

THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

Faculty of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Unit of Associate Degree Studies

Course Outline Social Problems in Local Context

Part I

Programme Title	: Higher Diploma in Social Work
Course Title	: Social Problems in Local Context
Course Code	: SSC0196
Unit	: Unit of Associate Degree Studies
Credit Points	: 3
Contact Hours	: 45
Pre-requisite(s)	: NIL

Part II

1. Synopsis

This course intends to introduce three main sociological approaches to social problems with examples in the local context. It also aims to strengthen students' analytical ability in viewing social problems and their sociological implications on human life. Moreover, students are guided to attempt making sound recommendations in tackling these problems with special consideration of the empowerment perspective of generalist social work.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- CILO₁ explain the three sociological approaches to social problems;
- CILO₂ analyze the causes of social problems using the sociological perspective;
- CILO₃ identify major issues of social problems within the contemporary Hong Kong context; and
- CILO₄ propose sound recommendations to resolve selected social problems on the basis of the empowerment perspective.

3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
Introduction to three main sociological approaches to social problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functionalist approach • Conflict approach • Interactionalist approach 	CILO ₁	Lectures, Discussions, Debates, Newspaper Reading will be conducted to facilitate students' learning. Besides, students will form Tutorial Groups to conduct project work to explore and examine the various aspects of social problems. At the end of the Course, they will conduct presentations and submit written reports.
Causes of social problems based on a sociological perspective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of social problems • Practical examples for each of the approaches to social problems • Functionalist: Problem Solving Approach • Conflict: Social Action Approach • Interactionalist: Social System Approach 	CILO ₂	
Major issues in discussing social problems in the contemporary Hong Kong context: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and critique on the applicability of each approach 	CILO ₃	
Sound recommendations to resolve social problems with consideration of the empowerment perspective:	CILO ₄	

4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILOs
Participation	10%	CILO _{1,2,3,4}
Individual assignment	30%	CILO _{1,2,3}
Test or quizzes	30%	CILO _{1,2,3,4}
Group project and presentation	30%	CILO _{2,3,4}

5. Required Text

Mooney, L. A., Knox, D., & Schacht, C. (2007). *Understanding social problems*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Higher Education.

6. Recommended Reading

- *Groenemeyer, Axel (2007). "Social Problems, Concept and Perspectives." *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*. Ritzer, George (ed). Blackwell Publishing, 2007. Blackwell Reference Online.
- *Hall, Peter M. "Symbolic Interaction." *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*. Ritzer, George (ed). Blackwell Publishing, 2007. Blackwell Reference Online.
- *Kong, T. S. K. (2009). More than a sex machine: Accomplishing masculinity among chinese male sex workers in the hong kong sex industry. *Deviant Behavior*, 30(8), 715-745.
- Leung, B.K.P. (1996). *Perspectives on Hong Kong Society*. Hong Kong: Oxford University Press.
- *Lucas, Jeffrey W. "Structural Functional Theory." *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*. Ritzer, George (ed). Blackwell Publishing, 2007. Blackwell Reference Online
- *Levitt, L. (1980). Social work and social welfare: A conceptual matrix. *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*, 7(5), 636-647.
- *Sanderson, Stephen K. "Conflict Theory." *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*. Ritzer, George (ed). Blackwell Publishing, 2007. Blackwell Reference Online
- *Lai, M.-y. (2010). Dancing to different tunes: Performance and activism among migrant domestic workers in Hong Kong. *Women's Studies International Forum*, 33(5), 501-511.
- *Parrillo, V. N. (2008). *Encyclopedia of social problems* (V. N. e. Parrillo & G. Gale, Trans.). Thousand Oaks, Calif. :: Sage Publications, Inc.
- *So, A. Y. (2003). Cross-Border Families in Hong Kong: The Role of Social Class and Politics. *Critical Asian Studies*, 35(4), 515-534.
- *Tam, H. (2011). Delinquent behaviour as a kind of body politics against adult regulations a young peoples discourses in Hong Kong. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 33(6), 878-887.
- *Wong, T. K., Wan, S. P., & Law, K. W.(2009). Welfare attitudes and social class: The case of Hong Kong incomparative perspective. *International Journal of Social Welfare*, 18(2),142-152.
- 吳俊雄、張志偉 (2002)。閱讀香港普及文化 (1970-2000) (修訂版)。香港：牛津大學出版社。
- 呂大樂 (2007)。四代香港人。香港：進一步。
- 陳冠中 (2005)。我們這一代香港人。香港：牛津大學出版社。
- *魏彤儒；張剛 (2010)。中國現代社會“城市剩女”問題的思考 中國青年研究，2010年05期。
- 同根社 (2009)。同根同天空：遇上新來港婦女。香港：同根社。

7. Other Information (if any)

Nil

(Note: The asterisk “*” beside a reference item indicates that there is an e-version of that item in the HKIEd Library.)

Last updated: August 2012