**Social Sciences II**

**Groups 21, 22, 23**

**Spring 2025**

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

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**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 about economic sectors, the repercussions of the economic order in Mexico worldwide, cultural and ethnic diversity in Mexico, social change, and democratic processes as well as democratic institutions in Mexico. Through a combination of engaging lectures, discussions, case studies, and interactive activities, students will gain insights into the intricate dynamics that shape human interactions, Mexican institutions that bring about progress, and structures that favor social change.

**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.** This ensures I will definitely receive your email and there won’t be any conflicts in the future as far as your grade or any other matter related to your concern. 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 our textbook *Ciencias Sociales II* by Adriana Olvera, Angélica Y. Dávila, Claudia I. Gaona, and Víctor E. Galván. Additionally, articles and other texts will be uploaded to Google Classroom and/or my website.

**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 per week to read and summarize in your notebook.
2. **In-class Assignments**: You will need to do a series of creative activities during class that include analyses, mental maps, among others. These assignments will be signed as proof that you have indeed worked during class and all class assignments can be accepted by the end of the period when they’ll be revised without any grade penalties (I accept late work).
3. **Annotated glossary:** The absolute most important homework assignment you’ll need to do this semester. Per period, you will need to complete an annotated glossary of 30-50 vocabulary words I’ll provide to you by the start of the period. Per word, please annotate the definition *using your own words* and use the word in a complex sentence (simple sentences won’t suffice). You can complete this annotated glossary in your own time and as long as you submit it a week prior to the exam’s week, you’ll be good. This is an extremely important assignment because **your annotated glossary is your “entrance pass” to your period exam.** This means that if you don’t submit your completed annotated glossary by the deadline, you won’t be able to do your period exam (fair warning).
4. **Exams**: there will be an exam per period covering contents seen during class. This will be a written exam. This time, you won’t be able to take out your notebook while you take your test. However, you are allowed to bring your annotated glossary.
5. **Quote Docs**: friendly reminder that I offer opportunities for 1 extra point in your final grade for each period of the semester in the form of quote docs. Here, **you’ll need to look for academic articles, news articles, or any other media that have to do with any social science topic covered in the period** and you’ll need to prepare a citation document where you select 1 minimum quote for every 2 pages of the reading and write a reflection on that quote (100 words minimum). The document includes the title of the reading, your name, the period for which you would like to apply your bonus points, quotes with page or paragraph numbers (for readings you find online), and your reflections per quote. **It is submitted via Classroom in a digital format.**

**Grading:**

Participation/Assistance: 10%

In-class Assignments: 40%

Exam per Period: 50%

Keep in mind that these percentages are subject to change, especially given your interdisciplinary projects.

**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.

**Course Schedule:**

**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 students in exceptional cases. All and any modifications to this syllabus will be in accordance with Instituto México policies and will be posted and distributed in a timely manner.

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| WEEK | TOPIC | ACTIVITIES |
| FIRST PERIOD | | |
| Week 1: Jan. 15-19 | Welcome activities | 1. Syllabus & Cover 2. Socioemocional diagnostic |
| Week 2: Jan. 22-26 | Economic sectors | 1. Productive sectors 2. Economic regions |
| Week 3: Jan. 29-Feb. 2 | Socioeconomic studies | 1. Economic growth & development 2. Social mobility |
| Week 4: Feb. 5-9 | Exam prep | 1. Refresher activity 2. Extra credit |
| Week 5: Feb. 12-16 | First period exam | 1. Signature & Annotated Glossary revision 2. Exam |
| SECOND PERIOD | | |
| Week 6: Feb. 19-23 | Social change | 1. Types and factors 2. Implications |
| Week 7: Feb. 26-March 1 | Activism | 1. Social injustice 2. Agents of social change |
| Week 8: March 4-8 | Etnic diversity in Mexico | 1. Ethnic vs. culture 2. Cultural diversity in Mexico |
| Week 9: March 11-15 | Exam prep | 1. Refresher activity 2. Extra credit |
| Week 10: March 18-22 | Second period exam | 1. Signature & Annotated Glossary revision 2. Exam |
| Week 11 y 12 | Semana Santa (Mexican Spring Break) | No classes |
| THIRD PERIOD | | |
| Week 13: April 8-12 | Democracy | 1. Electoral process in Mexico 2. INE |
| Week 14: April 15-19 | Political institutions in Mexico | 1. Mexican democratic institutions 2. Extra credit |
| Week 15: April 22-26 | Third period exams | 1. Signature & Annotated Glossary revision 2. Exam |