SAMPLE course outline only
Course contents will vary if taught by different teachers.
Please refer to the course teacher for the actual course content offered in each term.

SOCI 1002A APPROACHING SOCIOLOGY

First Term, 2025-26
Tuesday 9:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Venue: CKB 706B

Teacher: Prof. Nicole Wai Ting CHEUNG
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Course Description

For students new to the field of sociology, sociological writings are generally difficult to read and sociological concepts are difficult to understand. This course offers an opportunity for students to strengthen their abilities to read and digest sociological essays, and learn to think sociologically through those essays, before they proceed with their journeys in sociology.

Since this is a small-size class targeting major students, it also serves as a formal part of departmental academic mentoring programme. Our Department expects the teacher of Approaching Sociology in a "mentor" position and up to one-third of the course hours should be academic counseling activities. As such, the purpose of Approaching Sociology is not only to guide Year One/Two students in their early encounter with sociology, but also to serve as an opportunity for students and their respective teacher to nurture a mentor-mentee relationship that continues after the course has ended. Ultimately, we hope our students can be better adjusted to studying in the sociology programme.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students are expected to be able to:

(1) Familiarize themselves with the sociological approach to social phenomena and the fundamental vocabulary and perspectives by which sociologists study them.
(2) Be aware of the importance of a variety of study skills (reading, analysis, writing and presentation) essential to the sociology curriculum.
(3) Apply basic concepts in sociology to analyze social phenomena.

Course Assessment

1. **Group presentation of weekly reading 20%**
2. **Individual identification of objectives of 5 readings 8%**
3. **Individual mini-essays on weekly readings 36 %**
4. **Group presentation of sociological skeleton 20%**
5. **Class participation 16%**

Academic Honesty

No plagiarism! Your attention is drawn to the University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/

Grade Descriptors

A 90-100%

- Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.
- Demonstrate the ability to state properly, understand and elaborate sociological vocabulary and perspectives introduced in the course.
- Express strong reading, writing and presentation skills that far exceed expectation.
- Able to apply basic sociological concepts to analyze social phenomena in a clear, well-organized, critical and cogent manner.

A- 80-89%

- Generally outstanding performance on almost all learning outcomes.
- Demonstrate the ability to recall and understand sociological vocabulary and perspectives introduced in the course.
- Express good reading, writing and presentation skills that exceed expectation.
- Able to apply basic sociological concepts to analyzing social phenomena in a clear and well-organized manner.

B- / B / B+ 70-79%

- Substantial performance on all learning outcomes.
- Demonstrate the ability to recall relevant sociological vocabulary and perspectives introduced in the course.
- Express satisfactory reading, writing and presentation skills that meet expectation.
- Able to apply basic sociological concepts to analyze social phenomena in a comprehensible manner.

C- / C / C+ 60-69%

- Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weakness.
- Demonstrate the partial ability to recall pieces of sociological vocabulary and perspectives introduced in the course.
- Express average reading, writing and presentation skills that marginally meet expectation.
- Apply basic sociological concepts to analyze social phenomena in an unorganized manner.

D- / D / D+ 50-59%

- Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes.
- Demonstrate the weak ability to recall pieces of sociological vocabulary and perspectives introduced in the course.
- Express below-average reading, writing and presentation skills that do not meet expectation.
- Apply basic sociological concepts to analyze social phenomena in an irrelevant manner.

F below 50%

- Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, or failure to meet specified

assessment requirements.

- Unable to recall pieces of sociological vocabulary and perspectives introduced in the course.
- Express very poor reading, writing and presentation skills that are far below expectation.
- Only state personal or emotive opinions and do not apply basic sociological concepts to analyze social phenomena.