

SSCI Fall 2023

Social Sciences Colloquium

Instructor: Hao Huang, Ph.D., Department of Social Sciences, Illinois Institute of Technology

Class Time: Friday 3:15-4:30PM, Fall 2023

Class Room: Online/John T. Rettaliata Engineering Center Rm 104

Office Hours: Monday 4:30PM-5:30PM and by appointment

Office Room: Siegel Hall 116H

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Course Description

Lectures by invited prominent scientists in areas of social sciences generally not covered in the department. This course exposes students to current and active research in social sciences both within and outside the IIT community. It helps prepare students for a professional and academic career. It is complementary to our academic courses and provides examples of professional/scientific presentations. This course may be used to satisfy the social sciences and communication general education requirements.

This seminar series' theme is Capital/Technology/Inequality. Our equality and equity system are complicated and dynamic in a globalized society. Capital and technology directly probe this complexity in an intricate interaction between spatial scales. Capital investment and technological innovation can help places reduce social inequality. On the other hand, they might increase the social inequality. In response to these relationships, the Great Problems Great Minds speakers for the fall semester 2023 will address the significance of capital and technology in social inequality to the social sciences disciplines. Whether these inter-place and inter-scalar relations are hyperconnective, contradictive, and/or paradoxical, the standpoints will afford a critical reflection and discussion on what it is to think, teach, and practice policy for the people, place, culture, and/or partnerships from which the policymakers consider.

Learning Outcomes

Students will develop a fundamental base of knowledge of the development field across the social sciences. Students will demonstrate an understanding of:

- Major concepts and theoretical principles in the social sciences field

- Research directions, and the policy implications of scholarly trends in the social sciences field
- The relationship between social, environmental, and political systems and regional economic development

Students will develop the ability to analyze and critically evaluate social sciences problems and solutions. Students will demonstrate proficiency in:

- Defining and determining the impact of social sciences problems
- Critically reviewing theoretical explanations of social sciences problems and solutions
- Using social science methodology and models of analysis to evaluate social sciences problems and solutions
- Justifying evidence-based assumptions or recommendations

Students will demonstrate effective communication skills, including the ability to

- Articulate and defend arguments that are clear, logical, and substantive
- Disseminate and explain research results in both oral and written formats

Assigned Readings

Required Readings are from academic or professional articles by invited speakers.

Prerequisites

Familiarity with Blackboard use is required since the instructor will post all course materials and assignment grades with comments on Blackboard. Course materials on Blackboard include syllabus, announcements, assignments, class lecture videos, and final project guidelines. You are required to familiar with how to check these course materials and assignment grades with comments on Blackboard. Refer to the Blackboard Learn section of the following webpage from the Office of Digital Learning if you are not familiar with Blackboard:

<https://ots.iit.edu/academic-applications/blackboard>. Students should utilize office hours for help and support from the instructor and please ask questions by email or on Blackboard if you have any.

Course Evaluation

Your grade will be based on discussion participation, response papers, and term project paper and presentation. Your final grade will be computed as follows:

Discussion Participation:	15%
Response Papers for Seminars:	30%
Group Term Project Presentation:	10%
Group Term Project Paper:	45%

Final grades will be guided according to the following scale:

A: 90-100

B: 80-89

C: 70-79

D: 60-69

E: <60

- **Discussion Participation**

Students are required to read assigned reading materials, attend the lectures, and participate in the Q&A discussion. Failure to participate in the classes will cause a zero for discussion participation.

- **Response Papers for Colloquium Series**

You are required to attend colloquium lectures and write a double-space one-page paper responding to contents discussed in each lecture. The feedback to the response paper will be given in one week after the submission due dates. You are required to incorporate the feedback into your sequent response paper submissions. A separate document detailing the expectations and guidelines for the response paper will be posted on Blackboard.

- **Term Project Presentation**

You are required to give a presentation on your term project paper. You are required to apply feedbacks from response papers to your term project paper presentation

- **Term Project Paper**

You will conduct an empirical study using publicly accessible socioeconomic data to write a manuscript that you could submit to a peer-reviewed journal for publication. The manuscript will include an Introduction section briefing background and proposing a research question; a Literature Review section on theory and empiricism related to the research question; a Study Area section describing socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the study area related to your research question; a Data and Methods section detailing data and study methods; a Results and Discussion section reports results and findings of data analyses and related discussions; a Conclusions and Policy Implications section summarizes findings to make conclusions on your research question and provides relevant policy implications. A separate document detailing the expectations and guidelines for this assignment will be posted on Blackboard.

You have two options to submit your final project. One is to submit a four-page (excluding figures, tables, and references list), double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt. font paper. The other is to submit a poster to present. The final submission should be well-organized, cohesive, and free of errors: consult the IIT Writing Center if you need assistance. APA citation is required for the references: consult the social science librarian Anri Brod (abrod@iit.edu) if you need assistance. Written work must be submitted online via Blackboard's SafeAssign: Only word documents and PDF files are acceptable.

You must **COMPLETE ALL** components of the course to **PASS** the course: Failure in any one single component, such as discussion participation absences or missing the final project or the exam or response papers will fail the class.

Instructor, Department, University Policies

Written Work: Students are encouraged to take advantage of the University Writing Center. Sign-up sheets are outside Siegel Hall rooms 232 and 233. (<https://www.iit.edu/humanities/student-resources/writing-center>).

Due Dates and Late Policy: Please note the due dates. For reasons of fairness, any assignments received after the due date will receive grades no greater than the lowest grade given to the assignments received on time. This penalty will only be waived in exceptional circumstances, such as those which would require a student to be absent for an extended period (such as hospitalization) or an unforeseen emergency (such as a death in the family). You should contact me as soon as such circumstances arise and recognize that you will be asked to verify your excuse with documentation.

Correspondence: Students can expect email responses from me within two business days. If I do not respond to your email in two business days, please send me the email again. Conversations during office hours are preferred.

Plagiarism, cheating and other acts of academic dishonesty: You must know your responsibilities and rights under IIT's "Code of Academic Honesty," <https://web.iit.edu/student-affairs/handbook/fine-print/code-academic-honesty>

- Any method of cheating or unauthorized assistance or collaboration on quizzes, exams, and assignments (no matter how little) will result in a failing grade for that quiz, exam, or assignment.
- Any representation of another's work as your own (i.e. plagiarism), whether done intentionally or by omission, will result in a failing grade for the assignment.
- Submitting the same or very similar work to satisfy requirements in more than one class—without the explicit approval of the instructor—also constitutes an act of academic dishonesty punishable by a failing grade.
- Every instance of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Department of Social Sciences Academic Integrity committee and the Dean of the Lewis College of Human Sciences.
- There will be no exceptions to this policy and ignorance of the applicable rules, regulations, and standards is not an excuse for violating them.
- If you are at all unclear about what behaviors, practices or omissions constitute punishable academic dishonesty you must consult with your instructor before engaging in the behavior or submitting the assignment.
- You will always learn more and get a better grade by submitting your own work (no matter how weak it may be) than by stealing someone else's and calling it your own.
- Assignments and exams on which the student commits an act of academic dishonesty cannot be retaken, rewritten, or resubmitted.

- Students are encouraged to know their rights and responsibilities under IIT’s “Code of Academic Integrity” and may follow the procedures outlined in it if they feel they have been unjustly accused.

Students with Documented Disabilities: If you need reasonable accommodation by a documented disability, please contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss your needs. Students with documented needs for such accommodation are required to meet the same achievement standards for this class as all students; accommodations may be made in terms of how such achievement is demonstrated. Students without documentation may not receive accommodations. Students with documented disabilities should work through the Center for Disability Resources <http://www.iit.edu/cdr/>

Athletics: A varsity student-athlete is responsible for providing the instructor with a schedule of all sanctioned contests during the first week of the semester or as soon thereafter as the dates are set. The student-athlete will be excused without penalty from a class when it directly conflicts with a formally sanctioned contest with another university/college and the faculty member has been given the schedule during the beginning of the semester. The student-athlete is responsible for making up all missed work, deadlines and course materials.

Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Information: Illinois Tech prohibits all sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and gender discrimination by any member of our community. This includes harassment among students, staff, or faculty. Sexual harassment of a student by a faculty member or sexual harassment of an employee by a supervisor is particularly serious. Such conduct may easily create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment. Illinois Tech encourages anyone experiencing sexual harassment or sexual misconduct to speak with the Office of Title IX Compliance for information on support options and the resolution process. You can report sexual harassment electronically at iit.edu/incidentreport, which may be completed anonymously. You may additionally report by contacting the Title IX Coordinator, Virginia Foster at foster@iit.edu or the Deputy Title IX Coordinator at eespeland@iit.edu.

For confidential support, you may reach Illinois Tech’s Confidential Advisor at (773) 907-1062. You can also contact a licensed practitioner in Illinois Tech’s Student Health and Wellness Center at student.health@iit.edu or (312)567-7550. For a comprehensive list of resources regarding counseling services, medical assistance, legal assistance, and visa and immigration services, you can visit the Office of Title IX Compliance website at <https://www.iit.edu/title-ix/resources>.

Important Dates

September 2	Last day to add/drop for full semester classes with no tuition charges
October 30	Last day to withdraw for full semester classes
December 2	Last day of the semester classes
December 3	Last day to request an incomplete grade
December 4-9	Final exam week

Schedule of Topics and Assignments (may be subject to slight change: If there is a conflict between the due date listed in the table and listed on Blackboard, please follow the due date on Blackboard.)

Week #	Speaker	Topic	Location
Week 1 (Aug 25)	Introduction	Syllabus and Blackboard	Online
Week 2 (Sep 1)	Hao Huang, Illinois Tech	Introduction to the Series	Online
Week 3 (Sep 8)	Tara Magner, MacArthur Foundation	The MacArthur Foundation's Commitment to Equity in Chicago	RE 104
Week 4 (Sep 15)	Anthony Howell, Arizona State University	Rural road stimulus and the role of matching mandates on economic recovery in China	Online
Week 5 (Sep 22)	Danlin Yu, Montclair State University	System thinking when modeling complex systems – covariation mining and system dynamics simulation	Online
Week 6 (Sep 29)	Bruce Newbold, McMaster University	Assessing older adult mobility using wearable technology	Online
Week 7 (Oct 6)	Pengfei Li, University of Calgary	Achilles' Heel: Architecture change and competitive disadvantage of geographical clustering	Online
Week 8 (Oct 13)	Bo Zhao, University of Washington	Humanistic GIS: Towards a research agenda	Online
Week 9 (Oct 20)	Weslyne Ashton, Illinois Tech	Crafting just, equitable and circular food systems	RE 104
Week 10 (Oct 27)	Eric Sheppard, UCLA	Understanding capitalist globalization: A spatio-temporal perspective	Online
Week 11 (Nov 3)	Xiaochu Hu, Association of American Medical Colleges	Workforce gender inequality – What can we learn from the physician workforce?	Online
Week 12 (Nov 10)	Lan Deng, University of Michigan	Housing Production and the Structural Changes in China's Real Estate Development Industry	Online

Week 13 (Nov 17)	Daniel Sui, Virginia Tech	Coping with the age of paradox: Exploring the role of a quantum perspective	Online
Week 14 (Nov 24)	Thanksgiving – No Class		
Week 15 (Dec 1)	Yongwan Chun, UT Dallas	Spatial uncertainty	Online
Week 16		Term Project Paper and Presentation due on Dec 9	

Note: This syllabus is subject to change should conditions warrant