

UGEC 1823/ SOCI 1102  
SOCIOLOGY AND MODERN SOCIETY  
Summer Term, 2024-25

Monday: 2:30-5:15 and Wed 2:30-5:15  
Venue: CKB LT2

Instructor: Professor Wong Suk-Ying 王淑英  
Office: Sino Building 436  
Email: [sukyingwong@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:sukyingwong@cuhk.edu.hk)  
(Office Hours: by appointment)

Teaching Assistant: Ng Yeuk Nam 吳若楠 and Joanna Lee  
Office: SB 411A  
Email: [yeuknamng@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:yeuknamng@cuhk.edu.hk) ; [tszshunlee@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:tszshunlee@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 – 20%

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. Reflection papers should demonstrate an understanding of concepts from the relevant part of the syllabus. You may raise questions, connect material from different sources, use personal experiences that illustrate or run contrary to reading and/or lecture material, or in some other way display evidence of critical thinking and engaged learning. You may refer to references/readings outside the class that are relevant for your paper, but you should always cite any sources. The reflection essay should be between 2 and 3 pages in length, double-spaced, and in a 12-pt., Times New Roman font. Any empirical support will receive an added bonus. Late submission will be penalized. **Deadlines:**  
**by 5 pm of May 30 and June 20.**

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

2. Quiz (2) – 20% (Details to be announced in class).
3. In-Class final examination – 40%
4. Class attendance (5%) and participation (15%) – 20%  
This will include (a) contribution to the class discussion and (b) feedback to questions during 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](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](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](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

### May 12

#### 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)
3. 「新不了情」——社會學與我. 何詠詩（原出香港《文匯報》，心聲篇，1997年4月25日）

##### *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

## **May 14, 19, and 21)**

### **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.

## **May 26 and 28**

### **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 (pp.119-138), chapter 6 (pp.147-165)

#### *Reference:*

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

## **June 2 and 4**

### **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)

## June 9 and 11

### V. Education as a Social Institution

- Social Order and Class Reproduction

#### *Readings:*

1. Macionis (2017, online version), Chapter 20 (pp. 537-550)
2. OpenStax (2021), Chapter 16 (pp. 467-487)
3. Dreeben, Robert. 1968. "Introduction"; "The Contribution of Schooling to Learning and Norms: Independence, Achievement, Universalism, and Specificity"; "Schooling and Citizenship." Chapters 1 and 5 in *On What is Learned in School*. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley Publishing Company.

## June 16 and 18

### VI. Social Change and the Modern World

- The modern nation-state; nationalism and citizenship
- Society in Digital Age

#### *Readings:*

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

## June 23

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

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

## June 25 In-Class Final Examination

## June 30 – Makeup Class (if needed)

### VIII. 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)