

THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Course Outline

Part I

Programme Title	: All Undergraduate Programmes
Programme QF Level	: 5
Course Title	: Urban Communities and Liveability
Course Code	: SSC3309
Department	: Social Sciences and Policy Studies
Credit Points	: 3
Contact Hours	: 39
Pre-requisite(s)	: Nil
Medium of Instruction	: English
Course Level	: 3

Part II

The University's Graduate Attributes and seven Generic Intended Learning Outcomes (GILOs) represent the attributes of ideal EdUHK graduates and their expected qualities respectively. Learning outcomes work coherently at the University (GILOs), programme (Programme Intended Learning Outcomes) and course (Course Intended Learning Outcomes) levels to achieve the goal of nurturing students with important graduate attributes.

In gist, the Graduate Attributes for Sub-degree, Undergraduate, Taught Postgraduate, Professional Doctorate and Research Postgraduate students consist of the following three domains (i.e. in short "PEER & I"):

- Professional Excellence;
- Ethical Responsibility; &
- Innovation.

The descriptors under these three domains are different for the three groups of students in order to reflect the respective level of Graduate Attributes.

The seven GILOs are:

1. Problem Solving Skills
2. Critical Thinking Skills
3. Creative Thinking Skills
- 4a. Oral Communication Skills
- 4b. Written Communication Skills
5. Social Interaction Skills
6. Ethical Decision Making
7. Global Perspectives

1. Course Synopsis

Community has been an important theme in sociology. This course introduces students to sociological perspectives towards community and how debates about community are connected to the issue of liveability. The first part of the course discusses how debates about community were shaped by the early Chicago School and transformed subsequently by the postmodernist turn in sociology. It will also examine the emergence of the critical sociological perspective towards community which highlights the increasing contradiction within urban communities as a result of the rise of neoliberal governmentality in urban development. Building upon the first part of the course, the second part of the course examines issues related to community liveability. It addresses different dimensions of liveability, including culture, health, safety, education, recreation, and environmental quality. It will look at how global cities adopt different community strategies to enhance their liveability and identify the challenges and opportunities in enhancing the liveability of their neighbourhoods. The questions the course has in mind include: whether urban liveability is achievable in the age of neoliberalism? To what extent can community development enhance urban liveability? And, how community cohesion is threatened by neoliberal practices such as gentrification?

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- CILO₁ Demonstrate an understanding towards sociological concepts related to community and community development;
- CILO₂ Compare different community development trajectories in Asian and western cities;
- CILO₃ Evaluate the applicability of different measurements in relation to livability and community cohesion;
- CILO₄ Identify cultural, ethical and organisational challenges and opportunities in developing a livable community.

3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
The sociological theory of community and urbanism This part reviews the sociological discussions about community and urbanism.	CILO _{1,4}	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Interactive lectureSmall-group discussionCommunity planning workshop
Sociology of space and place This part introduces students to sociological theories related to the production of social space and the practice of place-making	CILO ₁	

Measurement of livability This part introduces students to different measurements of livability and identifies their strengths and limitations.	<i>CILO₃</i>	
Challenges and opportunities in community development This part introduces students to challenges and opportunities in community development from cultural, political and organisational perspectives.	<i>CILO_{1,2,4}</i>	
Strategies of community building This part introduces students to different strategies of community in different socio-economic contexts.	<i>CILO_{1,2,4}</i>	

4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILO
(a) Essay Students will be required to produce a 1,250-word essay on a specific topic.	50%	<i>CILOs_{1,2, 3, 4}</i>
(b) In-Class Participation Students would be required to participate actively in class and complete worksheets which are to be submitted by the end of each class.	30%	<i>CILOs_{1,2, 3, 4}</i>
(c) Presentation Students, working in groups, are required to conduct a presentation.	20%	<i>CILOs_{1,2, 3, 4}</i>

5. Use of Generative AI in Course Assessments

Please select one option only that applies to this course:

☐ **Not Permitted:** In this course, the use of generative AI tools is not allowed for any assessment tasks.

☒ **Permitted:** In this course, generative AI tools may be used in some or all assessment tasks. Instructors will provide specific instructions, including any restrictions or additional requirements (e.g., proper acknowledgment, reflective reports), during the first lesson and in relevant assessment briefs.

6. Required Text(s)

Abrahamson, Mark, (2014), *Urban Sociology*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Martinez, Miguel A., (ed.), (2024), *Research Handbook on Urban Sociology*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

7. Recommended Readings

Evans, Peter B. (2001), *Livable Cities?: Urban Struggles for Livelihood and Sustainability*, Los Angeles: University of California Press.

Lin, Jan, Mele, Christopher. (eds.) (2013), *The Urban Sociology Reader*, Oxon: Routledge.

Wagner, Fritz, Caves, Roger, (eds.) (2012), *Community Livability: Issues and Approaches to Sustaining the Well-Being of People and Communities*, Oxon: Routledge.

8. Related Web Resources

- <https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/expert-panel-project/what-community-development>

9. Related Journals

City and Community
Journal of Urban Affairs
Urban Studies

10. Academic Honesty

The University upholds the principles of honesty in all areas of academic work. We expect our students to carry out all academic activities honestly and in good faith. Please refer to the *Policy on Academic Honesty, Responsibility and Integrity* (<https://www.eduhk.hk/re/uploads/docs/000000000016336798924548BbN5>). Students should familiarize themselves with the Policy.

11. Other

Nil

Updated July 2025