

SOC455 Contemporary Social Issues and Research

Level: 4

Credit Units: 5 Credit Units

Language: ENGLISH

Presentation Pattern: EVERY JAN

Synopsis:

This course focuses on selected contemporary social issues and surveys social science research that directly addresses these issues. It takes an interdisciplinary approach and draws upon insightful research from sociology, economics, political science, and other disciplines. We will examine the linkages between theory, research, and practice, and the advantages and limitations of various theoretical perspectives and research methods. This course will help prepare Sociology Honours students for their independent research projects.

Topics:

- Research in contemporary society
- Sociological approaches to contemporary social issues
- Key theoretical debates
- Qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods
- Choosing appropriate research method(s)
- Evaluation of empirical evidence
- Communication of research findings
- Research and public policy
- Research and social change
- Challenges in doing research
- Doing research in Singapore society
- Conceptualizing a research project

Learning Outcome:

- Discuss the major theoretical debates in relation to contemporary social issues
- Evaluate empirical evidence on selected social issues
- Analyse the social factors underlying social issues and contributing to social change
- Examine the advantages and limitations of various theoretical perspectives and research methods
- Assess major policy options and practices in addressing various social issues
- Demonstrate skills in analytical thinking and written and spoken expression

Assessment Strategies - Regular Semester (Evening Class):

Components	Description	Weightage Allocation (%)
Overall Continuous Assessment	TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT 1	30
	TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT 2	30
Overall Examinable Components	ECA	40

Total	100
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*The information listed is subject to review and change.