

UGEC 1823/ SOCI 1102
SOCIOLOGY AND MODERN SOCIETY
Summer Term, 2022-23

Tue: 2:30-5:15 and Thur 2:30-5:15
Venue: CKB LT3

Instructor: Professor Wong Suk-Ying 王淑英
Office: Sino Building 436
Email: sukyingwong@cuhk.edu.hk
(Office Hours: Thursday, 5:30 – 7pm and by appointment)

Teaching Assistant: Ng Yeuk Nam 吳若楠
Office: SB 411A
Email: yeuknamng@cuhk.edu.hk

Course Description and Expected Learning Outcomes

This course provides an overview and introduction to the academic discipline of sociology. It aims at introducing to you a way of observing, explaining and understanding a social world that continues to evolve around and affect you. Specifically, the purposes of the course are to acquaint you with a broad range of theoretical positions concerning the social institutions that constitute modern societies, and to help you locate one unique way of thinking about social reality and your relationship to it. As such, thinking critically is as important as learning in this course. Upon the completion of the course, students are expected to (1) be familiarized with basic concepts in sociology and their fundamental theoretical interrelations, such that the student will be able to define, give examples, and demonstrate the relevance of culture; social change; socialization; stratification; social structure; institutions, etc.; (2) describe how sociology contributes to the understanding of social reality; and (3) apply the sociological imagination, sociological principles, and concepts to her/his own life.

Assessment

1. Reflection essay – 30%

Students are required to submit 2 reflection essays choosing from among the topics covered in the course. This is intended to ensure that students will be able to build up their understanding of the course contents through lecture attendance, reading materials and discussions at the tutorials. Each reflection essay should be of about 2 pages (approx. 600 words) in length, double-spaced, and in a 12-pt., Times New Roman font. The essay will be graded on knowledge of the topic tackled, analytical insight, and clarity of expression (writing). Any empirical support will receive an added bonus. Late submission will be penalized. Deadlines: by 5 pm of June 5 and June 26.

(Note: In submitting your essays, please observe Harvard system of referencing - <http://libweb.anglia.ac.uk/referencing/harvard.htm>).

2. In-Class final examination – 50%

3. Class attendance and participation – 20%

This will include (a) contribution to the class discussion; and (b) feedbacks to questions during group tutorial sessions. More details will be provided in class.

Grade Descriptors:

- A Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.
- A- Outstanding performance on most learning outcomes.
- B Substantial performance on most learning outcomes.
- C Acceptable performance on most learning outcomes, with a few weaknesses.
- D Barely acceptable performance on most learning outcomes.
- F Failure to meet specified assessment requirement

Electronic platforms

Course materials will be put on the **CUHK eLearning System - Blackboard**. Students are also required to submit written work through this system in addition to VeriGuide. The signed Verigude Receipt can be sent through the Blackboard platform.

ELEARNING <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/eLearning/>
<https://blackboard.cuhk.edu.hk>

Course Reading Materials

Textbooks:

2 basic textbooks have been adopted for the course. Both have electronic versions available for easy access.

- OpenStax College. 2021. *Introduction to sociology*, 3rd edition. Rice University. (<https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-3e>) - web version last updated in Jan 2023
- Macionis, J.J. 2017. *Sociology*. 16th ed. [ebook]. England: Pearson. Available at https://julac-cuhk.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991040292730803407&context=L&vid=852JULAC_CUHK:CUHK&lang=en&search_scope=All&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&isFrbr=true&tab=default_tab&query=any,contains,Sociology&sortby=date_d&facet=frbrgroupid,include_9044890364043007977&offset=0 [Accessed 10 May 2023].

References:

- Berger, P.L., 1963. *Invitation to sociology: a humanistic perspective*. 1st ed. New York: Doubleday.
Chung Chi College Elisabeth Luce Moore Library CC (on reserve 2 hours)
HM585 .B453 1963b;
University Library UL ; HM585 .B453 1963

Berger, P.L., 2013. *Invitation to sociology: a humanistic perspective*. [ebook] New York: Open Road Media. Available at https://julac-cuhk.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991039698716203407&context=L&vid=852JULAC_CUHK:CUHK&lang=en&search_scope=All&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&isFrbr=true&tab=default_tab&query=any,contains,Invitation%20to%20sociology:%20a%20humanistic%20perspective&sortby=date_d&facet=frbrgroupid,include,9069762113313321503&offset=0

- Campbell, T. 1981. *Seven theories of human society*. Oxford: Clarendon Press. University Library UL ; H61 .C35
- Charon, J.M. 1996. *The meaning of sociology*. 5th ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall. University Library UL ; HM585 .C45 1996
- Mills, C.W.. 2000. *The sociological imagination*. New York: Oxford University Press. Chung Chi College Elisabeth Luce Moore Library CC Reserve 2 hours ; H61 .M5 2000

The sociological imagination. New York: Oxford University Press. Available at https://julac-cuhk.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991039849159503407&context=L&vid=852JULAC_CUHK:CUHK&lang=en&search_scope=All&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&isFrbr=true&tab=default_tab&query=any,contains,The%20sociological%20imagination&sortby=date_d&facet=frbrgroupid,include,9014851068725310404&offset=0

Class Schedule and Reading Assignment

Week 1 (May 16)

What is Sociology? The Sociological Imagination

Readings:

1. OpenStax (2021), Chapter 1 (pp. 7-27)
2. Macionis (2017, online version), Chapter 1 (pp. 29-41)

References:

Berger, Peter (1966). *Invitation to Sociology*. Harmondsworth: Pelican Books (for students who have serious interest in appropriating Sociology as a lifelong project)

Charon, J.M. 1996. *The meaning of sociology*. 5th ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall. University Library UL ; HM585 .C45 1996

Mills, C.W.. 2000. *The sociological imagination*. New York: Oxford University Press. Chung Chi College Elisabeth Luce Moore Library CC Reserve 2 hours ; H61 .M5 2000

Week 1 and 2 (May 18 and 23)

II. Sociological Perspectives and the Development of Modern Society

- a. The emergence of sociological theory:
 - The nineteenth century founding fathers:
 - Auguste Comte (1798-1857)
 - Emile Durkheim (1858-1917)
 - Karl Marx (1818-1883)
 - Max Weber (1864-1920)
- b. The three principal sociological paradigms:
 - Macro-level paradigms: functionalism and conflict theory
 - Micro-level paradigm: symbolic interactionism

Readings:

1. Macionis (2017, online version), Chapter 1 (pp. 41-47)
2. OpenStax (2021), Chapter 4 (pp. 116-133)

References:

Campbell, T. "Emile Durkheim: A Consensus Theory," in T. Campbell, The Seven Theories of Human Society. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1981.

Campbell, T. "Karl Marx: A Conflict Theory," in T. Campbell, The Seven Theories of Human Society. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1981.

Campbell, T. "Max Weber: An Action Theory," in T. Campbell, The Seven Theories of Human Society. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1981.

Week 2 (May 25)

III. The Individual and Society

- a. Explanations of the relation between social order and individual action
Culture
- b. The structure of modern societies
Societies and institutions
- c. Constructing identity and organizing socializations
Socialization
- d. Groups and organizations

Readings:

1. OpenStax (2021), chapter 3 (pp. 65-88), chapter 4 (pp.97-114), chapter 5 (pp119-138), chapter 6 (pp.147-165)

Reference:

Macionis (2017, online version), chapter 3-7

Week 3 (May 30 and June 1)

May 30 – no class (reserve for interim review and preparation of reflection essay)

Week 3 (June 1)

IV. Structures of Power and Inequality

Class and stratification

Readings:

1. Macionis (2017, online version), Chapter 10 (pp. 269-287)
2. OpenStax (2021), Chapter 9 (pp. 235-255); Chapter 10 (pp.263-280)

Week 4 (June 6 and 8)

V. Education as a Social Institution

Readings:

1. Macionis (2017, online version), Chapter 20 (pp. 537-550)
2. OpenStax (2021), Chapter 16 (pp. 467-487)

Week 5 (June 13 and 15)

VI. Sociology of Work and Political Economy

Readings:

1. OpenStax (2021), Chapter 18 (pp. 521-550)
2. Macionis (2017, online version), Chapter 16 (pp. 430-439; 447-451)

Week 6 (June 20; June 22: no class - public holiday)

VII. Social Change and the Modern World

The modern nation-state; nationalism and citizenship

Readings:

1. OpenStax (2021), Chapter 21 (pp. 625-644)
2. Macionis (2017, online version), Chapter 23 (pp. 620-643)

Week 7 (June 27)

VIII. Does the Individual Make a Difference? What is possible about society?

- Charon, J.M. 1996. *Ten Questions: A Sociological Perspective*, 8th ed. (2013)
Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company. Chapter 9 and 10
University Library UL ; UL ; HM586 .C457 2013

June 29 (Thursday): In-Class Final Examination