

# THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

## Department of Sociology

### SOCI 1001B Introduction to Sociology

#### Second Term 2024-25

Instructor: Dr. LI Hang 李鏗  
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Office: Sino Building 432  
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Time: 10:30am – 12:15pm Thursday  
Venue: YIA LT3  
Course website:  
<https://blackboard.cuhk.edu.hk/>

#### Teaching assistants:

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### *Course Description*

Sociology illuminates the profound interplay between social forces and human behavior, revealing how our social context and interactions fundamentally shape seemingly individual choices—from academic pursuits to life-altering decisions. This course introduces basic concepts and principles of sociology, helping students make sense of their social lives. Students will explore major classical and contemporary sociological studies that explain the relationship between individuals and society, particularly how personal experiences are rooted in specific social settings. This intellectual journey culminates in cultivating a nuanced understanding of social dynamics and fostering intellectual empathy across diverse social boundaries.

### *Learning Outcomes*

After completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Outline an overview of sociology as a discipline
2. Describe basic sociological research methods
3. Explain major sociological concepts and theories
4. Analyze social phenomena from a sociological perspective
5. Apply sociological concepts to their personal experiences

### *Recommended Textbooks*

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

Korgen, K. O., & Atkinson, M. P. (2024). *Sociology in action* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). SAGE.

Nehring, D., & Plummer, K. (2014). *Sociology: An introductory textbook and reader*. Routledge.

- All textbooks are **accessible online** via the library website. The physical copy of Giddens and Sutton is reserved at the CC library for two hours.

## *Course Syllabus*

1. Introduction
  - What is sociology?
2. Classical Western Sociology
  - Karl Marx
  - Émile Durkheim
  - Max Weber
3. Conceptualizing 'Social'
  - Three major perspectives
  - The social construction of reality
  - What is 'social'?
4. Structure
  - The sociological imagination
  - Personal Troubles and Public Issues
  - Structure and Agency
5. Self
  - Socialization and Identity Formation
  - Presentation of self
6. Body
  - Sex and gender
  - Health and illness
7. Norms
  - Norms and Violation of Norms
  - Stigmatization and Normalization of deviance
8. Relations
  - Social interaction
  - Networks and groups
  - Organization and bureaucracy
9. Division
  - Class, gender, and intersectionality
  - Economic Inequality and Cultural Capital
  - Power and social control
10. Stability and Change
  - Individual Level: Social Mobility
  - Societal Level: Generational Shift and Social Movements
  - Changing Families and Feminism
11. Globalization
  - World System
  - Global climate change
12. Doing Sociology
  - Quantitative research
  - Qualitative research
  - Material-based research

### ***Teaching Modes and Learning Activities***

The lecturer, in person, will conduct all lectures according to the schedule provided above. The teaching assistant will help students understand the course content by leading various learning activities during tutorials. The teaching assistant will schedule the class time for tutorials early in the term.

### ***Assessment Tasks***

- (I) In-class Quiz      10%
- (II) Tutorial Participation      20%
- (III) Mid-term Test      30%
- (IV) Final Paper      40%

### ***Assessment Rubrics***

#### *Grade descriptors*

- A    A thorough understanding of the course materials and an outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.
- A-   A solid understanding of the course materials and an outstanding performance on almost all learning outcomes.
- B    An adequate understanding of the course materials and a substantial performance, on average, on all learning outcomes.
- C    A basic understanding of the course materials and a satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.
- D    A partial understanding of the course materials and an inadequate performance on a number of learning outcomes
- F    A poor understanding of the course materials and an unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes.