

Introduction of Social Sciences () Programmes and Courses Offered by School of Arts and Social Sciences, Hong Kong Metropolitan University (HKMU)

PROGRAMMES

- **Bachelor of Social Sciences with Honours in Psychology (Programme: JS9001)**

The Bachelor of Social Sciences with Honours in Psychology programme is a 4-year full-time programme which aims to equip students with an in-depth knowledge in exploring human behaviour and experience in Psychology and applying the psychological knowledge in daily lives. Upon successful completion of the programme, students should be able to understand the self and others with a psychological perspective.

Graduates can pursue a career in the private and public sectors, as well as the non-government organisations in psychology-related positions, such as consultants, educators, project officers, etc. Graduates can also pursue postgraduate studies in different specialties of Psychology.

Graduates are eligible for graduate membership at the Hong Kong Psychological Society, subject to their latest conditions. For details, please visit http://www.hkps.org.hk/en/membership/membership_guide/

- **Bachelor of Social Sciences with Honours in Politics and Public Administration (Programme: JS9003)**

The Bachelor of Social Sciences with Honours in Politics and Public Administration is a 4-year programme which aims to equip students with an in-depth knowledge of politics and public administration; to arouse their interest in studying both local and global public problems as well as issues pertinent to the management of the government; to familiarise them with the knowledge and skills of conducting research within the discipline; and to analyse public problems of the world and their society.

Politics and public administration graduates will be capable to pursue a career in a wide range of fields such as the public sector (government departments like the Fire Services Department and government/aided secondary schools), the non-governmental organisations and the private sector (airlines and real estate developers sector), or being assistants to legislators (Legislative Council) and/or district councillors. Students would also be capable to further their study at local or overseas universities.

- **Bachelor of Social Sciences with Honours in Applied Social Studies (Programme: JS9004)**

The Bachelor of Social Sciences with Honours in Applied Social Studies programme is a 4-year programme which guides students to acquire an understanding of social life: specifically, how we live our lives in groups, in interaction with social institutions and culture, and in contexts of social change. Drawing upon the intellectual foundation of sociology, students will learn to observe, make sense of, and explain issues and topics of contemporary relevance, ranging from globalisation, social institutions and issues in Hong Kong and Mainland China, crime and criminal justice, social policy, culture and identity, intergenerational relations, ageing and health, as well as family, gender and sexuality. Training in psychology, economics, politics and public administration is at the same time integrated into the curriculum.

Students can declare one of the specializations, namely (i) *Criminology*, (ii) *Cultural and Heritage Studies* and (iii) *Social Policy and Youth*

Studies, after being admitted to the programme.

Graduates are well-equipped with the knowledge and skills for careers in the civil service, non-governmental organisations, social services, law enforcement, education,

For further details about the above-mentioned programmes, please visit the website of the Department of Social Sciences at <https://ss.hkmu.edu.hk>. An online version of prospectus can be downloaded at <https://rb.gy/tyqlzy>. Please also feel free to visit the programme videos at the following links:

JS9001: https://youtu.be/t_OWbH01iaA

JS9003: <https://youtu.be/OVutAzVgKuA>

JS9004: https://youtu.be/D_Aj0Oqd6Q4

JS9004 (students' sharing):

[Cantonese Version]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0lNxx94LDZA&=&feature=youtu.be>

[English Version]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDLUqifeAJg&feature=youtu.be>

[Mandarin Version]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v15r3cwT46o&feature=youtu.be>

Remarks:

The Bachelor of Social Sciences with Honours in Applied Economics programme (Programme: JS9002) is being phased out. However, the following four courses are still offered in other social sciences programmes:

- *ECON A121F Foundations of Social Sciences: Economics*
- *ECON A231F Introduction to Microeconomics*
- *ECON A232F Introduction to Macroeconomics*
- *STAT A221F Statistics*

ONE-SEMESTER COURSES

Term	Course Code	Course Title	Language	Credits	Brief Description
Autumn	ECON A231F	Introduction to Microeconomics	English	5	This course introduces students to the nature and the basic problems of microeconomics. It equips students with fundamental microeconomic theories to analyze real world economic and business problems.
Autumn	POLS A122F	Foundations of Social Sciences: Political Science	English	5	The course introduces basic concepts and theories in Political Science, the development of the discipline, key elements in different regime types, and the role of different political institutions and actors. By completing this course, students are expected to grasp elementary conceptual tools and factual knowledge in the study of politics, which will serve as a foundation for more advanced courses in Political Science and Public Administration. It will enable students with the capacity to understand and analyze current affairs from a political perspective.
Autumn	POLS A221F	Introductory Comparative Politics	English	5	This course introduces you the comparative politics subfield in the study of Political Science / Politics and International Relations. It explores key concepts, theories, ideologies, institutions, actors, and representative case studies in the comparative study of political systems and actions. The course is divided into three parts. Part I

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					<p>introduces the foundation, key issues, and methods used in comparative politics. It examines the concepts of sovereign State, nation, and the formation of nation-State system. Part II is all about liberal democracy—its principles, institutions, and agencies. We will learn the roles of different forms and levels of government, party systems, elections, and dynamics in regime transition. Next, there are autocracy and authoritarianism, popular protests and social movements, also populism and anarchism.</p> <p>Comparative politics is essentially about the study of domestic politics in different countries. A selection of case studies is presented in Part III. It begins with an overview of the idea of American exceptionalism, which seems to resist comparison. This is where we will look at democratic socialism and welfare State. We will then examine whether China is also a case of exceptionalism, but this time the focus will be on authoritarian resilience and mixed economic model. This is followed by a number of large-N studies of voting behaviour in modern democracies, a sub-national small-N comparison of social capital in Italian localities and the Weimar Republic of Germany, which the impacts of political culture on institutional performance are assessed. The course will finish by a critical reflection on the functions and roles of, also relations between the State and the society at a time of global uncertainty and</p>

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					transformation.
Autumn	PSYC A124F	Foundations of Social Sciences: Psychology	English	5	<p>This course aims to introduce students to the psychological perspective to understanding human behaviour and experience, the methods used, the key findings gathered and the issues being debated. In so doing, the course aims to guide students to master the nature of psychological explanations and to arouse students' interest in the study of psychology.</p> <p>Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. demonstrate a basic understanding of core topics, concepts, and theories in various areas of Psychology; 2. describe and evaluate the main concepts, theories, research and issues in various areas of Psychology; 3. identify and explain research findings in various areas of Psychology; 4. apply psychological theories and concepts in their daily lives; and 5. develop insights about human behavior and mental processes.
Autumn	PSYC A236F*	Positive Psychology and Mental Health	English	5	This course introduces the core topics and research findings in positive psychology. The course also highlights the ways in which positive emotions, cognitions, and behaviours foster a sense of mental wellness and the application of positive psychology

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					<p>principles on individual level.</p> <p>This course aims to provide students with (a) an understanding of the major concepts and empirical findings in positive psychology and to (b) foster student's application of positive psychology principles in their daily lives.</p> <p>Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. identify and explain the core topics and theories related to Positive Psychology; 2. identify factors affecting psychological well-being and character development; 3. analyse research findings in Positive Psychology; 4. apply positive psychology principles in their daily lives; and 5. understand the limitations and criticisms to Positive Psychology.
Autumn	SOCI A220F	Essentials of Sociological Inquiry	English	5	<p>This course introduces students to the basic tenets of classical and contemporary theories in sociology and to the application of these theories in the analysis of social life.</p> <p>Through intensive reading and discussion on a set of sociological</p>

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					<p>literatures, students will develop a deeper understanding on the nature of sociological theories, the logics of sociological analysis and the relevance of sociological theory to the understanding of the social world. With this, students will be able to demonstrate how they can understand the social world with the application of various sociological theories, and to appreciate the contributions and limitations of these theories in a critical way.</p>
Autumn	STAT A221F	Statistics	English	5	<p>This course including three parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to Quantitative Methods – Basic Descriptive Statistics: Percentages, Ratios and Rates, Tables, Charts, and Graphs 2. Descriptive Statistics <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Measures of Central Tendency b) Measure of Dispersion 3. Inferential Statistics <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Normal curve b) Introduction to Inferential Statistics: Sampling and the Sampling Distribution c) Fundamentals of Hypothesis Testing: Estimation Procedures and Confidence Intervals d) One-Sample Hypothesis Testing

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e) Two-Sample Hypothesis Testing f) Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) g) Correlational Analysis
Autumn	STAT A222F	Essentials of Research Inquiry	English	5	<p>This course aims to develop in students an understanding of the nature of social research. It introduces to students the key concepts involved, demonstrates how meaningful research questions can be formulated, and familiarizes students with different research approaches, strategies and methods including, but not limited to qualitative interviewing and observation.</p> <p>It equips students with both the analytical perspectives and practical skills involved in data management and interpretation, in the evaluation of research findings, and in the writing of a research proposal.</p>
Spring	ECON A121F	Foundations of Social Sciences: Economics	English	5	<p>This course introduces students to the nature and the basic problem of economics. It aims to provide students with an understanding of the fundamental principles of economics and to develop students' ability to apply the theories to explain real world cases.</p>
Spring	ECON A232F	Introduction to Macroeconomics	English	5	<p>This course is designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. introduce students to the nature and the basic problems of macroeconomics;

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. equip students with fundamental macroeconomic theories to analyse real world economic and business problems; and iii. develop students' ability to use principles and theories learned in the course to form their own views on economic policies.
Spring	PUAD A222F	Introduction to Public Administration	English	5	<p>This course aims to develop in students an understanding of the distinctive nature of the public sector and differences between the public and private sectors; essence of the traditional public administration and the new public management models; theories and concepts of public policy; measures to improve the performance of the public sector; public sector reforms in Western liberal democracies; and impacts of public sector reform initiatives on the government's accountability to the public.</p> <p>After completing the course, students should be able to apply public administration concepts and theories to explain how a public sector is being managed, and to evaluate challenges to manage the public sector in an efficient and accountable manner.</p>
Spring	SOCI A123F	Foundations of Social Sciences: Sociology	English	5	<p>Sociology studies society in a critical manner. To be CRITICAL means you don't take things for granted, i.e., you don't just take things as they appear to be. You ought to examine people, their lives,</p>

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					<p>behaviours, etc. but not as unrelated. Studying people sociologically means making attempts to discover interesting features and patterns about them.</p> <p>Sociological enquiry is about thinking beyond what you can see — a more professional term for this ability is ‘sociological imagination’. If you always like to ‘tickle’ your mind, you have got the potential for a ‘sociological imagination’ already. If you can organize your thoughts to form an argument (or a theory) and are curious enough to look for evidences systematically to support your argument, you have the great potential to be a sociologist! To make it possible for you to do so, you will be introduced to a number of analytical tools and skills in this course (the more professional sayings are perspectives, theories and concepts). These analytical tools and skills will help you understand things around you in a ‘sociological way’. We do not expect you would become a full-fledged sociologist after the course. But we do hope that you will be a lot more conscious of the underlying features and patterns of social life and be able to ask more interesting yet meaningful questions about the society you live in.</p>
Spring	SOCI	Social Problems and	English	5	The course aims to help you develop a critical understanding of the

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	A221F	Social Issues			forces and processes that influence our interpretation of problematic social issues. Towards the end of the course, you are expected to achieve a reflective, analytical understanding of 'social problems' and consider some possible solutions.

Note:

*PSYC A221F Introductory Psychology has been replaced by PSYC A236F Positive Psychology and Mental Health.