Course Description

The course will help students appreciate how sociology can help us understand ourselves and the society in which we live. How can we better understand different cultures? How are we influenced by those around us? Why do people break rules? Why is there so much inequality in Hong Kong? How is family life changing in Hong Kong?

Topics

1. How much do we know about our own society?
2. Understanding culture
3. Socialization and deviance
4. The power of groups
5. Thinking about poverty and inequality
6. Thinking about Gender
7. The Changing Family

Grading Scheme

- Short writing exercise (35%)
- Final Assessment (35%)
- Class Attendance and Participation (30%)

[Topics and grading schemes are subject to change as deemed appropriate. Students will receive information and guidelines in class on how they will be assessed for the course.]

Instructor

Prof. Julian GROVES

Originally from the UK, Prof. Groves graduated with a BA (Hons.) degree in sociology from Durham University and a Master and PhD in sociology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has taught at HKUST for 14 years and is the author of a book, *Hearts and Minds: The Controversy over Laboratory Animals* with Temple University Press. He has also published numerous articles in academic journals on migrant domestic workers, non-engaged youth, social work, and ethnography in Hong Kong. He offers courses in sociology, gender, education, Hong Kong society and social research methods. Prof. Groves first offered SISP 1706 for HKUST Summer Institute in 2012, and it has since then become one of the most popular courses in the program. Prof. Groves is also one of the most beloved course instructors in Summer Institute; he has consistently received remarkable ratings as evaluated by Summer Institute participants.