

SS4601: EMERGING ISSUES IN CHINESE SOCIETIES

Effective Term

Semester B 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Emerging Issues in Chinese Societies

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

4601

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 enable students to analyse emerging social issues in contemporary Chinese societies with sociological theories, and to critically evaluate the social development strategies taken to tackle these issues, with a focus on Hong Kong and the mainland China.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Identify emerging social issues in contemporary Chinese societies.	30	x	x	
2	Critically evaluate strategies taken to tackle these social issues and suggest new solutions.	30	x	x	x
3	Apply sociological theories and concepts to interpret these social issues and strategies.	20	x	x	
4	Identify the scope and limitation of established theories to analyze the social issues in contemporary Chinese societies.	20	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)
LTA1: Lecture	Students will take weekly lectures, with topics concerning emerging social issues and development strategies in contemporary Chinese societies as well as theories and concepts on globalization, social development and social change, prepared and presented by lecturer.	1, 2, 3, 4	

2	LTA2:Tutorial	In each weekly lecture, students will have approximately one hour of tutorial for student discussion. The purpose of this is to give students an opportunity to discuss and connect concepts and theories with social issues in Chinese societies.	1, 2, 3, 4	
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	AT1: Term Paper	1, 2, 3, 4	46	
2	AT2: Group Presentation	1, 2, 3, 4	30	
3	AT3: Quiz	1, 2, 3, 4	24	

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1.Term Paper

Criterion

Application of learning in a coherent way

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Strong evidence of original and critical thinking about the topic; excellent organization and capacity to analyse the issue; an extensive knowledge base about emerging issues in Chinese societies.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Evidence of grasp of knowledge about emerging issues in Chinese societies; evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability about the problem; good familiarity with the literature and issue.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate understanding about emerging issues in Chinese societies; ability to develop satisfactory analysis based on the literatures and secondary source materials.

Marginal (D)

Familiarity with basic concepts about emerging issues in Chinese societies.

Failure (F)

Little evidence of familiarity with concepts about emerging issues in Chinese societies; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of literature and materials.

Assessment Task

2.Group Presentation

Criterion

Demonstration of learning

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Strong evidence of original thinking about the topic; excellent organization and capacity to analyse the issue; an extensive knowledge base about emerging issues in Chinese societies; excellent team work and division of labour.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Evidence of grasp of knowledge about emerging issues in Chinese societies; evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability about the problem; good familiarity with the literature and issue.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate understanding about emerging issues in Chinese societies; ability to develop satisfactory analysis based on the literatures and the secondary source materials.

Marginal (D)

Familiarity with basic concepts about emerging issues in Chinese societies.

Failure (F)

Little evidence of familiarity with concepts about emerging issues in Chinese societies; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of literature and materials.

Assessment Task

3. Quiz

Criterion

Understanding of concepts and knowledges introduced in course and capability to apply these knowledges.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High level of understanding

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant level of understanding

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate level of understanding

Marginal (D)

Basic level of understanding

Failure (F)

Poor understanding

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Social Issues and Social Development in China:

Key issues in contemporary China, e.g. migration, Hukou system, gender, rural development, sweatshop, labour issues, social security, aging, pollution and environmental issues, popular protest, education inequality.

Social Issues and Social Problems in Hong Kong:

Major social problems and policy debates in Hong Kong, e.g. youth and occupy movement, changing mainland China-Hong Kong relations, aging and social security, working poor and wage policy, development and environment.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Chan, C.K.C. (2014). 'Constrained Labour Agency and the Changing Regulatory Regime in China,' <i>Development and Change</i> . 45(4).
2	Chan, C.K.C. (2013). Community-based organizations for migrant workers' rights: the emergence of labour NGOs in China. <i>Community Development Journal</i> . 48(1). 6 - 22.
3	Chiu, S. and Lui, T. L. (2009) <i>Hong Kong: The Global City</i> . London: Routledge
4	George, V. and Page, R. M. (ed.) (2004) <i>Global Social Problems</i> . Polity
5	Ho, W.C. et. al. (2010). Hong Kong' s Elite Structure, Legislature and Bleak Future of Democracy under Chinese Sovereignty. <i>Journal of Contemporary Asia</i> . 40(3). 466 - 486.
6	Ho, W.C. (2013) The New 'Comprador Class' : the re-emergence of bureaucratic capitalists in post-Deng China. <i>Journal of Contemporary China</i> 22 (83), 812-827
7	Kendall, D.E. (2004) <i>Social Problems in a Diverse Society</i> , 4th ed. Boston, Mass.: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon.
8	Tsang, E.Y.H. & Igoe, M. (2012). <i>Blending East and West: Understanding the Changing Chinese Society</i> . Singapore: McGraw Hill.
9	Zang, X. W. (ed.) (2016), <i>Understanding Chinese Society</i> , 2nd edition (London: Routledge, 2015).
10	Zhang, Z. N. & Treiman, D. J. (2013). Social Origins, Hukou Conversion, and the Wellbeing of Urban Residents in Contemporary China. <i>Social Science Research</i> . 42. 71 - 89.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Chan, C.K.C. (2010). <i>The Challenge of Labour in China: strikes and the changing labour regime in global factories</i> . New York: Routledge.
2	Heiner, R. (2006) <i>Social Problems : An Introduction to Critical Constructionism</i> . New York : Oxford University Press
3	Ho, W.C. (2010). <i>The Transition Study of Postsocialist China: An Ethnographic Study of a Model Community</i> . Singapore; Hackensack, NJ; London: World Scientific Pub
4	Lloyd-Sherlock, P. (2010) <i>Population Ageing and International Development: From generalisation to evidence</i> . Bristol: Policy Press.
5	Lopata, H.Z. & Levy, J. A. (eds) (2003) <i>Social Problems across the Life Course</i> . Lanham, Md. : Rowman & Littlefield.
6	Tsang, E. Y.H. (2014). <i>The New Middle Class in China, Consumption, Politics and The Market Economy</i> . Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
7	China Quarterly
8	China Journal
9	Modern China
10	Journal of Contemporary China
11	Journal of Contemporary Asia