**Social Sciences I: Introduction**

**Groups 11, 12, 13**

**Fall 2024**

**Instructor:** Ms. Grecia Sánchez (she/her/hers)

 grecia.sanchez@institutomexico.org

 [www.greciasanchez.com](http://www.greciasanchez.com)

**Course Description:** This Introduction to Social Sciences course is designed to provide high school students with a comprehensive understanding of the fundamental concepts and practical applications of social sciences in society. The course explores how knowledge from disciplines such as anthropology, sociology, economics, and political science contributes to personal well-being, societal development, and effective functioning within communities. Through a combination of engaging lectures, discussions, case studies, and interactive activities, students will gain insights into the intricate dynamics that shape human interactions, institutions, and power structures.

**Course Objectives:** By the end of the course, students will:

1. Recognize the practical utility of social sciences in addressing real-world challenges and enhancing societal well-being.
2. Identify and analyze the basic elements necessary for personal, familial, and collective well-being and development, including material and immaterial necessities.
3. Understand society's organization, including concepts of social stratification, social institutions, and various social groups.
4. Comprehend the economic processes involved in satisfying basic needs and promoting equitable distribution of resources.
5. Grasp the significance of social and juridical norms as rules that govern social functioning and maintain social stability, with a focus on citizenship.
6. Explore the social dimensions of power relations, including politics, authority, micropolitics, and macropolitics, as well as symmetry and asymmetry of power.
7. Gain insights into the origin, types, and organization of the State, with a specific emphasis on the Mexican state.

**Policy for Contacting Me:** The best way to get a hold of me is through email. Please use your institutomexico.org email address when emailing me. If you email me, I will get back to you within 48 business hours. If it has been over 48 business hours and I have not responded, please email me again. If it is an URGENT message, please put URGENT in the subject of the email, and I will get back with you as soon as possible.

**Class Website:** We will be using Google Classroom throughout the semester. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with Google Classroom. I will insert all grades in this system. Therefore, I recommend checking Google Classroom often.

**Required Texts:** We will be using Ciencias Sociales I by César Augusto Arellano Rodríguez. Additionally, articles and other texts will be uploaded to Google Classroom.

**Electronic Policy:** All readings that we are using for the class are online, so you may use your electronics to access the reading. Otherwise, electronic devices must be turned off during class time (including phones) unless you have permission from your professor.

**Attendance:** Attendance will be recorded at the start of every class. For grade purposes, attendance will not be mandatory. However, to justify absences, you will need to submit the proper documentary evidence to our academic coordinator Nadxielii Ruvalcaba.

**Language Diversity Statement:** Diverse languages and dialects are welcome in this classroom. As we communicate with one another, keep in mind that the reader/listener should work as hard as the writer/speaker in the communication process. This means that we will listen patiently, work to understand one another, seek out clarification when necessary and avoid finishing each other's sentences or correcting grammatical errors unless invited to do so.

**Assignments and Required Course Work:** Your courseload will consist of the following.

1. **Readings**: Short readings will be given throughout the semester. You are responsible for completing the required reading. This will prepare you to actively engage in class discussions. You will have at least one article per chapter in your book (maximum of two readings certain chapters).
2. **Free Writing** **Assignments**: You will have brief writing assignments from time to time that you must complete during class. These short essays will be done in English, and you are expected to respond to a topic presented during the first few minutes of class. They will be evaluated based on content, grammar, length, and writing structure (for each topic, you must include an introduction, key points to develop, and a conclusion).
3. **Period Exam**: There will be one exam for each period of the semester. In each exam, you will only be asked about the content covered during that specific period. Good news here is that my exams are open notebook (you’re allowed to take out your notebook while you’re doing your exam).
4. **Quote Docs/Extra Credit**: There will be extra credit assignments for students to get free points from time to time throughout the semester. These points can count toward the midterm grades, presentations, or any other assignment that the student wishes to use their points on. If a student fails to submit a quote doc, it won’t count against them (these are meant to only benefit students).

**Grading and Grading Scale:**

Homework: 25%

Free Writing Assignments: 25%

Exam: 50%

**Late Work:** I believe in self-advocacy. If you are ill, have an emergency, or are otherwise unable to submit an assignment by its deadline, please let me know before that deadline. If something prevents you from talking to me beforehand, let me know as soon as you possibly can afterward, and we’ll see how we can work something out.

**Intellectual Property Of Course Content:** Course materials prepared by the instructors including lectures, study guides, and other written and oral presentations are the property of the instructor. These may not be recorded by video or tape without specific permission from Grecia Sánchez. Electronic devices must be turned off during class time (including phones) unless you have permission from your professor.

**Disclaimer:** I reserve the right to make any changes to the course (content, grading, etc.). Further, I reserve the right to establish fair procedures for grading for students in exceptional cases. All and any modifications to this syllabus will be in accordance with WMU policies and will be posted and distributed in a timely manner.

**Course Schedule:**

**FALL 2024**

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| WEEK | TOPIC | ACTIVITIES |
| FIRST PERIOD |
| Week 1 (July 29-Aug. 2): | Welcome  | * ¿Qué piensas de…? Check ins
* Syllabus
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| Week 2 (Aug. 5-9):  | Social Sciences | * Natural sciences vs. social sciences: Free Writing Assignment #1
* Intro to Social Sciences: Free Writing Assignment #2
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| Week 3 (Aug. 12-16):  | Practical Use of Social Sciences | * Case Studies for Social Sciences
* News Article and Practical Utility of Social Sciences: In teams, find a news article that’s related to a social science of your choice and explain the significance of such social science and how it relates to the news world/society today.
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| Week 4 (Aug. 19-23):  | Review Week  | * News Article Exposition
* Notebook Revision
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| Week 5 (Aug. 26-30):  | First Period Exams | * No homework (focus on studying for your exam)
* Submitting final grades for the period
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| SECOND PERIOD |
| Week 6 (Sept. 2-6):  | Wellbeing and Society  | * Elements for wellbeing: Free Writing Assignment #3
* Infographic of Maslow’s Necessity Pyramid
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| Week 7 (Sept. 9-13):  | Needs and Satisfaction | * The impact of material versus immaterial necessities on well-being: Free Writing Assignment #4
* Proposing solutions to address collective needs: Free Writing Assignment #5
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| Week 8 (Sept. 16-20): | Economic Systems | * Capitalism and its impact on various human aspects: Free Writing Assignment #6
* Socialism vs. Communism: Free Writing Assignment #7
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| Week 9 (Sept. 23-27):  | Economic Systems | * Impact of economic systems on equitable access to basic needs: Free Writing Assignment #8
* Notebook revision
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| Week 10 (Sept. 30-Oct. 4):  | Second Period Exams  | * No homework (focus on studying for your exam)
* Submitting final grades for the period
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| THIRD PERIOD  |
| Week 11 (Oct. 7-11): | Citizenship, Social Norms and Legal Framework | * Analyze case studies of social norms and their implications (gentleman’s behavior & feminism, binary restrooms, dress code & gender expression, social media validation, political correctness & freedom of speech, online dating apps & “hook-up” culture, cyberbullying & digital citizenship)
* Free Writing Assignment #9
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| Week 12 (Oct. 14-18): | Social Institutions in Mexico | * Annotated Glossary of main legal institutions inMexico
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| Week 13 (Oct. 21-25):  | Power Dynamics | * Analyze a film or literary work that portrays micropolitics vs. micropolitics: Free Writing Assignment #10
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| Week 14 (Oct. 28-Nov. 1):  | State and its Functions | * Infographic on advantages and disadvantages of different types of states
* Notebok revision
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| Week 15 (Nov. 4-8):  | Third Period Exams | * No homework (focus on studying for your exam)
* Submitting final grades for the period
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