solution for the problem with reference to the existing theory

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

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

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

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

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

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

**Marginal (D)**

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

**Failure (F)**

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

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**Assessment Task**

2. Student Presentation

**Criterion**

- Ability to deliver an effective presentation
- Demonstrate the ability to pick up one social issue or problem as the topic.
- Ability to select one or more relevant theoretical perspective(s) to analyse the issue.
- Able to give a short evaluation of the current policies adopted to tackle the problem

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

High

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Significant

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Moderate

**Marginal (D)**

Basic

**Failure (F)**

Not even reaching the marginal level

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**Assessment Task**

3. Class participation

**Criterion**

- The students are required to be actively participate in a wide variety of assignments, ranging from assigned readings, video viewing, group discussions, quiz and problem solving activities.
- Discuss the issues with reference to the existing theories

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Very active and contribute significant ideas in the lesson

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Sometimes actively contribute the significant ideas in the lesson

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Occasionally contribute ideas in the lesson

**Marginal (D)**

Rarely contribute any constructive ideas

**Failure (F)**

Little evidence of participation

## Part III Other Information

### Keyword Syllabus

the relationship between theory and practice; functions of theory/model in social sciences; issues of knowledge, objectivity and personal involvement; definition of social problem; sociological imagination; AI and technologies; social policy, social issues and social problems in Hong Kong; social welfare services related to the social problems introduced in the course.

### Reading List

#### Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Macionis, J. J. (2013) Social Problems. New Jersey: Pearson

#### Additional Readings

Title	
1	Cohen, R., Kennedy, P. & Perrier, M. (2013) Global Sociology. Basingstoke; New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
2	Feagin, J.R., Feagin, C.B. & Baker, D.V. (2006) Social problems: a critical power-conflict perspective, 6th ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J. : Prentice Hall.
3	Finsterbusch, K. Ed. (2003) Social problems 03/04. Guilford, Conn.: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin.
4	Giddens, A. (2014). Introduction to Sociology. New York: W.W. Norton.
5	Heiner, R. (2013) Social problems: an introduction to critical constructionism. New York : Oxford University Press
6	Kendall, D.E. (2013) Social problems in a diverse society, 6th ed. Boston: Pearson.
7	Lopata, H.Z. & Levy, J.A. (eds) (2003) Social problems across the life course. Lanham, Md. : Rowman & Littlefield.
8	Mooney, L. A., Clever, M., & Van Willigen, M. (2021). Understanding Social Problems. New York: Cengage Learning.
9	Nolan, P. & Lenski, G. (2011). Human Societies: An Introduction to Marcosociology. Boulder, Co.: Paradigm Publisher.
10	Rubington, E. & Weinberg, M.S. (eds) (2011). The Study of Social Problems: Seven Perspectives. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
11	Rubington, E. & Weinberg, M.S. (eds). (2008). Deviance : the interactionist perspective. Boston : Allyn and Bacon.
12	Sernau, S.R. (2012) Global Problems: The Search for Equity, Peace, and Sustainability. New Jersey: Pearson.