

As of May 10, 2025

UGEC 2703 Youth Problem in Modern Society

現代社會青少年問題

Department of Sociology
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

2024-25 Summer Session

Tuesdays and Thursdays

10:30-12:15

LSK LT4

Contact Information

Instructor: Professor LEE Jaemin
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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. 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. Students will be able to reflect on their life experiences in modern society.

Assessment and Grading

The grade for the course will be calculated as a weighted average of the following components:

Participation	20%
Mid-term exam	40%
Final exam	40%

Participation (20%)

- Attendance is important and I will highly compensate diligent and active students. Arrivals after attendance check will be counted as lateness—please kindly inform the instructor during the break in the middle of each class. Attendance after the break will not be counted.
- There could be some discussion tasks (online or offline) in which participation is evaluated. Details TBA.

Mid-term (40%) and final (40%) in-class examinations

- The two in-class examinations will be held on **June 3** and **26**. The questions will cover lecture contents and readings.
- The exam consists of a mix of true/false quizzes, multiple-choice questions (with 4-5 answer choices), short-answer questions, and essay-style questions.

Grading

GradeDescriptors

- A Excellent: Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.
 - A- Very Good: Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.
 - B Good: 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 Fair: Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.
 - D Pass: Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes.
 - F Failure: Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.
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Schedule

The course content is subject to minor changes.

1	5-13	Course Introduction
2	5-15	Youth and Identities
3	5-20	Socialization: Family
4	5-22	Socialization: Peers
5	5-27	Deviance and Crime
6	5-29	Bullying
7	6-03	Mid-term exam
8	6-05	Urbanization and Housing
9	6-10	Issues in Digital Society
10	6-12	Political Participation
11	6-17	Education and Employment
12	6-19	Health and Well-being
13	6-24	Addictive Behaviour
14	6-26	Final Exam

*Add/Drop Period: 12– 18 May

Reading

General references:

Furlong, Andy. 2013. *Youth Studies: An Introduction*. London: Routledge. Free online access via the CUHK Library: [Link](#).

Open Textbook. *Social Problems: Continuity and Change*. LibreTexts: Social Sciences. [Link](#). [SPCC]

Shek, Daniel T. L., Rachel C. F. Sun, and Cecilia M. S. Ma. 2014. Chinese Adolescents in Hong Kong: Family Life, Psychological Well-Being, and Risk Behavior. Singapore: Springer.

For a significant portion of the lectures, however, the instructor will incorporate handbook chapters and empirical articles relevant to the given theme.

1	Course Introduction	Shek, Daniel T. L., Hing Keung Ma, and Rachel C. F. Sun. 2011. "A Brief Overview of Adolescent Developmental Problems in Hong Kong." <i>The Scientific World Journal</i> , 2243–56. doi: 10.1100/2011/896835.
2	Youth and Identities	Furlong Ch. 1 & 6; SPCC. Ch1.
3	Socialization: Family	Furlong Ch. 5; Ma, Y., Siu, A., & Tse, W. S. (2018). The Role of High Parental Expectations in Adolescents' Academic Performance and Depression in Hong Kong. <i>Journal of Family Issues</i> , 39(9), 2505–252
4	Socialization: Peers	Furlong Ch. 5

5	Deviance and Crime	Zhong, H. and Zhang, S.Y., 2021. Social control of crime in Asia. In Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Cheung, Nicole W. T., and Yuet W. Cheung. 2008. "Self-Control, Social Factors, and Delinquency: A Test of the General Theory of Crime among Adolescents in Hong Kong." <i>Journal of Youth and Adolescence</i> 37(4):412–30.
6	Bullying	Salmivalli, C., 2010. Bullying and the peer group: A review. <i>Aggression and violent behavior</i> , 15(2), pp.112-120.; Wong, Dennis S. W., and Dian Liu. 2021. "Bullying Research and Intervention in Mainland China and Hong Kong." <i>The Wiley Blackwell Handbook of Bullying: A Comprehensive and International Review of Research and Intervention</i> 1–2:571–86. doi: 10.1002/9781118482650.ch64.
8	Urbanization and Housing	SPCC Ch.14.; Shen, Y., Zhong, H. Rural-to-Urban Migration and Juvenile Delinquency in Urban China: a Social Control Perspective. <i>Asian J Criminol</i> 13, 207–229 (2018)
9	Issues in Digital Society	Kowalski, R.M., Giumetti, G.W., Schroeder, A.N. and Lattanner, M.R., 2014. Bullying in the digital age: a critical review and meta-analysis of cyberbullying research among youth. <i>Psychological bulletin</i> , 140(4), p.1073.
10	Political Participation	Low, Y.T., Busiol, D., and Lee, T.Y. 2016. "A review of research on civic and political engagement among Hong Kong youth." <i>International Journal of Child and Adolescence Health</i> 9(6): 423-432
11	Education and Employment	Bynner, J., & Parsons, S. 2002. "Social exclusion and the transition from school to work: The case of young people not in education, employment, or training (NEET)." <i>Journal of vocational behavior</i> 60(2): 289-309.
12	Health and Well-being	Furlong 2013 Ch. 8
13	Addictive Behaviour	SPCC. Ch.7. Rosecrance, J. 1985. "Compulsive gambling and the medicalization of deviance." <i>Social Problems</i> 32(3): 275-284 Cheung, Nicole W.T. 2016. "Social Strain, Self-Control, and Juvenile Gambling Pathology: Evidence from Chinese Adolescents." <i>Youth & Society</i> 48(1): 77-100.

Academic Honesty

Please keep in mind [the university's policy on academic honesty](#). Plagiarism will not be tolerated in the term paper and assignments. The ideas and language should be your own, and any outside sources must be clearly and properly cited. There are severe consequences if you commit any acts of academic dishonesty. In addition to the [department's policy and guidelines for citations](#), please refer to the [university-level disciplinary guidelines and procedures](#). The Faculty of Social Science has also compiled a [handout](#) to alert students of the importance of academic honesty and the consequences of violating the University's Rules. To this end, the newspaper commentary assignment should be submitted to [VeriGuide](#).