

## Subject Description Form

<b>Subject Code</b>	APSS6004
<b>Subject Title</b>	Social Sciences Theories I
<b>Credit Value</b>	3
<b>Level</b>	6
<b>Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion</b>	N/A
<b>Objectives</b>	This subject will provide research students with a grounding in Social Science Theory. They will develop an in-depth understanding of the major strands of social theories, and of the philosophical grounding of the different strands. The course will focus on the emergence of different theories from specific contexts and communities, and advocate their eclectic and instrumental use. Students will study the advantages and disadvantages of such theoretical constructs as Functionalism, Marxism, Behaviouralism, Social Darwinism, Phenomenology, Hermeneutics, Vienna Circle Positivism, Neo-Marxism, Existentialism, etc. Students are expected to engage in critical appraisals and appreciation of theoretical and meta-theoretical issues and debates in social science, with particular reference to investigating the nature of understanding, the relationship between theory and research, the micro and macro link, and the relationship between theory and praxis in social science research.
<b>Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Appreciate the differences between various social science perspectives;</li> <li>b. Understand the links between theoretical choices and research outcomes;</li> <li>c. Critically assess the advantages and disadvantages of different theories;</li> <li>d. Demonstrate an awareness of the use of social theories in the production of knowledge;</li> <li>e. Discuss the theoretical choices for their own research project;</li> <li>f. Reflect on the theoretical significance of their own research.</li> </ul>
<b>Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Individual – Group – Society;</li> <li>2. Nature – Nurture – Anthropology – Sociology – Psychology;</li> <li>3. Objectivism vs. Subjectivism vs. Relativism;</li> <li>4. Reality – Consciousness – Representation;</li> <li>5. Functionalism, Marxism, and Interactionism;</li> <li>6. Behaviouralism, Phenomenology, Hermeneutics, Symbolic Interactionism;</li> <li>7. Vienna Circle, Frankfurt School, Chicago University;</li> <li>8. Social Darwinism, Existentialism</li> </ol>

<b>Teaching/Learning Methodology</b>	Teaching will be comprised of interactive seminars and discussion sessions. Video materials and guest lecturers will be used to engage students' interest in the subject. Exercises will be employed to facilitate a richer learning experience that is related to the student's own research plans. Students are expected to study assigned materials before attending the seminars, and to actively participate during the sessions.																																							
<b>Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	<table border="1" data-bbox="467 436 1469 804"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Specific assessment methods/tasks</th> <th rowspan="2">% weighting</th> <th colspan="6">Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>a</th> <th>b</th> <th>c</th> <th>d</th> <th>e</th> <th>f</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Assignment</td> <td>50%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Participation and Attendance</td> <td>50%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>100 %</td> <td colspan="6"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="467 814 1469 1272">Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For their assignment, students will be required to produce a 5,000 word discussion of the theoretical options for their own research project, and how different options would impact their research.</li> <li>- Students will be expected to prepare a 300 word summary and commentary of at least one of the readings before each session and to actively participate in the discussions during the sessions.</li> <li>▪ The grade is calculated according to the percentage assigned;</li> <li>▪ The completion and submission of all component assignments are required for passing the subject; and</li> <li>▪ Students must pass the specific component(s) if he/she is to pass the subject.</li> </ul>		Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)						a	b	c	d	e	f	1. Assignment	50%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2. Participation and Attendance	50%	✓	✓	✓	✓			Total	100 %						
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<b>Student Study Effort Required</b>	<table border="1" data-bbox="467 1293 1469 1671"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Class contact:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>▪ Lecture</td> <td></td> <td>26 Hrs.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>▪ Seminar</td> <td></td> <td>13 Hrs.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Other student study effort:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>▪ Weekly Preparation</td> <td></td> <td>42 Hrs.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>▪ Assignment</td> <td></td> <td>42 Hrs.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Total student study effort</td> <td>123 Hrs.</td> </tr> </table>		Class contact:			▪ Lecture		26 Hrs.	▪ Seminar		13 Hrs.	Other student study effort:			▪ Weekly Preparation		42 Hrs.	▪ Assignment		42 Hrs.	Total student study effort		123 Hrs.																	
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<b>Medium of Instruction</b>	English																																							
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<b>Reading List and References</b>	<u><b>Essential</b></u>
	NONE
	<u><b>Supplementary</b></u>
	Baert, P., & Silva, F. C. d. (2010). <i>Social theory in the twentieth century and beyond</i> (2nd ed.). Cambridge: Polity Press.
	Bailey, G., & Gayle, N. A. (2003). <i>Social theory: Essential readings</i> (2nd ed.). Toronto; New York: Oxford University Press.
	Beilharz, P. (1992). <i>Social theory: A guide to central thinkers</i> . North Sydney, N.S.W.: Allen & Unwin.
	Callinicos, A. (2007). <i>Social theory: A historical introduction</i> (2nd ed.). Cambridge; Malden, Mass.: Polity.
	Garner, R. (2010). <i>Social theory: A reader</i> (2nd ed.). Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
	Ransome, P. (2010). <i>Social theory for beginners</i> . Bristol: Policy Press.
	Scott, J. (2006). <i>Social theory: Central issues in sociology</i> . London; Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage.
	Turner, B. S. (1996). <i>The Blackwell Companion to Social Theory</i> . Cambridge, Mass: Blackwell Publishers.