



B.E. International Program

Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University



Course Outline

TU 120 Integrated Social Sciences Semester 2/2013 (January 13 – May 3, 2014)

Number of credits	2 credits
Lecture Time	Tuesdays, 2.00 – 4.00 PM
Lecture Venue	206, 2 nd floor, Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University, Tha Prachan campus
Instructor	Dr. Richard Levinthal Email : ricklev@hotmail.com Office hours : Before and after class or by appointment.

Course Description:

A study of the origin of social sciences in the modern world, the separation of social science from science, and the acceptance of scientific paradigm for the explanation of social phenomena. The course presents an analysis of significant disciplines, concepts and theories in social science by pointing out their strengths and weaknesses when applied to social problems. The course also includes analysis of current issues with the application to social theories so that each issue is understood from the individual group, macro-social, national and world perspectives.

Prerequisites: none

Course Objective:

There is a body of knowledge that all educated people share. The objective of this course is to introduce you to one area of that shared knowledge; the social sciences. A simple definition of the social sciences is the scientific study of organized groups. This includes, but is surely not limited to: economics, sociology, political science, psychology, anthropology,

demographics, cultural geography etc. You will experience a basic introduction to the various fields of study and the opportunity to apply that information to your own life circumstances. When you have completed the course you will have joined a community of educated people around the world who share a common knowledge and understanding of the social sciences.

Course Structure:

The course structure and its accompanying textbook emphasize comprehensive coverage of the social sciences by introductory review of historical and current academic thought in each area and its application to societal structures. This information is then supplemented with examples from, and analysis of, different cultures. A strong emphasis is placed on the application of social science theory to enhance student understanding of Thai society and culture.

Learning Activities:

Learning activities include assigned readings, lectures, class discussions, structured debates, group writing exercises and topical video documentaries.

Group work, which counts for 20 points, includes the following activities:

1. Civil law negligence legal analysis writing activity. Groups will analyze a fact pattern and apply the elements of negligence to determine commercial liability for negligence. The learning goal is to explore how civil law organizes, structures and regulates society and business activity. (10 points)
2. Zimbabwe group debate. Groups will represent different countries in a mock UN debate on international relations with Zimbabwe. The learning goal is to experience and understand the complex issues involved in international relations. (5 points)
3. Gandhi and non-violence. Groups will analyze a current political conflict from the perspective of Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence. The learning goal is to challenge students to explore their own beliefs about when, if ever, violence is appropriate. (5 points)

Grading:

Midterm	35 points
Final	45 points
Group Work	20 points

Total	100 points
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Grade Criteria:

A 90-100

B+ 85-89

B 80 -84

C+ 75-79

C 70-74

D+ 65-69

D 60-64

F Less than 60

Required Text and Materials:

Social Science: An Introduction to the Study of Society; Fourteenth Edition; by Hunt and Colander.

Published by Pearson Education Inc.

Handouts will be sent to students prior to class using Moodle.

Course Schedule:

Session	Topics	Reading
1	Social science and its methods	Chapter 1
2	The functions and forms of governments	Chapter 13
3	The functions and forms of governments	Chapter 13
4	Jurisprudence and the regulation of society – Criminal Law	Handout
5	Jurisprudence and the regulation of society – Civil Law Group project 1: Commercial liability analysis	Handout
6	International institutions and the search for peace	Chapter 21
7	Society, culture, and cultural change	Chapter 4
	Midterm on classes 1-7	

8	Gandhi and peaceful social/political change Video: Gandhi Group project 2	Handout
9	Gandhi and peaceful social/political change Video: Gandhi Group project 2	
10	International political relations Group activity 3: Zimbabwe group debate	Chapter 18 Handout
11	International political relations Group project3: Zimbabwe group debate	Handout
12	Geography, demography, ecology, and society Video: David Attenborough Documentary	Chapter 5
13	The political economies of developing countries	Chapter 20
14	The political economies of developing countries	Chapter 20
15	Technology and society Review for final exam	Chapter 6

Important Dates

Class Begins	January 13, 2014
Adding and Dropping Course	January 13-27, 2014
Midterm Exam Period	March 3-8, 2014 (No Lectures)
Midterm Exam	March 4, 2014 ; 2.00 – 3.30 PM
Course Withdrawal with “W”	March 19-24, 2014
Class Ends	May 3, 2014
Final Exam	May 19, 2014 ; 09.00 AM - noon