



## SISP 1706

# Understanding Sociology

### 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?

### Topics

1. Understanding Culture
2. Socialization
3. The Power of Groups
4. Thinking about Poverty and Inequality
5. Thinking about Gender
6. The Changing Family

### Grading Scheme

- Class Attendance and Participation (30%)
- Short Writing Exercise (35%)
- Final Assessment (35%)

[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.]

### Attendance Requirement

Class attendance is expected and required. The minimum attendance required is 70%.

### Instructor

#### **Prof. Julian GROVES**

Originally from the UK, Prof. Groves graduated with a Masters and PhD in sociology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has taught at HKUST for 20 years has published numerous articles in academic journals on migrant domestic workers, youth, social work, and education in Hong Kong. He offers courses in sociology, gender, education, Hong Kong society and social research methods. Prof. Groves first offered SISP 1706 for the 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.