

<b>Course Code</b>	THEO 5956
<b>Title in English</b>	Special Topics on Pastoral Studies and Counseling I: Sociological Perspectives on Pastoral Ministry
<b>Title in Chinese</b>	---

**Course Description** As a discipline, sociology enables its students to recognize the complex relationship between what people think and do and the wider social environment to which they belong. More specifically, sociology allows its learners to situate themselves in the communities, structures, and institutions governing their everyday life. It also helps them become critically aware of what they do in their communities. It is in this light that sociology provides insights to pastoral reflection and the conduct of ministry on the ground. To help students appreciate sociological input to pastoral ministry, a three-pronged approach is offered in this module. First, participants will be exposed to the sociological perspective. It challenges participants to understand and appreciate how individuals shape their world and how the former also shapes the latter. Second, the course presents an overview of the basic concepts and applications of pastoral sociology. These topics will expose allow students to articulate the different ideas, practices, and debates in line with pastoral sociology. Third, the entire module will offer opportunities for analytical reflection on the relevance of sociological insights to their own spirituality and pastoral experience. This course is accessible to students even without any specialist background in sociology.

**Learning Outcomes** At the end of the semester, students should be able to:

1. Define the concept of the sociological imagination and explain its relevance to pastoral ministry;
2. Identify and discuss the key ideas and applications of pastoral sociology;
3. Analyze a significant concern in their respective communities using a key theory or idea in pastoral sociology;
4. Provide concrete personal reflections about their spirituality and pastoral experience using the frameworks of pastoral sociology

## Course Syllabus

The entire course has five broad topics. Each topic builds on the previous one in such a way that students are exposed to the fundamentals and breadth of different sociological approaches to the study of pastoral ministry. Under each topic are various subtopics, which will be covered by assigned readings on specific days throughout the semester.

Topic	Contents/ fundamental concepts
<b>1. The sociological imagination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definition of the sociological perspective</li> <li>• Methodological atheism and methodological agnosticism</li> <li>• Basic ideas in the sociology of religion (and how different the field is from pastoral sociology)</li> </ul>
<b>2. Historical overview of pastoral sociology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pastoral sociology as a field and its history</li> <li>• Catholic pastoral sociology</li> <li>• Mapping out pastoral sociology in Asia</li> </ul>
<b>3. Pastoral sociology and empirical research</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Methodological approaches to studying religious change</li> <li>• Quantitative research to explain why young adults leave church</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qualitative research to understand healing practices in different denominations</li> </ul>
<b>4. Sociology and pastoral care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The relationship between sociology and pastoral theology</li> <li>• The social context of pastoral care</li> <li>• Pastoral planning and the sociological approach</li> <li>• The sociology of the clergy</li> </ul>
<b>5. Sociology beyond pastoral care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sociological contributions to religious education</li> <li>• Public theology and the common good</li> </ul>

### Course components (Learning activities)

The class will employ lectures that will rely on key points raised by the assigned readings. Each session has an assigned reading, carefully chosen for students to encounter key ideas and applications of pastoral sociology. It is thus *very important* for students to have read the materials assigned for the day. Each of them will make presentations based on these readings. Students are also expected to write their own analytical essays, which they will submit on a regular basis. One of the essays is a term paper for which some mode of sociological data-gathering is crucial. The topic of the term paper will be discussed during consultations with the lecturer.

### Assessment type

Assessment type	Percentage
<b>Individual presentations</b>  - The individual presentations are based on the assigned readings. We shall identify specific students to give presentations.	20 %
<b>Analytical papers</b>  - There will be two analytical papers throughout the term. Please refer to the guide questions under 'course schedule'.	40% (20% each)
<b>Term paper</b>	40%
<b>Total</b>	100%

### Required readings

Please refer to the assigned readings for each topic in the course schedule.

### Feedback for evaluation

I would like to maintain an open line with the students for feedback throughout the semester concerning various aspects of the class. Please feel free to email me or set an

appointment. At the end of the term, we shall conduct a focus group discussion to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the course.

### Course schedule

Class/ week	Date	Topic	Requirements
<b>THE SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION</b>			
<b>1</b>	<b>January 9</b>	<b>The Sociological Imagination (part 1)</b>	<b>Assigned reading:</b> HENSLIN, JAMES. 2005. <i>Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach</i> . 7th ed. NY: Pearson. (Chapter 1)
<b>2</b>	<b>January 16</b>	<b>The Sociological Imagination (part 2)</b>	<b>Assigned reading:</b> PORPORA, DOUGLAS. 2006. "Methodological Atheism, Methodological Agnosticism and Religious Experience." <i>Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour</i> , 36, pp. 57-75.
<b>3</b>	<b>January 23</b>	<b>The sociology of religion</b>	<b>Assigned reading:</b> KNOTT, KIM. 2016. "How to study religion." In Woodhead, L., C. Partridge, and H. Kawanami (eds). <i>Religions in the modern world</i> , 3rd ed. London and NY: Routledge, pp. 15-40
			<b>Assignment 1:</b> Prepare a comprehensive analytical essay that addresses the following questions and engages your own pastoral experience. The essay should cite the various readings from weeks 1 to 3. You are also allowed to draw from other sociological materials.  <b>1. What is the sociological perspective?</b> <b>2. Do you agree that methodological atheism must be practiced when exercising the sociological perspective? Why or why not?</b>  1000-1500 words. Deadline: next session.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF PASTORAL SOCIOLOGY			
4	January 30	From religious sociology to the sociology of religion	<p><b>Assigned reading:</b></p> <p>DOBBELAERE, KAREL. 2000. "From Religious Sociology to the Sociology of Religion: Towards Globalization?" <i>Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion</i>, 39, pp. 433-447.</p> <p>DOLS, CHRIS and PAUL, HERMAN. 2016. "Introduction: Pastoral sociology in Western Europe, 1940-1970." <i>Journal of religion in Europe</i>, 9, 99-105</p>
5	February 6	Catholic pastoral sociology	<p><b>Assigned reading:</b></p> <p>FROEHLE, BRYAN. 2007. "Catholic Pastoral Sociology in the US since Vatican II." <i>US Catholic Historian</i>, 25, pp. 85-116.</p>
6	February 13	Pastoral sociology in Asia	<p><b>Assigned reading:</b></p> <p>PHAN, PETER. 2014. "Asian Christian spirituality." In: Wilfred, Felix (ed). <i>The Oxford Handbook of Christianity in Asia</i>. Oxford and NY: OUP, pp. 510-523.</p>
PASTORAL SOCIOLOGY AND EMPIRICAL RESEARCH			
7	February 20	Studying religious change (Overview of methodological approaches)	<p><b>Assigned reading:</b></p> <p>CORNELIO, J. S. 2014. "Is religion dying? Secularization and other religious trends in the world today." In: HEDGES, P. (ed.) <i>Controversies in Contemporary Religions</i>. Sta. Barbara, CA: Praeger, pp. 219-246</p>
8	February 27	Quantitative research (Case 1: Leaving church)	<p><b>Assigned reading:</b></p> <p>KINNAMAN, DAVID. 2011. <i>You lost me: Why young Christians are leaving church...and rethinking faith</i>. Grand Rapids: Baker Books</p>
9	March 6	Qualitative research (Case 2: Healing practices)	<p><b>Assigned reading:</b></p>

			<p>DUNLAP, SUSAN. 2010. "Culture-coded care: Ecclesial beliefs, practices, and artifacts in response to illness." In: Maynard, J., L. Hummel, and M.C. Moschella (eds). <i>Pastoral bearings: Lived religion and pastoral theology</i>, pp. 75-90.</p> <p><b>Assignment 2:</b></p> <p>Prepare a comprehensive analytical essay that addresses the following questions and engages your own pastoral experience. The essay should cite the various readings from weeks 1 to 3. You are also allowed to draw from other sociological materials.</p> <p><b>1. What are the different religious trends that sociologists are concerned about?</b>  <b>2. What trend/s can you discern taking place in your community? And what are the sociological explanations?</b></p> <p>1000-1500 words. Deadline: next session.</p>
<b>SOCIOLOGY AND PASTORAL CARE</b>			
<b>10</b>	<b>March 13</b>	<b>Pastoral theology and sociology</b>	<p><b>Assigned reading:</b></p> <p>NORTHCOTT, MICHAEL. 2000. "Pastoral Theology and Sociology." In: J. Woodward and S. Pattison (eds). <i>The Blackwell Reader in Pastoral and Practical Theology</i>. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 151 – 163</p>
<b>11</b>	<b>March 20</b>	<b>Understanding social contexts</b>	<p><b>Assigned reading:</b></p> <p>ACOLATSE, ESTHER. 2010. "Pastoral care and counseling in Independent Evangelical Charismatic Churches in Ghana: A Barthian Theological Perspective." In: Maynard, J., L. Hummel, and M.C. Moschella (eds). <i>Pastoral bearings: Lived religion and pastoral theology</i>, pp. 235-260.</p>
<b>12</b>	<b>March 27</b>	<b>Sociological input to pastoral planning</b>	<p><b>Assigned reading:</b></p> <p>LEWIS, SHIELA. 2016. <i>Pastoral business training necessary for effective planning of community social</i></p>

			<i>services programs: A phenomenological study.</i> PhD dissertation. University of Phoenix.
13	April 3	Clergy	<b>Assigned readings:</b>  ROSSETTI, STEPHEN. 2011. <i>Why Priests Are Happy: A Study of the Psychological and Spiritual Health of Priests.</i> Notre Dame, Indiana: Ave Maria Press.  CORNELIO, JAYEEL. 2012. "Priesthood satisfaction and the challenges priests face." <i>Religions</i> , 3, pp. 1103-1119.
			<b>Assignment 3: Term Paper</b>  Identify a specific pastoral issue in your community. Explain its social context using empirical data. You may rely on either quantitative or qualitative data (or both). Present feasible potential interventions. Make sure you draw from the previous readings and other relevant literature.  1500-2000 words. Deadline: Finals week
SOCIOLGY BEYOND PASTORAL CARE			
14	April 10	Sociological contributions to religious education	<b>Assigned reading:</b>  GO, JOHNNY. 2015. <i>A critical realist epistemology and the Catholic notion of 'sensus fidei' as key to critical thinking in confessional Catholic religious education in the Philippines.</i> PhD diss. University College London
15	April 17	Public theology and the common good	<b>Assigned reading:</b>  DAY, KATIE. 2017. "Social cohesion and the common good: Drawing on social science in understanding the Middle East." In Kim, Sebastian and Katie Day. <i>A companion to public theology.</i> Leiden: Brill, pp. 211-230

### Contact details

<b>Professor/Lecturer/Instructor:</b>	
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### Details of course website

I will need assistance for the course website. Thank you.

### Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed [declaration](#) that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.