

## The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

### Subject Description Form

*Please read the notes at the end of the table carefully before completing the form.*

<b>Subject Code</b>	APSS 360														
<b>Subject Title</b>	Social Problems and Social Issues in Contemporary China														
<b>Credit Value</b>	3														
<b>Level</b>	3														
<b>Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion</b>	Nil														
<b>Assessment Methods</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 40%;">100% Continuous Assessment</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Individual Assessment</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Group Assessment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Seminar Presentation and Report</td> <td style="text-align: center;">--</td> <td style="text-align: center;">40 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Participation</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10 %</td> <td style="text-align: center;">--</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Term Paper</td> <td style="text-align: center;">50%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">--</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The grade is calculated according to the percentage assigned;</li> <li>▪ The completion and submission of all component assignments are required for passing the subject; and</li> <li>▪ Student must pass all components if he/she is to pass the subject.</li> </ul>			100% Continuous Assessment	Individual Assessment	Group Assessment	1. Seminar Presentation and Report	--	40 %	2. Participation	10 %	--	3. Term Paper	50%	--
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<b>Objectives</b>	To enable students to acquire sociological perspectives and concepts for understanding social issues and problems in the Chinese society and to develop a good understanding of the major social problems and social issues confronting contemporary Chinese society.														
<b>Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	<p>Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) acquire sociopolitical perspectives and frameworks for understanding and analyzing social issues and problems</li> <li>b) enrich understanding of the causes, conditions and consequences of major social problems confronting contemporary China.</li> <li>c) apply perspectives and frameworks acquired in this subject to analyze</li> </ol>														

	social problems in the contemporary Chinese society and beyond.																																																				
<b>Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus</b>	<p><b>1) Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The economic and sociopolitical transformations of contemporary China</li> </ul> <p><b>2) Theoretical frameworks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State-society relations</li> <li>- Modernization</li> <li>- Collective action</li> </ul> <p><b>3) Selected topics on social issues in contemporary China</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Social institutions and political development</li> <li>- Political participation and popular contention</li> <li>- Democratic values and grassroots democracy</li> <li>- Environmental challenges and governance</li> <li>- Media and information</li> <li>- Rural development and sustainability</li> <li>- Land taking and urbanization</li> <li>- Other topical issues</li> </ul> <p><b>4) Concluding reflections on social development in China</b></p>																																																				
<b>Teaching/Learning Methodology</b>	<p>In addition to the delivery of lectures, documentaries on related topics will be used as supplementary teaching / learning materials. Reference to current affairs is encouraged in supporting discussions of topics related to the curriculum. For seminars, students will be assessed by the way they prepare and present a chosen seminar topic (such as accuracy of grasping core themes of reference materials, logic of argument, clarity of presentation), as well as their submission of a group report. In addition, students will be individually assessed by assignments in the form of a term paper and participation in the seminars.</p>																																																				
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	<p>intended learning outcomes:</p> <p><b>Term Paper:</b></p> <p>The term paper will enable students to integrate major concepts, theories and paradigms learnt in the subject to indicate the level of knowledge and competence gained in the field of study. It should be 3,000-3,500 words in length.</p> <p><b>Seminar Presentation and Report:</b></p> <p>Students have to present in groups their critical views on selected topics on social problems and social issues in contemporary China. They are expected to use current empirical materials to illustrate how they can apply theories and concepts learned in lectures to generate critical discussions. This exercise will show how well they have learned and how effective they are as communicators.</p> <p>Following the presentation, students are required to submit a report based on their presentation and the feedback received. In this exercise, students can demonstrate their competence in written communication, logical thinking, critical ability and problem-solving capacity.</p>	
<b>Student Study Effort Expected</b>	Class contact:	
	▪ Lectures	27 Hrs.
	▪ Seminars	12 Hrs.
	Other student study effort:	
	▪ Presentation preparation	30 Hrs.
	▪ Reading assignments and paper writing	60 Hrs.
	Total student study effort	126 Hrs.
<b>Reading List and References</b>	<p><b><u>Essential</u></b></p> <p>Jacka, T., Kipnis, A. B. &amp; Sargeson, S. (2013). <i>Contemporary China: Society and social change</i>. New York: Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Mills, C. W. (2000). <i>The sociological imagination</i>. Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Oi, J. C., Rozelle, S., &amp; Zhou, X. (Eds.). (2010). <i>Growing pains: tensions and opportunity in China's transformation</i>. Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center.</p>	

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- Shi, T. (2001). Cultural values and political trust: a comparison of the People's

	<p>Republic of China and Taiwan. <i>Comparative politics</i>, 401-419.</p> <p>Steinhardt, H. C. &amp; Wu, F. (2016). In the name of the public: environmental protest and the changing landscape of popular contention in China. <i>The China Journal</i>, 75(1), 61-82.</p>
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