COURSE DETAIL

MODERN LIFESTYLES AND MODERN CULTURE
Country Hong Kong
Host Institution University of Hong Kong
Program(s) University of Hong Kong
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Sociology
UCEAP Course Number 119
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title MODERN LIFESTYLES AND MODERN CULTURE
UCEAP Transcript Title MODERN LIFESTYLES
UCEAP Quarter Units 5.00
UCEAP Semester Units 3.30

Course Description

This course explores the dynamics of modern society by looking at the manifold styles and life in modern culture. It examines questions on what underlies styles, how choices in life are made, and how cultural spaces are closed and created. We live in a time with so many options available to us about how to craft ourselves, yet at times we must make choices under constraints not of our own making. Therefore, central to our endeavor is considering the interplay of structure and agency. The course asks questions such as, are we able to lead the kinds of lifestyles we want to, and why or why not? How do certain lifestyles become naturalized and universalized? Some of us layer various lifestyles that might, at closer inspection, be in tension with one another: how do we reconcile those? Identity formation and consumption in specific cultural contexts are major themes in this class. We will draw from interdisciplinary readings to explore the relationship between them, inquiring how facets of identity such as class, gender and sexuality, race, age, and nationality are shaped through what people buy and the spaces (actual and virtual) we inhabit. Ideas about authenticity and essentialism will be examined as we look at how modern lifestyles serve as a way to experience individuality and inclusion in a community. Through theoretical and ethnographic readings we will study other concepts such as globalization, commodity fetishism, ethical consumption, and modernity.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
SOCI2019

Host Institution Course Title
LIFESTYLES AND MODERN CULTURE

Host Institution Course Details
http://www.sociodep.hku.hk/html/soci2019.html

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Sociology

Course Last Reviewed
2022-2023

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