

SS5401: SOCIAL SCIENCE PERSPECTIVES

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Social Science Perspectives

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

5401

Academic Unit

Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to introduce the basic aspects of modern social sciences. While the aim is to survey all the basic social science perspectives, special emphasis will be placed on a range of major social science perspectives related to Applied sociology.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	identify the nature and changing conceptions of major social science perspectives related to Applied sociology;	25	x	x	
2	map particular social science approaches and methods into the broad social science traditions;	25	x	x	
3	differentiate the inter-disciplinary nature of social science theories and practices when they are applied in real-life settings and changing situations; and	25	x	x	
4	analyze critically social, technological, and environmental changes as well as evaluate their impacts on individual and society.	25	x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures	There will be weekly lectures, with topics prepared and presented by lecturers. The lectures may assign students to read essential and/or supplementary readings concerning the topics.	1, 2, 3, 4	
2	Tutorial	In each weekly lecture, approximately one hour will be reserved for tutorial discussion. The purpose of it is to allow students to discuss the concepts related to a particular perspective.	1, 2, 3, 4	

3	Student Group Project Presentation	Students are required to form small groups to conduct a group project. Each group conducts a 30-minute presentation.	3, 4	
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Journal Article / Movie Report Each student submits one journal article/ movie report of no more than 2,000 words. They could choose any one journal article or book chapter recommended by the lecturer. Students can also ask the lecturer for approval should they want to conduct the review on an article or book chapter not given by the lecturer.	1, 2, 3	55	Allow AI to 1) conduct proof editing; 2) generate initial ideas; 3) conduct preliminary analyses.	Yes

2	Group Project Each group submits a paper of no more than 3,000 words. The topic should be related to the topic of “What is social change?” and “What are its impacts on individuals and society?” In preparing for the write-up, each group chooses one empirical case of social change as the subject of analysis. Then, one social science perspective is chosen to explain various phenomena related to the case of social change in question. Afterwards, the group should compare and contrast the findings identified with other social science perspectives. Finally, each group should conduct a critical analysis of “What is social change?” and “What are its impacts on individuals and society?”	3, 4	45	Allow AI to 1) conduct proof editing; 2) generate initial ideas; 3) conduct preliminary analyses.	Yes
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Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Journal Article / Movie Report Review (55%) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Showing accurate knowledge

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

(A+, A, A-) High competence to examine critically and apply innovatively the theories and concepts from the movie to the everyday life practice.

Good (B+, B, B-)

(B+, B, B-) Significant competence to examine critically and apply innovatively the theories and concepts from the movie to the everyday life practice.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

(C+, C, C-) Moderate competence to examine critically and apply innovatively the theories and concepts from the movie to the everyday life practice.

Marginal (D)

(D) Basic competence to examine critically and apply innovatively the theories and concepts from the movie to the everyday life practice.

Failure (F)

(F) Poor competence to examine critically and apply innovatively the theories and concepts from the movie to the everyday life practice.

Assessment Task

2. Group Project and term paper (45%) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Application of learning in a coherent way

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

(A+, A, A-) High capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the knowledge and theories into the real world, and improve the quality of paper.

Good (B+, B, B-)

(B+, B, B-) Significant capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the knowledge and theories into the real world, and improve the quality of paper.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

(C+, C, C-) Moderate capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the knowledge and theories into the real world, and improve the quality of paper.

Marginal (D)

(D) Basic capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the knowledge and theories into the real world, and improve the quality of paper.

Failure (F)

(F) Poor capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the knowledge and theories into the real world, and improve the quality of paper.

Assessment Task

1. Journal Article / Movie Report Review (55%) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Showing accurate knowledge

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence for the competence to examine critically and apply innovatively the theories and concepts from the movie to the everyday life practice.

Good (B+, B, B-)

(B+, B) Good evidence for the competence to examine critically and apply innovatively the theories and concepts from the movie to the everyday life practice.

Marginal (D)

(B-, C+, C) Fair to limited evidence for the competence to examine critically and apply innovatively the theories and concepts from the movie to the everyday life practice.

Failure (F)

(F) Insufficient evidence for the competence to examine critically and apply innovatively the theories and concepts from the movie to the everyday life practice.

Assessment Task

2. Group Project and term paper (45%) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Application of learning in a coherent way

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the knowledge and theories into the real world, and improve the quality of paper.

Good (B+, B, B-)

(B+, B) Good evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the knowledge and theories into the real world, and improve the quality of paper.

Marginal (D)

(B-, C+, C) Fair to limited evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the knowledge and theories into the real world, and improve the quality of paper.

Failure (F)

(F) Insufficient evidence for the capability to understand and examine critically, apply innovatively the knowledge and theories into the real world, and improve the quality of paper.

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

Sociology and social action; Society, social institutions and regulation; Social psychological perspectives on individual, group and inter-group behaviour; Crime, control and social justice; Diversity, exclusion and inclusion; Globalization and anti-globalization; Development and underdevelopment; Political-economic perspectives and politics.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

	Title
1	Dahms, Harry F. (2015) (ed.) Globalization, Critique and Social Theory: diagnoses and challenges. Bingley, U.K. : Emerald.

2	Tsilipakos, Leonidas (2015). Clarity and Confusion in Social Theory: taking concepts seriously. Farnham, Surrey: Ashgate Publishing Limited.
3	Law, Alex. (2015). Social Theory for Today: Making Sense of Social Worlds. London: Sage.
4	Stones, Rob. (2015). Why Current Affairs needs Social Theory. Bloomsbury Academic.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Hedstrom, P. (2005). Dissecting the Social: On the Principles of Analytical Sociology. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2	Kivisto, P. (2005). Illuminating Social Life: Classical and Contemporary Theory Revisited (3rd ed.). California: Pine Forge Press.
3	Webber, M., & Bezanson, K. (Eds.). (2004). Rethinking Society in the 21st Century: Critical Readings in Sociology. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press Inc.