**SPD 202 DYNAMICS OF SOCIAL CHANGE AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS**

**BA in SOCIAL POLICY & DEVELOPMENT**

**FACULTY OF SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION**

**THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY**

**SEMESTER 1, 2018-2019**

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| **Course Coordinator / Main Lecturer:**  Dr. Prapaporn Tivayanond Mongkhonvanit  Email: ttivayanond@yahoo.com  Office hours: by appointment |  |

**Course Hour:** 13:00 – 16:00 hrs, Friday

**Venue:** Room xxx, Faculty of Social Administration, Thammasat University (Tha Prachan)

**Course Description**

This course provides foundational understanding about social changes and social problems.  It attempts to address the questions: Who defines what a social problem is? Why do some social problems receive much attention, while others are ignored? What are the impacts of defining social problems in a particular way? The course examine these questions drawing on case studies of contemporary issues, like poverty, inequality, health care, and education policy.

The course focuses on the following aspects: evidence-based analysis of the dynamics of social change; factors contributing to social integration or social problems; proactive and reactive measures to respond to social problems; and case studies of the dynamics of social change and social problems in Thailand and other countries.

**Teaching Methods**

Each class will begin with a lecture that will provide the overarching context of the session’s topic. Lectures are designed to explain and complement the reading materials. Assigned material must be read prior to class. Each member of the class is expected to actively engage in the discussions and contribute to the session’s discussion.

**Learning Objectives**

* To induce critical thinking of the different dimensions of social change, while examining aspects of social ideologies which explain the dynamics of change.
* To obtain a deeper understanding of the sociological definition of social problems, including aspects of social construction in determining what is a ‘social problem’.
* To examine the link between social problems to social ‘solutions’ by exploring how social problems are managed through evidence-based learning.

**ASSESSMENT PLAN**

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| **No. of Activities** | **ASSESSMENTS** | **ASSESSMENT METHODS** | **Assessment weeks** | **Proportion of assessment score** |
| **1** | **Class participation & attendance** | **Active participation, demonstrated by engagement in class discussions. No participation result in low mark.** | **1-7 & 9-14** | **20** |
| **2** | **Midterm exam** | **Students are required to complete the midterm exam, which assesses what have been taught in the first part of the course.** | **8** | **20** |
| **3** | **Project presentation** | **Students are asked to present on a social problem of their choice. Although students will be working in groups, they will be assessed individually during the presentation.** | **11 -13** | **20** |
| **4** | **Written report** | **Students are asked to submit as a group, a written report based on chosen social problem.** | **14** | **20** |
| **5** | **Final Exam** | **Students are expected to undertake a final exam, which covers all the main lessons in classes.** | **Final week** | **20** |

**ASSIGNMENT DETAILS**

* ***Project Presentation:***Students will be asked to give a presentation (approximately 15 minutes) on an empirical case of a social problem, which is in line with the theme of their final paper. The presentation will help students prepare for their final paper by gauging the feedback from their peers. Students are expected to work collaboratively as a group.
* ***Written Report*:** Students will prepare as a group, a research paper on a topic of interest that is relevant to the course, as agreed with the lecturer. The paper itself should be submitted at the end of the course and be around 2,000 words in length (not including footnotes and references; Time New Roman, 12 pt, 1.5 lines). In writing the paper, the usual criteria of academic work apply regarding structure, quotation, references and other stylistic matters.

**COURSE POLICY**

* Punctual attendance is required for all classes. Students must provide an excused absence from the lecturer for any class that they missed. To avoid disruption, students are prohibited to enter the classroom after half an hour period. Students are expected to demonstrate respect for peers and lecturer who are engaged with the lecture.
* All assignments must be handed in at the designated due dates. Late assignments will only be accepted if lateness is due to ill health or other emergencies that are documented. Any papers that are more than 3 days late will not be accepted.
* This course encourages free exchanges of ideas. Given that many social problems are controversial, students will be voicing different opinions that they may find disagreeable. In this classroom, it is expected that students respect each other’s opinions and support mutual dialogues.
* In order to promote a productive classroom environment, any behavior that distracts or disrupts other students and faculty is not acceptable. Such behavior includes cell phone use, eating in class, surfing the internet, checking email, text messaging, listening to music, leaving early without permission, and discourteous remarks. There will be no tolerance for violation of these principles. Instead, students are expected to act with mutual respect and common courtesy towards other students and lecturers.
* Any student caught committing an act of plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty will be given a fail grade for the entire course. Plagiarism is the act of stating or implying that another person's work is your own. Plagiarism can range from submitting a paper you did not write to omitting key citations. Any action in which you misleadingly claim an idea as your own when it is not could constitute plagiarism. Other forms of academic dishonesty include cheating, fabrication, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity.

**Selection and Availability of Reading Material**

The reading material will be made available to the students via downloads and/or print outs.

**COURSE PLAN**

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| Session | DATE | SESSION THEMES | LECTURERS | REFERENCES / ACTIVITIES / MEDIA |
| 1 | 24 AUG | Overview of course  Introduction to Mega trends  New social risks vs. old social risks | Dr. Prapaporn Tivayanond | Megatrends report 2015 http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/ey-megatrends-report-2015/$FILE/ey-megatrends-report-2015.pdf  The impact of new social risks on welfare states by Peter Taylor-Gooby |
| 2 | 7 SEPT | Deconstructing social problems and social change | Dr. Prapaporn Tivayanond | Social Constructionism Youtube link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVCkJ7jLnz0  Leon - Guerrero, Sociology and the Study of Social Problems.  http://www.isns.uw.edu.pl/pliki/materialy\_od\_wykladowcow/sobiech/Leon-Guerrero-Chapter-1\_4617.pdf  Best, J. (2013) Social Problems, London: W. W. Norton & Company. https://newbyclass.files.wordpress.com/2014/08/02-social-problems-chapter-01-2nd-ed.pdf |
| 3 | 14 SEPT | Sociological understanding of social problems | Dr. Prapaporn Tivayanond | Jones & Bartlett Learning, The Sociological Study of Social Problems. http://samples.jbpub.com/9780763793098/93098\_CH01\_Thio.pdf |
| 4 | 21 SEPT | Claims making | Dr. Prapaporn Tivayanond | Best, J. (2013) Social Problem (chapter 1), London: W.W. Norton.  https://newbyclass.files.wordpress.com/2014/08/02-social-problems-chapter-01-2nd-ed.pdf |
| 5 | 28 SEPT | Review Session | Dr. Prapaporn Tivayanond | Mindmap of previous lessons |
| 6 | 5 OCT | Mid Term Exam |  | Note: Please check the date and time of your midterm exam again nearer to the mentioned date in case there may be changes. |
| 7 | 12 OCT | Linking social change and social problem to 'solutions' | Dr. Prapaporn Tivayanond | Howlett, M. and Ramesh, M. (2009) Policy Cycles and Policy Subsystems - Studying Public Policy, Oxford, Oxford University Press. |
| 8 | 19 OCT | Political Theories & Ideologies | Dr. Prapaporn Tivayanond |  |
| 9 | 26 OCT | Different levels of idea & policy change  Systems thinking of change | Dr. Prapaporn Tivayanond | Peter Hall (),Policy Paradigms, Social Learning, and the State: The Case of Economic Policymaking in  Britain, Comparative Politics, 25 (3): 275-296.  https://www.unc.edu/~fbaum/teaching/articles/CompPol-1993-Hall.pdf |
| 10 | 2 NOV | Institutional change | Dr. Prapaporn Tivayanond | Streeck, W. & Thelen, K. (2005), Beyond Continuity, Oxford: Oxford University Press. |
| 11 | 9 NOV | Project workshop | Dr. Prapaporn Tivayanond | Workshop on presentation and written report |
| 12 | 16 NOV | Case analysis | Dr. Prapaporn Tivayanond | Student presentations |
| 13 | 23 NOV | Case analysis | Dr. Prapaporn Tivayanond | Student presentations |
| 14 | 30 NOV | Review in preparation of Final exam Week | Dr. Prapaporn Tivayanond |  |
| 15 | 7 DEC | Final exam |  | Note: Please check the date and time of your final exam again nearer to the mentioned date in case there may be changes. |