

SOCI 3241/UGEC 3893
Introduction to Global Sociology

Department of Sociology,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Instructor: Prof. Jin Sun

Time/Location: Thursday 2:30 am-5:15 pm; YIA 405

Office hour: Thursday 5:15 pm-6:15 pm; YIA 405 (or by email appointment)

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Course Description:

This course introduces undergraduate students to the knowledge world of global and transnational sociology, in which it will offer a guided entry into the ideas of the sociological, anthropological, historical, political and legal scholars. The concepts they developed to analyze law, society and global governance are fundamental to address global and international concerns, including ESG (environmental, social & governance), SDGs (sustainable development goals), global climate change (Paris Agreement), global health (WHO), international economic, trade and monetary institutions (e.g., World Bank, WTO, IMF), global gender, children, labor and human rights systems, international justice, and international peace and security.

Learning Outcome

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Understand Global Order and Governance:** Grasp Chinese modernization in transnational world order, recognizing the key actors, institutions, and processes that shape global order and governance in the world society. (LO1)
2. **Apply ESG/SDGs:** Apply the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in case studies, understanding their role in shaping policy and business practice for sustainable development. (LO2)
3. **Understand Carbon Neutrality Policy:** Grasp the carbon neutrality policy in Hong Kong and Mainland China, exploring their target, planning, and implications for local, national and global climate action. (LO3) And,
4. **Reflect on Personal and Social Responsibility:** Reflect on personal and social responsibilities in the context of global governance, considering implications and the role of individual action in achieving the SDGs. (LO4)

Assessment:

Attendance and Participation: 20%

Group Presentation: 30%

Group Essay: 50%

Attendance and Participation: 20%

Absence from any session in W2-12: 1% deducted for each time (up to 10% in total) (Absence for emergency or with a medical certificate is permitted).

Participation to class discussions is required (10%). Each study group shall indicate *two topics for class discussion* (each for 5%) in the [Google spreadsheet](#) in W1.

Participation in office hours is strongly encouraged (10%).

Option 1: Group office hours (5%). Each group will be invited to discuss their project in office hours one week before the mid-term presentation.

Option 2: Individual office hours (5%): meeting with the instructor in office hours.

Group Presentation: 30%.

A study group with 2 to 3 members shall present a case study of the latest practice of a leading company/organization in Hong Kong/GBA/Asia addressing Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG)/Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In this case study, please relate it to a topic to be covered by any session in W4-W12. Please indicate *the group study topic* in the [Google spreadsheet](#) in W1.

Assessment:

- proposal presentation (3-5 min, Week 2): 5%

- mid-term presentation (30 min presentation, 15 min discussions, W4-W12): 10%

- final presentation (15 min presentation; slides submitted in W13): 15%

Group Essay: 50%.

Assessment:

- Group mid-term essay (5,000 words; submitted before 23:59 pm, 10 Oct, W6): 10%

- Group final essay (10,000 words; submitted before 23:59 pm, 5 Dec, W14): 40%

Late submission penalty on the group final essay (date of submission):

10% (6-12 Dec)

30% (13-19 Dec)

100% (after 19 Dec)

Grade Description:

- **A:** Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.
- **A-:** Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.
- **B+/B/B-:** Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, with high performance on some compensating for less satisfactory performance on others.
- **C+/C/C-:** Satisfactory performance on most learning outcomes, with possible minor weaknesses.
- **D+/D:** Barely satisfactory performance on several learning outcomes.
- **F:** Unsatisfactory performance on several learning outcomes, or failure to meet specified assessment requirements.

[Note: B- or lower for any free rider in the group project]

Policy for Using AI:

In accordance with the CUHK 'Guidelines on the Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools in Teaching, Learning and Assessments', students must adhere to the following policy:

- Students must seek explicit approval from the course instructor to collaborate with AI tools on assignments.
- AI tools may be used as writing assistants or for general inquiry but must not be used to fabricate content. The first draft must be based on original work such as data collection, interviews, or other written work.
- Students must include explicit acknowledgement in their assignment output if AI is used, detailing the co-generation process with AI.
- Students are responsible for the accuracy of the content submitted and must exercise caution when using AI tools, being aware of their limitations.
- Violations of this policy will be treated as acts of academic dishonesty and handled accordingly.

Additional Resources:

- [APA Citation Style for ChatGPT](#)
- [CUHK AI Tool Guidelines](#)

Statement on Academic Honesty

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/>.

For the group final essay, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. All students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration, each of whom is responsible and liable to disciplinary actions should there be any plagiarized contents in the group project, irrespective of whether he/she has signed the declaration and whether he/she has contributed directly or indirectly to the plagiarized 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.

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

Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide (<https://academic2.veriguide.org/portalcuhk/>).

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 submission. 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.

Teaching Schedule

W1: Introduction to Global and Transnational Sociology (05 Sep)

Task: please identify your group members and choose your group study/class discussion topics in the [Google spreadsheet](#).

Case 1: Distinguished CU alumni on ESG/SDGs

Martin (05 SC, EE; EV); Ben (93 MBA; cleaning, recycling); Harold (87 NA, BBA, 01 EMBA; recycling); Peggy (02 NA, Env Eng; ESG); Vriko (16 SC, Science) CU Alumni Magazine. June 2024 (Special Issue on ESG). [Pp. 7-19](#).

W2: Introduction to ESG/SDGs in the World Society (12 Sep)

Task: please present your group project proposal (3-5 minutes)

The three basic elements that should be articulated in each proposal are: (1) Description of the case study subject (i.e., company, organization, institution, etc.): Briefly describe the case study subject in terms of its business/organization and key business activities. (2) Rationale/Case Materials: Why is this subject and this body of ESG records of interest to the study? What unique issue(s) might this case study address or highlight? What reference materials are available for this case study? (3) Timeline: Briefly identify key tasks, goals and/or expected outcomes associated with the case study and a rough timeline for carrying out, developing and/or implementing them.

UN: Do you know all 17 SDGs? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XTBYMfZyrM>.

Bartley, Tim. 2007. "Institutional emergence in an era of globalization: The rise of transnational private regulation of labor and environmental conditions." *American Journal of Sociology* 113(2): 297-351.

Liu, N., Lo, C. W. H., Zhan, X., & Wang, W. (2015). Campaign-Style Enforcement and Regulatory Compliance. *Public Administration Review*, 75(1), 85–95.

Zhou, X. (2022). *The Logic of Governance in China: An Organizational Approach*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 4. [Link](#)

Case 2: Alipay: Exploring FinTech's possibilities to achieving the SDGs

W3: Chinese Modernization in Transnational World Order (19 Sep)

Halliday, Terence C., and Gregory Shaffer. 2015. "Transnational Legal Orders." In *Transnational Legal Orders*, edited by Terence C. Halliday and Gregory Shaffer, 3–72. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

钱穆. 2001. 中国历代政治得失. 三联书店

金耀基. 2023. 從傳統到現代: 中國現代化與中國現代文明的建構. 中華書局(香港)

习近平. 2024. 关于《中共中央关于进一步全面深化改革、推进中国式现代化的决定》的说明. [《求是》2024/16](#)

Case 3: Ant Forest in China and GForest in the Philippines

W4: Global Norm-Making and International Organizations (IOs) (26 Sep)

Halliday, Terence C., and Bruce G. Carruthers. 2007. "The Recursivity of Law: Global Norm Making and National Lawmaking in the Globalization of Corporate Insolvency Regimes." *American Journal of Sociology* 112(4):1135–1202.

Block-Lieb, Susan, and Terence C. Halliday. 2017. *Global Lawmakers: International Organizations in the Crafting of World Markets*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Kentikelenis, Alexander E., and Sarah Babb. 2019. "The Making of Neoliberal Globalization: Norm Substitution and The Politics of Clandestine Institutional Change." *American Journal of Sociology* 124(6): 1720-1762.

Krisch, Nico. 2014. The Decay of Consent: International Law in an Age of Global Public Goods. *American Journal of International Law* 108(1): 1-40.

Case 4: McDonald China - Promoting cage-free chicken as a sustainable food standard

Alternative arrangement: outside classroom workshop (to be confirmed)

Local SDG Efforts in a Metropolitan City: A Group Visit to Urban Farms in Hong Kong
Partner: Rooftop Republic (<https://rooftoprepublic.com/>)

W5: Global Governance: Difficulties, Challenges and Solutions – (03 Oct)

Guest speaker: Valerie & John Braithwaite

Braithwaite, J. (2024). *Simple Solutions to Dialectics of Peace, Climate, Finance, and Health*. Palgrave Macmillan. Chapters 1-3. [Link](#)

Braithwaite, J., Forsyth, M., & Cleland, D. (2019). Restorative environmental justice: An introduction. In E. Biffi & B. Pali (Eds.), *Environmental Justice Restoring the Future: Towards a Restorative Environmental Justice Praxis* (pp. 9–13). European Forum for Restorative Justice. [Link](#)

Case 5: Imagining Restorative Diplomacy for Peace-Making in South Africa, etc.

https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-48747-7_8

Llewellyn, J. J., & Howse, R. (1999). Institutions for Restorative Justice: The South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission. *The University of Toronto Law Journal*, 49(3), 355–388. <https://doi.org/10.2307/826003>

W6: International Money and Banking – World Bank and IMF (10 Oct)

Guardian, Financial Crisis: A History: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5Veyepqvfk>.

Asian Financial Crisis (Cantonese): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMPIHF2tOJQ>.

CNBC: Why is the dollar so powerful? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kkkH-0khoQw>.

CNBC: What's the difference between the IMF and the World Bank? | CNBC Explains. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IN3qrFA4jXc>

- Steinmetz, George. 2008. "The Colonial State as a Social Field: Ethnographic Capital and Native Policy in the German Overseas Empire Before 1914." *American Sociological Review* 73(4):589–612.
- Chorev, Nitsan and Sarah Babb. 2009. "The Crisis of Neoliberalism and the Future of International Institutions: The IMF and the WTO in Comparative Perspective." *Theory and Society* 38: 459-484.
- Babb, Sarah and Bruce G. Carruthers. "Conditionality: Forms, Function, and History." *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 4: 13-29.
- Fourcade-Gourinchas, Marion and Sarah Babb. 2002. "The Rebirth of the Liberal Creed: Paths to Neoliberalism in Four Countries." *American Journal of Sociology* 108(3): 533-79.
- Mallard, Grégoire. 2019. *Gift Exchange: The Transnational History of a Political Idea*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 7. [Link](#)

- Case 6: Easypaisa: An Operational Model of Mobile Money Service ([Link](#))
 National Financial Inclusion Strategy in Pakistan ([Link](#))
 中國移動支付出海 螞蟻金服幫巴基斯坦打造當地“支付寶”(Link)

W7: Global Health and Education – WHO, MSF, and UNESCO (17 Oct)

Task: mid-term essay feedback by the instructor

- WHO: Dr Margaret Chan's address to the Seventieth World Health Assembly, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3j8dJm8a9c>.
- Introduction to MSF (Cantonese): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_Mp6oAXvIM,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5X6pxRYuyo>.
- CNBC, The problem of education inequality: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-JVpKku5SI>.
- UNESCO, Key recommendations from UNESCO's Futures of Education report: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=quGaJEfehV0>.

- Blanchet, Karl, Grégoire Mallard, Erica Moret, and Jin Sun. 2021. "Sanctioned Countries in the Global COVID Vaccination Campaign: The Forgotten 70%." *Conflict and Health* 15: 69.
- Tam, Tony, and Jin Jiang. 2014. "The Making of Higher Education Inequality: How Do Mechanisms and Pathways Depend on Competition?" *American Sociological Review* 79:807-816.

- Case 7: 10x1000 Tech for Inclusion ([Link](#))
 10x1000 Tech for Inclusion in Hong Kong ([Link](#))
 10x1000 Tech for Inclusion in Indonesia ([Link](#))

W8: International Trade and Investment – WTO and ICSID (24 Oct)

- Irwin, Douglas A. 2017. *Clashing over Commerce: A History of U.S. Trade Policy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [Link \(Chinese version\)](#)

Mallard, Grégoire, and Jin Sun. 2022. "Viral Governance: How Unilateral US Sanctions Changed the Rules of Financial Capitalism." *American Journal of Sociology* 128(1): 144-188. [Link](#)

Shaffer, Gregory. 2021. *Emerging Powers and the World Trading System*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1. [Link](#)

WSJ. Oct 27, 2022. Inside the Secret Prisoner Swap That Splintered the U.S. and China. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/huawei-china-meng-kovrig-spavor-prisoner-swap-11666877779>.

Case 8: developing countries and international trade: WorldFirst

W9: International Security and Peace – UNSC, IAEA, OPCW, etc. (31 Oct)

Ukraine: UN Security Council: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oW2iOkhlxSQ>

CNN: What is the UN Security Council?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wfHSNMp3Pk>

Al Jazeera: Inside Story - UN Security Council: A relic of the past?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SULrKVZ8xWc>.

IAEA: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r2hQkhEO5yw>.

OPCW: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UW9Dy0aUZQY>.

SCMP, US targets Hong Kong and UAE firms it says ship Iranian oil to East Asia:
<https://www.scmp.com/news/world/united-states-canada/article/3187357/us-treasury-sanctions-hong-kong-and-uae-firms-ship>.

Mallard, Grégoire. 2014. "Crafting the Nuclear Regime Complex (1950-1975): Dynamics of Harmonization of Opaque Treaty Rules." *European Journal of International Law* 25(2): 445-472.

Sun, Jin. 2021. "International payment settlement in China including Macau and Hong Kong and unilateral sanctions-related disputes: sources, remedies and procedures." In Charlotte Beaucillon (ed.), *The Research Handbook on Unilateral and Extraterritorial Sanctions*, Edward Elgar, pp. 322-340. [Link](#)

Case 9: Zoloz e-KYC applications in East, Southeast and South Asia

W10: International Law and Justice – ICJ. (07 Nov)

UN: What is the International Court of Justice? The Role and Activities of the ICJ.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DME-wfbt08c>.

SCMP, How Macau became North Korea's window to the world... and its nexus for weapons and drugs trafficking: <https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/geopolitics/article/2093189/how-macau-became-north-koreas-window-world-and-its-nexus>.

Sun, Jin. 2024. "Non-Compliance and Nuclear Disarmament: The Iran Nuclear Deal." In Christina Voigt and Caroline Foster (ed.), *International Courts versus Compliance Mechanisms: Comparative Advantages in Strengthening Treaty Implementation*, pp. 420-441, Cambridge University Press. [Link](#)

Mallard, Grégoire, and Jin Sun. 2024. "International Law, Security and Sanctions: A Decolonial Perspective on the Transnational Legal Order of Sanctions" *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 20. [Link](#)

Case 10: sustainable travel, world heritage, and economic transitions in Macau

W11: Gender, Children, Labor and Human Rights (14 Nov)

UN: What is the UN Human Rights Council?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kkmuIQoHbNs>

UN: Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5RR4VXNX3jA>

Billaud, Julie, and Jane K. Cowan. 2020. "The Bureaucratisation of Utopia: Ethics, Affects and Subjectivities in International Governance Processes." *Social Anthropology* 28 (1): 6–16.

Goodale, Mark, and Sally Engle Merry. 2007. *The Practice of Human Rights: Tracking Law between the Global and the Local*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Merry, Sally Engle, Kevin E. Davis, and Benedict Kingsbury. 2015. *The Quiet Power of Indicators: Measuring Governance, Corruption, and the Rule of Law*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Case 11: Ant Village, CyberMulan and Wind Rider in China and Indonesia

W12: Global Climate Change and the Paris Agreement (21 Nov)

CNBC: What is carbon trading? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQSaoPPe2F0>.

HKEX Launches Core Climate: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHxG7u8jxGo>;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHFEzvP9vtg>.

Bloomberg, HKEX Chairman on Asia's Low-Carbon Economy:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqRgKp-7OPk>. [recommended]

Chen, Ling, and Jin Sun. 2023. [Trans-Governmental Normative Orders: Chinese Central-Local Relations in the Pilot Carbon Emissions Trading Scheme](#). *Journal of Public Administration (in Chinese)* 91(1): 144-160.

Voigt, Christina and John Knox. 2020. Introduction to Symposium on Climate Change Litigation in the Global South, *American Journal of International Law (AJIL) Unbound*, Volume 114, 35-39.

Case 12: sustainable travel and mega events in Hong Kong and inclusive development in the Greater Bay Area (GBA)

W13: Final Group Presentation on ESG/SDGs (28 Nov) ##