

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Department of Sociology

UGEC 2703 Youth Problem in Modern Society

現代社會青少年問題

First Term, 2019-2020
Tuesday
10:30pm-12:15 am
ELB LT3

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Course Description:

This course explores some of the major issues concerning the role of the youth and the problems confronting them in modern society, with emphasis on the Hong Kong Society. The nature of the conventional wisdom of the “youth problem” is critically examined, with the help of concepts and theories in sociology and related fields. This course is more concerned with understanding the nature of the phenomenon of problematization of youth and looking beyond common sense or public perception on current social issues related to the youth in modern society.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to capture the extent of youth problem in modern society.
2. By introducing a variety of sociological perspectives and concepts, students will be able to gain a more intellectual understanding of the nature and possible causes of youth problems.
3. Students will gain a fundamental understanding of how to apply sociological approaches to explain social issues relating to the youth.
4. Students will be able to critically evaluate the public perception of social issues relating to the youth.
5. Student will be able to reflect on their life experiences in modern society.

Course Assessment:

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|----------------|-----|
| 1. Assignments | 10% |
| 2. Final test | 40% |

This examination will be held in the last class on **November 26 (Tuesday)**. The questions will cover lecture contents and required readings. The format will involve multiple choice question and short questions. The venue is to be confirmed.

3. News Commentary Report 50%

Each student should submit one written commentary report on a youth issue. There is an emphasis on students' reflection on what they learn in the course. In this exercise, students are expected to demonstrate the understanding of the sociological concepts and perspectives taught in this course and how they will help to understand youth problem.

In preparing the report, please think along the following lines:

1. Identify and select a youth issue that you are interested in.
2. Prepare 3 newspaper clips concerning your selected youth issue. The newspaper clips are required to be attached to the report.
3. Describe the phenomenon of the selected youth issue according to the newspaper clips. You can also supplement other materials to do the description if deem necessary.
4. According to your view, what are the possible cause(s) of the youth issue that you focus on?
5. How will you apply the sociological concepts/perspectives learned in this course to make sense of the possible cause(s) of the youth issue?
6. Discuss some of the consequences of the issue for the youth and the society.

The length of the text of the report (excluding the cover page, the 3 newspaper clips, and references) should be around 7 double-spaced pages in English or Chinese (font size 12, one inch for all margins). On the cover page of the report, please indicate clearly the course title, the course code, name, and the student ID for ease of identification.

Submission of the report is due on **November 29**. Students must hand in a hard copy and the "academic honesty declaration statement" generated from VeriGuide. Marks will be deducted for late submission.

Remarks:

1. According to the University policy, students are required to submit all assignments in the form of a computer-generated document via VeriGuide (The Chinese University Plagiarism Identification Engine System).
2. Students must closely observe the academic honesty guidelines (<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty>) and submit an "Academic Honesty Declaration Statement" jammed by VeriGuide with every assignment. Our Department also has a detailed guideline on academic citations <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/soc/citation.pdf> .

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.

Course Contents:

Main references

Furlong, A. 2013. *Youth Studies: An Introduction*. London: Routledge.

鄭宏泰及尹寶珊。2016。香港新青年。香港：香港中文大學亞太研究所。

Lecture 1 Introduction

Shek, D., Ma H.K., and Sun, R. 2011. "A brief overview of adolescent developmental problems in Hong Kong." *The Scientific World Journal* 11: 2243-2256. *

Lecture 2 Basic Concepts and Theoretical Perspectives

鄭宏泰及尹寶珊。2016。「社會變遷下的新世代」。《青年研究學報》，第十九卷，第二期，頁 62-72。*

Furlong, A. 2013. "Youth and the life course". Pp.1-23 in *Youth Studies: An Introduction*. London: Routledge.

Lecture 3 Socialization and the Family

吳燕玲。2016。「香港父母與青少年子女的代際矛盾」。《青年研究學報》，第十九卷，第二期，頁 21-37。*

Ma, Y., Siu, A., and Tse, W.S. 2018. "The role of high parental expectations in adolescents' academic performance and depression in Hong Kong." *Journal of Family Issues* 39(9): 2505-2522.

Lecture 4 **Education**

Pavlova, M. 2017. "Aspirations of and realities for Hong Kong students: Is the "formal" transition system effective?" *Education Research Policy Practices* 16: 77-93.*

Furlong, A. 2013. "Education and opportunity." Pp.48-71 in *Youth Studies: An Introduction*. London: Routledge.

Lecture 5 **Deviant Behavior**

Shek, D. and Leung, J. 2014. "Substance Abuse in Junior Secondary School students in Hong Kong." Pp.133-153 in *Chinese Adolescents in Hong Kong*, edited by Shek, D. Singapore: Springer. *

Cheung, N. and Cheung, Y.W. 2008. "Self-control, social factors, and delinquency: A test of the general theory of crime among adolescents in Hong Kong." *Journal of Youth and Adolescence* 37:412-430.

Lecture 6 **Work and Employment**

鄭宏泰、葉仲茵及張妙清。2013。「社會轉型為『雙失青年』帶來的挑戰與機會」。《青年研究學報》，第十六卷，第二期，頁 46-61。*

Furlong, A. 2013. "Employment and unemployment." Pp.72-97 In *Youth Studies: An Introduction*. London: Routledge.

Lecture 7 **Social Mobility and Career**

梁漢柱、羅景強及關梓傑。2016。「流動、紀律與不安：香港年輕人的職業生涯經驗」。《青年研究學報》，第十九卷，第二期，頁 55-61。*

Cheung, F., Ngo, H.Y., and Leung, A. Forthcoming. "Predicting work volition among undergraduate students in the United States and Hong Kong." *Journal of Career Development*.

Lecture 8 **Identity, Citizenship, and Social Movement**

Wong, W. and Chu, M. 2017. "Rebel with a cause: Structural problems underlying the Umbrella Movement of Hong Kong and the role of the youth." *Asian Education and Development Studies* 6(4): 343-353.*

馮應謙及陳智傑。2017。「香港青年人的身份證同 2006-2016」。《青年研究學報》，第二十卷，第二期，頁 27-35。

Lecture 9 **Political Engagement**

Low, Y.T., Busiol, D., and Lee, T.Y. 2016. "A review of research on civic and political engagement among Hong Kong youth." *International Journal of Child and Adolescence Health* 9(6): 423-432. *

青年研究中心。2017。《「香港青年的社交媒體應用及政治參與」意見調查》。香港：香港中文大學亞太研究所。

Lecture 10 **Housing Question**

阮穎嫻。2017。「青年置業困難及衍生的社會問題」。《青年研究學報》，第二十卷，第二期，頁 48-60。*

Forrest, R. and Xian, S. 2018. "Accommodating discontent: Youth, conflict and the housing question in Hong Kong." *Housing Studies* 33(1): 1-17.

Lecture 11 **Well-Being**

敖恒宇、張宇樂及方偉晶。2018。「宏觀因素、社會信任與香港青少年的生活滿意度」。《香港社會科學學報》，第五十一期，頁 1-27。*

徐小曼及黃瑩瑩。2018。「青少年情緒困擾現況及解憂之道」。《青年研究學報》，第二十一卷，第一期，頁 57-65。

Lecture 12 **Future of Youth and Youth Problems**

邱瑞玲及賴君豪。2017。「青年施政的失落與重建」。《社聯政策報》，第二十二期，頁 9-16。*

Wong, V. and Lin, V. 2016. "Trapped in the middle: Hong Kong youth transitions from a risk society perspective." *Journal of Applied Youth Studies* 1(3):24-40.

Lecture 13 **Final Test**

Recommended website for information:

1) Hong Kong Federation on Youth Groups

<http://youthhongkong.hkfyg.org.hk/>

2) Centre for Youth Studies, Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies

<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/hkiaps/cys/index.html>

3) The Centre for Youth Research and Practice, Hong Kong Baptist University

<http://cyrp.hkbu.edu.hk/?lang=en>

4) Commission on Youth

<http://www.coy.gov.hk/tc/home/index.html>

5) The Youth Foundation

<http://www.yf.org.hk/tc/home.html>