



B.E. International Program

Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University



Course Outline

TU120 Integrated Social Sciences

Semester 2/2011 (January 9 – May 20, 2012)

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.

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.

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 include assigned reading, lecture, class discussion, structured debate, group writing exercises, topical video documentaries and group presentations.

Class Time and Venue:

Date: Monday

Time: 08:00-11:00 hrs.

Venue: Faculty of Economics, Room # 303

Instructor:

Rick Levinthal

Email: ricklev@hotmail.com

Office hours: Monday and Friday afternoon by appointment.

Required Text and Materials:

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

Grading:

Midterm	35 points (Feb. 27, 2012, 09.30-11.00 hrs.)
Final	45 points (May 15, 2012, 09.00-12.00 hrs.)
Group Work	20 points
Total	100 points

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

Remarks:

- ♦ Second semester begins Jan. 9, 2012
- ♦ Period of withdrawal without "W" Jan. 9-23, 2012
- ♦ Mid-Term Examination Feb. 27 – March 3, 2012
- ♦ Last day of withdrawal with "W" March 21, 2012
- ♦ Last day of class Apr. 29, 2012
- ♦ Final Examination May 4 - 20, 2012

Course Schedule:

Session	Topics	Reading
1	Social science and its methods	Chapter 1
2	Jurisprudence and the regulation of society – Criminal Law	Handout
3	Jurisprudence and the regulation of society – Civil Law Group assignment	Handout
4	Society, culture, and cultural change	Chapter 4
5	International Institutions and the search for peace Gandhi and peaceful social/political change	Chapter 21 Handout
6	Geography, Demography, Ecology, and Society David Attenborough Documentary	Chapter 5
7	International Political Relations Zimbabwe group debate	Chapter 18 Handout
	Midterm on classes 1-7	
8	The functions and forms of governments	Chapter 13
9	The political economies of developing countries	Chapter 20
10	Religion and society Group Activity: The elements of religion	Chapter 9 Handout
11	Group presentations on development plans	
12	Group presentations on development plans Technology and society	Chapter 6
13	Psychology, society, and culture	Chapter 7
14	Evolution and Sociobiology	Chapter 2
15	Course overview/final exam review	