

SS4585: SOCIAL CAPITAL AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Social Capital and Sustainable Development

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

4585

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

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's 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 enable students to perform their practices related to social capital and sustainable development in the community. For these practices, the course is to boost and consolidate their analytic and critical skills and knowledge about professionally relevant theories related to social capital and sustainable development.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Evaluate the theories of social capital and sustainable development;	30	x	x	x
2	Apply the theories of social capital and sustainable development to social practice; and	30	x	x	x
3	Critically analyze and devise social practices related to social capital and sustainable development.	40	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	LTA1: Lectures	Students need to engage in lectures to learn the major theories and applications.	1, 2, 3
2	LTA2: Presentation and Class Discussion	Students need to engage in group discussions to reflect on learning from the class. Every student also needs to prepare a presentation about learning.	1, 2, 3

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	AT1: Individual Term Paper	1, 2, 3	50	AI can only be used for information search but not for report writing.	Yes

2	AT2: Presentation	1, 2, 3	10	AI can only be used for information search but not for report writing.	Yes
3	AT3: Class Discussion	1, 2, 3	10	AI can only be used for information search but not for report writing.	Yes
4	AT4: Quiz	1, 2, 3	30	It is summative, requiring original and sustained preparation.	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Presentation

Criterion

Articulation of theory, findings, and conclusion coherently

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High: serendipity

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Poor

Assessment Task

2. Individual project report

Criterion

Articulation of theory, findings, and conclusion coherently

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Poor

Assessment Task

3. Class discussion

Criterion

Articulation of theory and conclusion coherently

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Poor

Assessment Task

4. Quiz

Criterion

Recognition of theory accurately

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Poor

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

The Idea of Social Capital: Theories and applications

Citizen Participation and Social Capital: Civil society, Economic development and social capital; What does social capital add to democratic values?

The Meaning of Sustainable Development: Globalization; Principles of sustainable development; Required values for a sustainable society; The role of communities in sustainable development; Governance, community organization and building; Roles of local institutions and NGOs in local capacity building;

Connection between social capital and sustainability development: National and international efforts toward sustainable development; Analysis and comparison of various institutions (state, market, NGOs and civil society) in sustainability building; How can community visions and global visions be connected?

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

	Title
1	Baker, Susan. 2015. Sustainable Development. Hoboken, UK; Routledge.
2	Berlie, Laurence Schwesinger. 2010. Alliances for Sustainable Development: Business and NGO Partnerships. Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave.
3	Field, John. 2008. Social Capital. London: Routledge.
4	Koput, Kenneth W. 2010. Social Capital: An Introduction to Managing Networks. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar.
5	Masciarelli, Francesca. 2011. The Strategic Value of Social Capital: How Firms Capitalize on Social Assets. Cheltenham, UK: Elgar.
6	Thin, Neil. 2002. Social Progress and Sustainable Development. Bloomfield, CT: Kumarian.
7	Westlund, Hans. 2006. Social Capital in the Knowledge Economy: Theory and Empirics. New York: Springer.

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Fine, Ben. 2010. Theories of Social Capital: Researchers Behaving Badly. London: Pluto.
2	Lin, Nan. 2001. Social Capital: A Theory of Social Structure and Action. Cambridge, UL: Cambridge University Press.
3	Nakanishi, Hitomi. 2023. Disaster Resilience and Sustainability: Japan's Urban Development and Social Capital. Abingdon, UK: Routledge.
4	Robison, Lindon J., and Bryan K. Ritchie. 2010. Relationship Economics: The Social Capital Paradigm and It's Application to Business, Politics and Other Transactions. Furnham, UK: Gower.
5	Schneider, Jo Anne. 2006. Social Capital and Welfare Reform: Organizations, Congregations, and Communities. New York: Columbia University Press.
6	Tacon, Richard. 2022. Social Capital and Sport Organisations. Abingdon, UK: Routledge.
7	Zou, Yuchun. 2022. Relationship Between Trust and Social Capital of China' s Urban Residents. Abingdon, UK: Routledge.