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Office Hours: Mon & Wed 4-5pm (Rm2382; by appointment)

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SOSC1859: EXPLORING SOCIETY

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course invites students to explore how social forces shape individual experiences and societal structures. Students will learn to recognize how personal issues often stem from larger, unarticulated social problems. The course also emphasizes the transformative potential of sociology. By analyzing the constraints and opportunities shaped by social forces, students will gain a deeper understanding of how society influences behavior and how this knowledge can empower them to take creative control of their lives.

II. COURSE AIMS

1. To introduce the basic sociological concepts and perspectives;
2. To address some critical social issues and problems from sociological perspectives;
3. To enable students to relate sociology to their life experiences and the social context.

III. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, students should be able:

- (1) To demonstrate basic knowledge of the key sociological concepts and perspectives;
- (2) To explain and analyze a wide range of social issues including deviance, gender inequality, family changes, class inequality, education, power, politics and so on; &
- (3) To apply some basic sociological concepts.

IV. MODES OF ASSESSMENT & ILOs

Class Participation	10%	ILO1: assess students' understanding of course materials in class
Quiz 1	25%	ILO1 & ILO2: assess students' understanding of sociological concepts and theories
Quiz 2	25%	ILO1 & ILO2: assess students' understanding of sociological concepts and theories
Final Exam	40%	ILO1, ILO2 & ILO3: evaluate students' understanding and application of sociological concepts and theories

- ※ Class participation: best 5 scores out of 8; must be done in class, NO make-up.
- ※ 2 closed book quizzes: MC questions + short-answer question.

✖ A final examination in the form of 2 long questions; assessing students' understanding of the subject matter, analytical competence and the ability to integrate the course materials.

V. CONTENTS AND SCHEDULE

Wk	Monday	Wednesday
1		[02/09] Introduction
2	[07/09] Sociological Theory	[09/09] Culture and Socialization
3	[14/09] Culture and Socialization	[16/09] Economy & Class Inequalities
4	[21/09] Economy & Class Inequalities	[23/09] Economy & Class Inequalities
5	[28/09] Economy & Class Inequalities	[30/09] Education
6	[05/10] Education	[07/10] Education
7	[12/10] Quiz 1	[14/10] Race & Ethnicity
8	[19/10] Public Holiday	[21/10] Race & Ethnicity
9	[26/10] Gender & Family	[28/10] Gender & Family
10	[02/11] Gender & Family	[04/11] Deviance & Crime
11	[09/11] Deviance & Crime	[11/11] Deviance & Crime
12	[16/11] Power & Politics	[18/11] Power & Politics
13	[23/11] Power & Politics	[25/11] Quiz 2

VI. READINGS

Haralambos, M., & Holborn, M. (2004). *Sociology: Themes and Perspectives* (6th ed.). London: Collins.

Ferris, K., & Stein, J. (2020). *The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology* (8th ed.). New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Relevant excerpts from different chapters of the two core texts, selected according to the topics covered in the course, are available on Canvas.

VII. GRADING RUBRICS

Final Exam (40%)

Grades		
A	Excellent	Very clear and relevant focus. In-depth and accurate understanding of subject knowledge/theories/concepts, and excellent application. Very comprehensive and logical argument with substantial evidence. Very well-structured and highly coherent; highly effective presentation, clear and fluent.
B	Good	Clear and relevant focus. Good understanding of subject knowledge/theories/concepts, and effective application. Comprehensive and logical argument with good

		evidence; reasonably in-depth discussion. Structured and coherent; presentation clear and fluent.
C	Satisfactory	Quite clear and relevant focus. Rather superficial understanding of subject knowledge/theories/concepts, and satisfactory application. Fairly comprehensive and logical argument with some evidence; discussion not in-depth enough. Fairly structured and coherent; presentation not clear and fluent enough.
D	Below Satisfactory	Barely clear and relevant focus. Obvious misconceptions of subject knowledge/theories/concepts; limited application. Argument a bit illogical; discussion superficial and with biases. Loosely structured and obvious problems with expression.
F	Fail	The focus is very vague or irrelevant. Lack of proper understanding of subject knowledge/theories/concepts; application very limited. Argument illogical with little evidence; very superficial or biased discussion. Disorganized, unclear and substantial problems with expression.

VIII. COMMUNICATION & FEEDBACK

- Results of quizzes will be released via Canvas within one week of the assessment.
- Students can check the results by making an appointment with the instructor after the results have been released.

IX. COURSE AI POLICY

If a situation arises where you have to use Generative AI, it must be properly acknowledged. Please note that any AI-generated content will not be considered as part of your own work.

X. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity policy. Students are expected to uphold HKUST's Academic Honor Code and to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. The University has zero tolerance of academic misconduct. Please refer to Academic Integrity | HKUST – Academic Registry for the University's definition of plagiarism and ways to avoid cheating and plagiarism.