SISP 1711
Science, Technology and Public Health

Course Description

Our life has been greatly improved by advances in science and technology, which are gradually being regarded as a proper (and sometimes the only) way to solve problems. But such advances have also raised critical issues, many of which have adverse effects on our health. In this course, students will examine the appearance of health issues as a result of technological 'advances', and what their solutions have been. It will also examine major health problems that have had a great impact on our community and their causes; and the place of science and technology in dealing with related problems. The role of technology in maintaining good public health and handling possible public health crises are also explored. Finally, this course seeks to develop students' ability to evaluate public health issues from different perspectives, taking into account scientific, historical, moral, social, ethical and cultural factors.

Topics

- What is Science? What is Technology? What is Public Health?
- Science and Technology in Public Health
- History of Public Health
- Impact and Application of Public Health
- System of Modern Public Health

Grading Scheme

- *Individual*: Attendance and in-Class Participation (35%)
  - Asynchronous Participation (3 x Canvas Discussions) (15%)
  - Synchronous (in-class) Participation (2 x in-class Discussions) (20%)
- *Individual*: Assignment (35%)
- *Group-based*: Presentation (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.]

Teaching Mode

The course will be delivered face-to-face.

Attendance Requirement

Attendance is expected and required. The minimum attendance required is 70%. Attendance for the assessment activities [e.g. group presentation and final exam] is mandatory.

Instructor(s) Profile

Prof. Naubahar SHARIF

Prof. Sharif is a Professor at the Division of Public Policy. His research interests include the sociology of the innovation systems conceptual approach; the role of innovation/technology in Hong Kong; university-industry linkages; and the economic linkages between Hong Kong and Guangdong. He completed the Executive Education Program in Innovation for Economic Development at Harvard University in 2011 and consulted for the Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Commission from 2006 to 2010. As a dedicated teacher, he has been nominated for HKUST's Michael G. Gale Medal for Distinguished Teaching and won the School of Humanities and Social Science (SHSS) Best Teacher Award in 2009. Naubahar has been awarded both 'Public Policy Research' (PPR) and 'General Research Fund' (GRF) grants by Hong Kong's Research Grants Council (RGC), and at HKUST from the Research Project Competition (RPC), Center for Enhanced Learning and Teaching (CELT), the Undergraduate Core Education Office (UCEO) and from School-Based Initiatives (SBI). He has published numerous articles in leading journals including Research Policy, International Journal of Technology and Management, and Science, Technology and Human Values.