

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Subject Code	APSS112											
Subject Title	Introduction to Sociology											
Credit Value	3											
Level	1											
Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion	Nil											
Assessment Methods	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">100% Continuous Assessment</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Individual Assessment</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Group Assessment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Seminar Presentation & Participation</td> <td style="text-align: center;">40 %</td> <td style="text-align: center;">--</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Term Paper</td> <td style="text-align: center;">60 %</td> <td style="text-align: center;">--</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			100% Continuous Assessment	Individual Assessment	Group Assessment	1. Seminar Presentation & Participation	40 %	--	2. Term Paper	60 %	--
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1. Seminar Presentation & Participation	40 %	--										
2. Term Paper	60 %	--										
Objectives	<p>The subject aims to help students understand how society works, and the extent to which they are influenced by society. Unlike the conventional introductory course, it adopts a distinct approach, which tries to make learning a process of personal discovery. It will try to build this discovering process on the solid base of students' everyday experience.</p>											
Intended Learning Outcomes <i>(Note 1)</i>	<p>Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Cultivate a linkage between sociology and real life through articulating essential knowledge and concepts about various aspects of society including culture, institutions and social change. B. Paint the origin, historical development, and essence of sociology ; C. Identify the characteristics of society at different stages of development, and of people belonging to different classes, genders and subcultures. D. Give an educated criticism over social issues beyond commonsensical viewpoints E. Understand the importance of critical thinking in the study of individual behavior and social change. 											
Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nature and Birth of sociology 2. Sociological theories 3. Sociological enquiry 											

(Note 2)

4. Thematic discussions:

- Culture, groups and social construction of reality

Culture, language symbols, values, norms, subculture, counterculture, ethnocentrism

- Socialization, deviance and social control

Socialization, looking-glass self, role-taking, agents of socialization, total institution, re-socialization, social control

- Social stratification

Structural poverty, social stratification, social inequality, social mobility, class, ideology

- School education

Urbanization, industrialization, democratization and schooling; mass education as a means of social stratification; mass education as a means of social control

- Sex, gender and family

Gender, gender stereotype, sexism, gender socialization, agents of socialization; feminism and social changes; family, kinship, marriage, nuclear family, functions of family, disintegration of family

- Religion

Religion and modernization; religion and social stability; religion and social movements

- Globalization and technological advancement

Social change, personal vs impersonal relationship, symbols, communication of intention and emotion; bureaucracy; rationality and McDonaldization