

**The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
Department of Sociology**

**SOCI 1001A Introduction to Sociology  
Term 1, 2024 – 2025**

Date: On Monday  
Time: 04:30 p.m. – 06:15 p.m.  
Venue: Yasumoto International Academic Park Lecture Theatre 6 (YIA LT6)  
Mode of teaching: Face-to-face

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**Course Overview :**

This course introduces basic concepts and principles in the field of sociology, helping students to make sense of their social life. Ideas such as ***social norms, social roles, social interactions, social institutions and social processes*** will be examined. This course also gives a brief introduction to ***major classical and contemporary sociological theories*** which explain ***how individuals and society are related to each other***, especially how personal experiences are rooted in a particular social setting. Through these discussions, students should be able to think more critically towards a wide range of social issues and taken for granted social practices.

## Learning outcomes:

Upon the completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:

1. articulate an overview of sociology as a discipline;
2. identify and explain major sociological concepts and theories;
3. identify and explain basic sociological research methods;
4. analyze social phenomenon from a sociological perspective;
5. reflect on one's values and experiences in life

## Reading materials

### Textbook

Schaefer, R. T. (2022). *Sociology: A Brief Introduction* (14<sup>th</sup> ed.) New York: McGraw-Hall.

### Supplementary Reference:

Bauman, Z., & May, T. (2004). *Thinking sociologically* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Malden, Massachusetts: Blackwell Publishing Ltd.

Berger, P. (2013). *Invitation to sociology: A humanistic perspective*. Open Road Media. (Original work published 1963).

Giddens, A., & Sutton, P. W. (2021). *Essential concepts in sociology* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) Cambridge: Polity.

Giddens, A., & Sutton, P. W. (2021). *Sociology* (9<sup>th</sup> ed.). Cambridge: Polity Press.

Macionis, J. J. (2024). *Sociology* (Global 18<sup>th</sup> ed.). Harlow: Pearson

Mills, C. W. (2000). *The sociological imagination* (40<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Original work published 1959).

## Tutorial Registration

In addition to lecture, this course comprises interactive tutorial, which are managed by the Teaching Assistants of the course. The purpose of the tutorial is to help and guide the students to engage with the readings and topics of discussion in a more interactive manner as well as to complete the related assessments. Please consult the teaching assistants to facilitate registration and arrangement of tutorial.

## Assessment Plan

### 1. Tutorial group presentation and discussion (30%)

Students will be asked to form into smaller groups in your tutorial class for your group assessments. The number of students in each group will depend on the size of the tutorial class. Each group will select a topic of interest that discusses a social phenomenon from a sociological perspective in either local, national, regional, and/or global context(s). Each group will then give a presentation on the chosen topic and lead a discussion with fellow classmates, which aim to promote better understanding on the topic. Further instruction will be announced to all students in the first session of the tutorial class.

### 2. Short essay (30%)

Students will be asked to write a short essay about a topic concerning the relationship between individuals and societies. Students are expected to identify and apply the relevant concepts, theories, and perspectives learned in the course in completing the essay. Instructions for the short essay will be announced to all students in the beginning of the term.

Due date: **to be confirmed (Veriguide SOCI-1001-A Assignment Number 1)**  
Word limit: English 2,200 – 2,400 words (excluding end-of-text reference list)  
中文 3,300 – 3,600 字 (不包括文末參考書目)  
Format: Font size 12 and double-line spacing

*Important notes for the submission of written assignments are as follows:*

1. Please submit the soft copy of the assignment to **Veriguide** system on or before the due date.
2. Please rename the assignment file in the following format before you make your submission to the system: Surname + first name + assignment number (e.g. Chan\_Ho\_Man\_1)
3. Late submission will be subject to penalty. The grade of the submission will be lowered by one subgrade for each day of late submission (e.g. late for one day, from B+ to B; submission late for less than a day will also be treated as a submission late for one day).
4. Please submit the soft copy of the signed Veriguide receipt for the assignment to the submission portal on Blackboard on or before the due date.
5. Please rename the Veriguide receipt file in the following format before you make your submission to the system: Surname + first name + assignment number + receipt (e.g. Chan\_Ho\_Man\_1\_receipt)
6. Your assignment must include proper **in-text citation** and **end-of-text**

**reference list.** The **accepted citation styles** for this course are the most updated versions adopted by the **American Sociological Association (ASA)** or the **American Psychological Association (APA)**. Your attention is drawn to the following documents:

- Honesty in Academic Work: A Guide for Students and Teachers:  
[https://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng\\_htm\\_files\\_\(2013-14\)/p03.htm](https://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/Eng_htm_files_(2013-14)/p03.htm)
- Guideline for proper citation format by Department of Sociology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong:  
<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/soc/citation.pdf>

7. Please make sure that your essay has a **cover page** with the following information: **course code, course name, your full name, student identification number, and a word count (excluding end-of-text reference list and cover page)**

### 3. In-class Quiz (40%)

A closed-book quiz will be held in the last lecture. Students will be asked to demonstrate their critical understanding of the concepts, theories, and perspectives learned throughout the course. The detailed format of the quiz will be announced to all students toward the end of the term. The tentative date of the quiz is **to be confirmed**. Please be informed that alternative arrangement will only be considered on medical ground or special circumstances with relevant supporting document and approval.

## **Guide to Grading System**

### Grade Descriptors

- A Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes
- A- Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.
- B Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance
- C Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.
- D Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes
- F Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.

## Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.

- In the case of group projects, all members of the group should be asked to sign the declaration, each of whom is responsible and liable to disciplinary actions, irrespective of whether he/she has signed the declaration and whether he/she has contributed, directly or indirectly, to the problematic contents.
- For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment.
- Students are fully aware that their work may be investigated by AI content detection software to determine originality.
- Students are fully aware of the AI approach(es) adopted in the course. In the case where some AI tools are allowed, students have made proper acknowledgment and citations as suggested by the course teacher.

Assignments without a properly signed declaration will not be graded by teachers.

Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

The submission of a piece of work, or a part of a piece of work, for more than one purpose (e.g. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration to this effect shall be regarded as having committed undeclared multiple submissions. It is common and acceptable to reuse a turn of phrase or a sentence or two from one's own work; but wholesale reuse is problematic. In any case, agreement from the course teacher(s) concerned should be obtained prior to the submission of the piece of work.

The copyright of the teaching materials, including lecture notes, assignments and examination questions, etc., produced by staff members/ teachers of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) belongs to CUHK. Students may download the teaching materials produced by the staff members/ teachers from the Learning Management Systems, e.g. Blackboard, adopted by CUHK for their own educational use, but shall not distribute/ share/ copy the materials to a third-party without seeking prior permission from the staff members/ teachers concerned.

## Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools in Teaching, Learning and Assessment

### Use of AI tools is allowed with explicit acknowledgement and proper citation

Students may use some AI tools in some class activities and assignments on the condition that they make explicit acknowledgement and proper citations of the input from AI tools.

### Acknowledging support from AI tools

Students are required to acknowledge all functional uses of a generative AI tool and cite it when they paraphrase, quote, or incorporate into their own work any content (whether it is text, image, data, or other format) that was created by it.

- i. An example of acknowledgement

*'I acknowledge the use of (name of AI tool – e.g. ChatGPT (<https://chat.openai.com/>) to (specify the support, e.g. plan my essay, generate some ideas for the content, ask for examples of data collection instruments, get the dates of historical events, etc.).*

- ii. An example of citation

OpenAI. (2023). *ChatGPT* (Mar 20 version). <https://chat.openai.com/chat>

(Students are reminded that due to the rapid developments of generative AI tools, some citation formats may be updated regularly.)

- iii. An example of including texts generated by an AI tool in their work

"The following text was generated by an AI tool / language model (ChatGPT):"  
[Insert the text generated by ChatGPT here.]

- iv. An example of including texts generated by an AI tool and the prompts that were used to elicit the text from the AI tool

"[The prompt], as generated by an AI language model (ChatGPT):"  
[Insert the text generated by ChatGPT in response to the prompt.]

Students are reminded to learn and use the AI tools responsibly and ethically and be aware of the limitations.

Students are reminded to clarify with the course teacher and obtain permission if necessary when in doubt.

## **Additional points to note on the use of artificial intelligence tools in teaching, learning and assessments**

Collaborating with AI chatbots (like ChatGPT) on assignment(s) for this course is generally permitted with explicit acknowledgement. Students should refer to the following **APA Citation Style for how to ChatGPT** (<https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>). However, students must exercise caution when using AI tools and be aware of their limitations. It is the responsibility of students, not the AI tools, to ensure the accuracy of the content submitted. Any errors or inaccuracies in the submitted work will be the sole responsibility of the students. According to the 'Guidelines on the Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools in Teaching, Learning and Assessments', **use of AI tools in coursework without acknowledgement are treated as academic dishonesty case and will be handled by the disciplinary committee accordingly.**

Two **APA** examples are given below:

When prompted with “Is the left brain right brain divide real or a metaphor?” the ChatGPT-generated text indicated that although the two brain hemispheres are somewhat specialized, “the notation that people can be characterized as ‘left-brained’ or ‘right-brained’ is considered to be an oversimplification and a popular myth” (OpenAI, 2023).

### **Reference**

OpenAI. (2023). *ChatGPT* (Mar 14 version) [Large language model].  
<https://chat.openai.com/chat>

When given a follow-up prompt of “What is a more accurate representation?” the ChatGPT-generated text indicated that “different brain regions work together to support various cognitive processes” and “the functional specialization of different regions can change in response to experience and environmental factors” (OpenAI, 2023; see Appendix A for the full transcript).

### **Reference**

OpenAI. (2023). *ChatGPT* (Mar 14 version) [Large language model].  
<https://chat.openai.com/chat>

## Schedule and Topics of Lectures

Date	Session	Topics and Descriptions
Sep 02	01	Introduction
Sep 09	02	The development of sociological theories I
Sep 16	03	The development of sociological theories II
Sep 23	04	Culture and socialization
Sep 30	05	Social interaction, groups and social structure
Oct 07	06	Deviance and social control
Oct 14	07	Class inequalities and social mobility
Oct 21	08	Gender inequalities
Oct 28	09	Schooling and education
Nov 04	10	Marriage, family and household diversity
Nov 11	11	Politics and governments
Nov 18	12	Environment and society
Nov 25	13	In-class quiz

**Note: If there are any further amendments due to changes in the circumstance, they will be announced to the students as soon as possible. Please pay attention to any future announcements from the university, the department, and the course instructor.**