



湖北工业大学
HUBEI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Course Title	Introduction to Social Sciences
Course Code	SOCI 1133
Semester	Summer 2025
Course Length	10 Weeks, 60 Contact Hours
Credits	4
Instructor	TBA
Office	TBA
Email	TBA
Prerequisite	N/A
Antirequisite	SOCI 1131 Introduction to Social Sciences (5 Weeks)

Course Description:

This course introduces the fundamental principles of the social sciences, exploring their core themes, methodologies, and perspectives on social realities. Students will develop a broad understanding of how societies function and how different disciplines within the social sciences contribute to the study of human behavior, institutions, and social change. Through critical readings, analytical discussions, and interpretative exercises, students will learn to articulate clear arguments supported by empirical data and diverse sources.

Course Goals:

Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate competency in the following general education core goals:

- **Critical Thinking Skills** – Students will engage in analytical thinking, demonstrating the ability to critically evaluate, synthesize, and apply knowledge to complex problems, and construct well-reasoned solutions and arguments.
- **Independent Research and Inquiry** – Students will conduct independent research, utilizing academic resources to explore relevant topics, formulating research questions, analyzing data, and presenting findings in a coherent, scholarly manner.
- **Problem-Solving and Application** – Students will apply theoretical concepts and methodologies learned in the course to real-world problems, demonstrating the ability to develop practical solutions informed by academic inquiry.
- **Global and Cultural Awareness** – Students will gain awareness of the global and cultural contexts relevant to the course, appreciating diverse perspectives and considering the implications of their studies in a broader, international context.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and explain key concepts and perspectives within the social sciences;
- Understand how different social science disciplines contribute to knowledge about human societies;
- Analyze various social realities using established theoretical frameworks and empirical evidence;
- Interpret and critically evaluate different types of documents and data from multiple sources;

Textbooks/Supplies/Materials/Equipment/ Technology or Technical Requirements:

Colander, David & Elgin Hunt, *Social Science: An Introduction to the Study of Society* 18th Edition. Routledge, 2022.

Course Requirements:

Discussions and Participation: Active participation is required. Students will engage in structured discussions, debates, and peer-led dialogues on contemporary and historical social issues. Evaluation will be based on preparedness, quality of contributions, and respectful engagement with peers.

Reading Reflections: Students will submit 6 short critical responses to the assigned readings. These reflections will encourage engagement with the material and help develop analytical skills by requiring students to connect theories and concepts to real-world examples.

Midterm Exam: A written midterm will assess students' understanding of fundamental theories and methodologies in social sciences. The exam will include a mix of multiple-choice, short-answer, and analytical essay questions that test comprehension and application of course materials.

Case Study Analysis: Each student will complete an in-depth case study on a particular social phenomenon, analyzing it through the lens of multiple social science disciplines. The analysis will be presented in an 8-10-page structured report incorporating empirical data, theoretical discussion, and policy implications.

Final Exam: The final exam will evaluate students' ability to synthesize key concepts from the course and apply them to novel situations. It will include critical essays, data interpretation exercises, and interdisciplinary analysis questions.

Assessments: Activity	Percent Contribution
Discussions and Participation	10%
Reading Reflections (6)	30%
Midterm Exam	20%
Case Study Analysis	15%
Final Exam	25%

Grading:

Final grades will be based on the sum of all possible course points as noted above.

Grade	Percentage of available points
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A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D	64-69
D-	60-63
F	0-59

Course Schedule:

The schedule of activities is subject to change at the reasonable discretion of the instructor. Minor changes will be announced in class, major ones provided in writing.

SOCI 1133 Schedule		
Lecture	Topic	Readings
L1	Introduction and Overview of the Course Overview of Seven Disciplines	Ch. 1
L2	Key Theories and Perspectives in Social Sciences Human Origins: Evolution/Darwin Human Species, Neanderthal, and Homo Sapiens	Ch. 2
L3	Anthropology: Culture and Society	Ch. 2
L4	Sociology: Structure, Agency, and Social Change	Ch. 4
L5	Geography, Demography, Ecology, and Society	Ch. 5
L6	Media, Technology, and Society	Ch. 6
		<u>Reading Reflection 1</u>
L7	Psychology: Human Behavior and Cognition	Ch. 7
L8	Deviance, Crime, and Society	Ch. 8
L9	Economics: Markets, Resources, and Inequality Social and Economic Stratification	Ch. 12
L10	Stratification, Minorities, and Discrimination	Ch. 13
		<u>Reading Reflection 2</u>
L11	Social Class and Economic Inequality	Ch. 12
L12	Gender, Race, and Identity	Ch. 12
		<u>Reading Reflection 3</u>
/	Midterm Exam	/
L13	Political Science: Power, Governance, and Institutions	Ch. 14
L14	Social Science Research Methods Role of Empirical Research	Ch. 3
L15	Quantitative vs. Qualitative Research	Ch. 3
		<u>Reading Reflection 4</u>
L16	Interdisciplinary Approaches to Social Problems	handouts
L17	Globalization and Cultural Exchange	Ch. 18
L18	Social Movements and Political Activism	Ch. 21
L19	Policy Analysis and Public Decision-Making	Ch. 21
		<u>Reading Reflection 5</u>
L20	Environmental and Urban Issues	Ch. 20
L21	The Role of Data in Social Sciences	handouts
L22	Ethical Considerations in Social Research	handouts

L23	The Future of Social Sciences in a Changing World
L24	Case Studies in Social Sciences
L25	Course Wrap-Up

handouts
Reading Reflection 6

handouts
handouts

**Casa Analysis
Report Due**

/ **Final Exam**

Accommodation Statement:

Academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor's attention, as he/she is not legally permitted to inquire. Students who may require assistance in emergency evacuations should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow.

Academic Integrity Statement

Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or otherwise fails to meet the standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in coursework may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

Other Items:

Attendance and Expectations

All students are required to attend every class, except in cases of illness, serious family concerns, or other major problems. We expect that students will arrive on time, be prepared to listen and participate as appropriate, and stay for the duration of a meeting rather than drift in or out casually. In short, we anticipate that students will show professors and fellow students maximum consideration by minimizing the disturbances that cause interruptions in the learning process. This means that punctuality is a must, that cellular phones be turned off, and that courtesy is the guiding principle in all exchanges among students and faculty. You will be responsible for the materials and ideas presented in the lecture.

Assignment Due Dates

All written assignments must be turned in at the time specified. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior information has been obtained from the instructor. If you believe you have extenuating circumstances, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Make-Up Work

The instructor will not provide students with class information or make-up assignments/quizzes/exams missed due to an unexcused absence. Absences will be excused and assignments/quizzes/exams may be made up only with written documentation of an authorized absence. Every effort should be made to avoid scheduling appointments during class. An excused student is responsible for requesting any missed information from the instructor and setting up any necessary appointments outside of class.

Access, Special Needs, and Disabilities

Please notify the instructor at the start of the semester if you have any documented disabilities, a medical issue, or any special circumstances that require attention, and the school will be happy to assist.