

Designation of Courses to be Considered for Inclusion in Social Sciences Breadth Category (BSS)

Content/Subject Matter

Social Sciences courses involve study of human behavior at individual and group levels and the socio-cultural systems that influence, and are influenced by, human behavior. Social Sciences courses generally address one or more topics dealing with human behavior, generally in relation to social contexts and variables. Such contexts include social institutions, economic and political systems, manifestations of social organization (e.g., class, gender, ethnicity), value, and belief systems.

Methodology

Social Sciences courses focus on knowledge and concepts gained and understood through a combination of empirical and theoretical approaches. Approaches typically used include collection and analysis of qualitative or quantitative data from interviews, surveys, experiments, observation, case studies or other methods. Social Sciences courses often work in a comparative context in which human behavior or social systems are examined within and across different human cultures and societies.

Course Goals

- familiarity with components of individual or group level human behavior, typically with regards to one or more social contexts;
- an understanding of how humans affect and are affected by social and cultural systems, and the dynamic interaction between human behavior and social and cultural systems;
- an understanding of the application of the scientific method to investigating behavioral and social issues/problems/questions;
- an understanding of ethical issues with research involving humans;
- exposure to theoretical perspectives and models as applied to social phenomena.