



# SOC 106 Introduction to the Social Sciences

Summer 2024

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 56 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:** TBA

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course offers students an introduction to the fundamental theories, methodologies, and unique insights provided by anthropology, demography, economics, linguistics, political science, psychology, and sociology in addressing these inquiries. It aims to enhance students' comprehension of the social and cultural environments they are part of and equip them with essential analytical tools for interpreting the content explored in other core courses.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Develop a foundational understanding of essential terminology utilized in the social sciences.
2. Gain insight into how different social science disciplines approach key issues leveraging their unique advantages.
3. Recognize different forms of social research and evaluate their respective strengths and limitations.
4. Explore and address inquiries about society.

## **PREREQUISITES**

N/A

## **GRADING**

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:



ITEM	POINTS
Quizzes	20 Points
Midterm 1	15 Points
Midterm 2	15 Points
Projects	20 Points
Final Exam	30 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$ .

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

## COURSE MATERIALS

### **Required Texts:**

Alexander Rosenberg, *Philosophy of Social Science*, Fourth Edition, Westview Press, 2012.

### **Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:**

None

## COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 1: What Is the Philosophy of Social Science Topic 2: The Methodological Divide: Naturalism Versus Interpretation Topic 3: The Explanation of Human action Topic 4: Actions, Intentionality, and the Mind-Body Problem <b>Assessments:</b> Quiz#1



Module 2	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 5: Behaviorism in the Behavioral Sciences Topic 6: Thinking, Feeling and Sensation— the Causes of Behavior Topic 7: Problems of Rational Choice Theory Topic 8: Behaviorism as a Philosophy of Experimental Psychology.</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Quiz#2 Project#1</p>
Module 3	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 9: Problems of Rational Choice Theory Topic 10: Social Psychology and the Construction of Society Topic 11: Analysis of the Social Construction of Society Topic 12: The Approach to Explaining Human Action</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Midterm#1 Project#2</p>
Module 4	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 13: European Philosophy of Social Science Topic 14: Holism and Antireductionism in Sociology and Psychology Topic 15: Functionalism as a Research Program Topic 16: Sociobiology or the Standard Social Science Model</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Midterm#2 Project due</p>
Module 5	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 17: Theories of Cultural Evolution Topic 18: Research Ethics in Social Inquiry Topic 19: Facts and Values in the Human Sciences Topic 20: Social Science and the Enduring Questions of Philosophy</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Final Exam</p>

## ATTENDANCE

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1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning



and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

### **LEARNING REQUIREMENTS**

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- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

### **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

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The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

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Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.



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## **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.