**Introduction to Social Sciences**

**Groups 11, 12, 13**

**Fall 2023**

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

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Student Hours on Fridays @10-12

**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 Héctor Martínez Ruiz. 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.

**Attendance:** Attendance will be recorded at the start of every class. For grade purposes, attendance will not be mandatory.

**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. **Kahoot/Extra Credit**: There will be surprise Kahoot quizzes for students to get free points from time to time throughout the semester. These points can count toward the midterm grades, presentation, or any other assignment that the student wishes to use their points on. If a student fails a quiz, it won’t count against them (the quizzes are meant to only benefit students).

**Grading and Grading Scale:**

Assignments: 25 points

Discussions/Debate: 25 points

Essay: 25 points

Exam: 25 points

**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:**

**Reading Reflection: Reflect on the.**

**Class Discussion: Debate the responsibilities of the state in promoting societal well-being.**

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| Week | Date | Topic | Readings, Due Dates, & Information |
| Week 2 | August 14-18 | Introductions | **READ:** No readings this week  **ACTIVITIES:**   1. Introductions with objects 2. Kahoot Quiz on Ch. 1   **DUE:** Phenomena of Grecia Sánchez |
| Week 3 | August 21-25 | Social Sciences and their Practical Utility in Society | **READ:** Ch. 1 (pgs. 2-31)  **ACTIVITIES:**   1. Summary of Ch. 1 2. News Selection 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.   **DUE:** Exposition of News & Social Sciences |
| Week 4 | August 28-Sept. 1 | **LECTURE:** Social Sciences in Today’s World  **READ:** Ch. 1 (pgs. 2-31)  **ACTIVITIES:**   1. Free Writing Assignment #1   **DUE:** Free Writing Assignment #1 |
| Week 5 | Sept. 4-8 | Elements of Well-Being and Societal Development | **LECTURE:** Well-Being and Society  **READ:** Ch. 2 (32-53)  **ACTIVITIES:**   1. Infographic of Maslow’s Necessity Pyramid 2. Society Reimagined Essay. Imagine you’re a Senator in charge of creating a system that prioritizes wellbeing in Mexico. You have full liberty of creating the society you would want to live in. The only condition is that it prioritizes wellbeing. How would life be like? What systems or resources need to be in place to ensure wellbeing in Mexicans? How would you fulfill them?   **DUE:** Infographic & Outline for Society Reimagined Essay |
| Week 6 | Sept. 11-15 | **LECTURE:** Necessities and Satisfaction Indicators  **READ:**  Ch. 2 (pgs. 38-42)  **ACTIVITIES:**   1. Free Writing Assignment #2 (the impact of material versus immaterial necessities on well-being). 2. Analyzing Collective Necessities for Societal Development   **DUE:** Free Writing Assignment #2 & Society Reimagined Essay |
| Week 7 | Sept. 18-22 | Economic Systems and Satisfaction of Basic Needs | **LECTURE:** History of Economic Systems  **READ:** Ch. 3 (pgs. 54-62)  **ACTIVITY:**   1. Free Writing Assignment #3 2. Annotated Glossary of Economic Systems that have shaped the world   **DUE:** Free Writing Assignment #3 & Timeline |
| Week 8 | Sept. 25-29 | **LECTURE:** Economic Systems and Access to Basic Needs  **READ:** Ch. 3 (pgs. 66-79)  **ACTIVITY:**   1. Free Writing Assignment #4 2. Expositions on Capitalism and its impact on various human aspects (1 Capitalism & Income Inequality, 2 Consumerism & Materialism, 3 Labor & Exploitation, Innovation & Progress, 4 Access to Basic Needs & Services, 5 Mental Health & Wellbeing, 6 Social Cohesion & Community, 7 Environmental Sustainability, 8 Human value & Dignity, 9 Globalization & Cultural Diversity, 10 Innovation & Progress)   **DUE:** Infographic, Free Writing Assignment #4 & Presentation on Economic Inequality |
| Week 9 | Oct. 2-6 | Society's Organization and Social Stratification | **LECTURE:**  Social Stratification and its Implications  **READ:** Ch. 4 (pgs. 82-113)  **ACTIVITY:**   1. Annotated Glossary of definitions (pg. 86-96) 2. Examine the impact of economic systems on equitable access to basic needs. Research and present a real-world example of economic inequality and its consequences.   **DUE:** Annotated Glossary & Presentation |
| Week 10 | Oct. 9-13 | **LECTURE:** Role of Social Institutions in Shaping Society  **READ:** Ch. 4 (pg. 99)  **ACTIVITIES:**   1. Free Writing Assignment #5 2. My social institutions assignment. Design a visual representation of a social institution's influence on your life. Explain how you interact with such institution and why it is important for you to have the resources that you have at the current moment.   **DUE:** Free Writing Assignment #5 & Social Institutions Poster |
| Week 11 | Oct. 16-20 | Citizenship, Social Norms, and Legal Frameworks | **LECTURE:** Social Norms and Their Effects on Societal Functioning  **READ:** Ch. 5 (pg. 120-122)  **ACTIVITIES:**   1. 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)   **DUE:** Social Norms Analysis |
| Week 12 | Oct. 23-27 | **LECTURE:** Laws, Codes, and Legal Framework in Mexico  **READ:** Ch. 5 (pgs. 124-135)  **ACTIVITIES:**   1. Free Writing Assignment #6 2. Annotated Glossary of main legal institutions in Mexico   **DUE:** Free Writing Assignment #6 & Annotated Glossary |
| Week 13 | Oct. 30-Nov. 3 | Social Dimensions of Power Relations | **LECTURE:** Politics, Authority, and Power Dynamics  **READ:** Ch. 6 (pgs. 138-148)  **ACTIVITY:**   1. Create an artwork that raises awareness about equal rights and social justice issues. Incorporate visuals, symbols, and text to convey powerful messages. 2. Free Writing Assignment #7   **DUE:** Free Writing Assignment #7 & Artwork |
| Week 14 | Nov. 6-10 | **LECTURE:** Micropolitics and Macropolitics: Understanding Power Structures  **READ:** Ch. 6 (pgs. 149-159)  **ACTIVITIES:**   1. Analyze a literary work that portrays micropolitical power dynamics among characters (1984, Harry Potter, Neverland/Anime, etc.). Discuss how these interactions reflect broader societal issues.   **DUE:** Literary Work Analyses |
| Week 15 | Nov.13-17 | The State and Its Functions | **LECTURE:**  Origin, Types, and Organization of the State  **READ:** Ch. 7 (pgs. 162-168)  ACTIVITIES:   1. Infographic on advantages and disadvantages of different types of states 2. Free Writing Assignment #8   **DUE:** Free Writing Assignment #8 |
| Week 16 | Nov. 20-24 | **LECTURE:**  Preparing for Final Exam  **READ:** Ch. 7 (pgs. 171-191)  **ACTIVITY:**   1. Summaries per chapter 2. Study Guides 3. Annotated Glossaries 4. Free Writing Assignment #9   **DUE:** Free Writing Assignment #9 |