



University of the Philippines Visayas
Division of Social Sciences
College of Arts and Sciences

Social Science 1
(Foundations of Behavioral Sciences)

Instructor: Prof. Brian C. Ventura
Term: Second Semester AY 2011-12
Class Meeting: TF 1:00-2:30 Room: R205
Consultation Hours: MTh 10:00-11:30, 1:00-3:30, T F 4:00-5:00 or by appointment
Prerequisite: None Section: 3 Credits: 3 Units
E-mail Address: brian.c.ventura@gmail.com
Webpage: <http://brianventura.wordpress.com>
Office: Division of Social Science Faculty Room, Bulwagang Tomas Fonacier

General Course Description:

A survey of basic concepts, principles, theories and methods of behavioral sciences: Sociology, Psychology, Anthropology, including the behavioral components of Linguistics, Demography and Geography and the dynamics of social change.

Course Objectives:

1. to understand the basic concepts that govern the relationship between the individual and his/her society;
2. to appreciate and apply such understanding in the interdisciplinary analysis of issues and problems of society, in general, and of the Philippines, in particular;
3. to develop critical thinking skills;

Specific Objectives:

1. to explain the nature of physical, cultural, and psychological factors in the process of socialization and values formation in all their adaptive dimensions;
2. to describe the range of cultural and social structures and how they affect individual and group behavior in society;
3. to interpret the emerging process of change and development of the physical, social, cultural, and individual levels;
4. to analyze the different issues in society using the perspectives and concepts learned in the course;

Assessment Scheme:

Assessment of students' performance in this class will be based on the following:

Components	Grade percentage
Class participation	15%
Quizzes and Assignments	15%
2 Long Examinations	40%
Final Examination	20%
Group Presentation	10%
Total grade	100%

Class Participation: It is expected that students are prepared before coming to class every meeting. This means that you have read, reread, and comprehended, assigned reading/s before entering the class, or at least have tried your best to do so. Coming to class means that you are interested to contribute and learn in classroom activities. Participation in discussion means raising pertinent and well-grounded points or questions and not merely reading the book in front of the course instructor and your classmates. Names will be called randomly, unless there are volunteers. It should be noted that class participation includes not only answering but also asking pertinent and discussion worthy questions. You will also engage in informal debates and argumentation, therefore skills in construction, defense, and offense of argument is important. However, it is imperative that exchange of ideas should always be in a cordial manner. If you disagree with a certain idea or person, disagree in an agreeable manner.

Quizzes and Assignments: Quizzes are not announced. These are given to check whether you have done your reading assignments or not. It is always in essay form. It is therefore implied that aside from your knowledge about the concepts and topics assigned, written communication skill is also important.

Long Examinations: After discussing the readings, students' understanding and ability to analyze and evaluate the basic concepts discussed in the class will be assessed in two or three long examinations. Examinations in this class will be both in essay and identification forms. Thus, it should be reiterated that both your understanding of the basic concepts and your ability to communicate your ideas would be assessed. It is important that you know how to properly present your ideas and to establish strong arguments to support it. It is also important that you will carefully understand the instructions in the examination. Not following the instruction will result to a grade of 5 for the exam. The coverage and schedule of exam will be announced in the class.

Group Presentation: The class will be divided into five or more groups to present on a topic listed at the last part of the outline. The topic outline and other general expectations about the presentation should be consulted with the instructor. This is to ensure that the presenters cover all the necessary aspects of the topic. The due for presentation, group and topic assignment will be finalized as the semester progresses.

Rating Scale and Grading Policy: Since due dates are nonnegotiable no grade of "INC" will be given in this class. Those who are unable to submit the requirement/s in

due time will have a corresponding grade of “5.0” for that specific component. Conversion of the percentage grade into the final grade will follow this matrix;

Percentage	Final Grade Equivalent
100%	1.0
95-99%	1.25
90-94%	1.5
85-89%	1.75
80-84%	2.0
75-79%	2.25
70-74%	2.5
65-69%	2.75
60-64%	3.0
55-59%	4.0
54% and below	5.0

General Class Rules:

Attendance and Tardiness: Students with more than six unexcused absences will be automatically given a grade of five (5) unless he or she has formally dropped the course. It is your responsibility to apply for dropping if you have exceeded the limit of unexcused absences, not an instructor’s prerogative. Arriving ten minutes (10 min.) after the start of the class is considered late. Arriving half an hour after the start of the class is considered absent. Three late marks are equivalent to one absent mark.

Rule for Mobile Phones: Mobile phones should be set in silent mode inside the class. If you need to make an important SMS, MMS conversation, or phone call, you should excuse yourself from the class and conduct your business outside.

Due dates: Submission schedules for this class should be promptly observed. Late submissions of assigned works are not accepted. It will be helpful if you finish and print assigned papers at least 24 hours before the due. Be alert with any possible changes in schedules so you won’t be confused. Do not hesitate to ask the instructor if you feel uncertain. It is better to be sure than sorry.

Class Discussion: Names will be called randomly. Once your name is called you have the right and the duty to contribute. Language is not a barrier for articulating ideas so long as mutual understanding is guaranteed. Being absent on the previous meeting/s means that it is your responsibility to review the discussion on the day/s when you were absent.

Students’ Responsibility: It is expected that you are reading and understanding the literatures assigned to or pertinent with the topic before coming to class. The role of the instructor is only to facilitate in the birthing process of ideas and to assess students’ performance. Grades are not made but only calculated based on the set of given provided by the students’ performance.

Course Schedule: The discussion will follow the outline. In case of any unforeseeable and unavoidable interruptions a substitution class or alternative activity will be scheduled in a mutually convenient and feasible time and place.

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism is a serious academic offense punishable by a grade of 5.0 or expulsion. You are expected to observe proper rules in citing sources and to provide appropriate credits to borrowed ideas. Cheating during examination and quizzes will also be subject to similar rule.

Topic Outline

November

Topic

14, 17, 22, 25
and 29

- I. Introductory Lecture: An Overview of the Social Sciences
 - A. Development of the Social Sciences in Historical Perspective
 - B. The Nature of the Human Being
 - 1. Philosophical Underpinnings
 - 2. Creationism vs. Evolutionism
 - 3. Western vs. Eastern Views of the Human Being

Learning Objectives:

At the end of the unit, the student will be able to:

1. trace the social conditions which brought about the development of social sciences;
2. identify the areas of social sciences and how they address the needs of the individual;
3. explain the nature of the human being in the society.

December

Topic

2, 6, 9 and 13

- II. The Individual and Her/His Physical Environment
 - A. Elements of the Physical Environment
 - B. Use of Physical and Natural Resources
 - C. The Changing Physical Environment

Learning Objectives:

At the end of the unit, the student will be able to,

1. appraise the environment (physical and cultural) where human interactions occur;
 2. synthesize the existing relationship between human beings and the physical environment;
 3. describe the effects of natural disasters to the general social and economic conditions of affected areas.
-

January

Topic

- 3, 6, 10, and 13 III. Human Adaptation
- A. Biological Adaptation
 - B. Psychological Adaptation
 - C. Evolution of Societies
 - D. Changing Nature of Interaction, Structures and Roles
 - 1. Development of stratification
 - a. Social stratification
 - b. Gender stratification
 - 2. The underpinnings of discrimination

Learning Objectives:

At the end of the unit, the student will:

1. be aware of human beings' efforts at adaptation from instinctual to cultural mode;
2. recognize the richness and diversity of cultures and how these impact on behavior;
3. appreciate the role of language in human adaptation.

First Long Exam, January 13, 2012 , Friday

- 17, 20 and 24 IV. Socialization
- A. Aims and Agents of Socialization
 - B. Processes of Socialization
 - 1. Social learning theory
 - 2. Indoctrination, brainwashing, groupthink, deindividuation
 - C. Effects of Socialization
 - 1. Personality as a social product with biological basis
 - 2. Self theories
 - 3. Deviant behavior

Learning Objectives:

At the end of the unit, the student will be able to:

1. identify the agents of socialization and their role in shaping human personality;
2. be aware of the processes of secondary socialization; determine the factors and conditions in socialization that led to the emergence of deviant behavior.

February

Topic

- 3, 7, 10 and 14 V. Social Change and Development
- A. Definitions and Determinants of Social Change
 - B. Theories of Development
 - C. Factors and Conditions Influencing Development
-

Learning Objectives:

At the end of the unit, the student will be able to:

1. distinguish the concept of social change from other social processes occurring in society;
2. distinguish the different theories of social change and their varied outcomes on the patterns of social life;
3. identify the different components of population growth;
4. explain the status of development occurring in the Philippine society.

Second Long Examination February 28, 2011, Tuesday

March

Topic

- 2, 6, 9 and 13 VI. Contemporary Social Issues in the Philippine Society (This will be the topic for group presentation)
- A. National Identity Issues,
 - B. Gender Issues,
 - C. Violence in Contemporary Philippine Society
 - D. Environmental Issues

Learning Objectives:

At the end of the unit, the student will be able to:

1. integrate the different perspectives in the analysis of specific issues and problems in society;
2. apply the theories and concepts learned in the analysis of issues;
3. make an analytical report focused on one of the issues in Philippine society.

References:

- Butler, G. & McManus, F. (1998). *Psychology: a very short introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Hunt, E. & Colander, D. (2005). *Social science: An introduction to the study of society* (12th ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
- Getis, A. Getis, J. & Fellmann J. (1996). *Introduction to geography* (5th ed.). Dubuque, Iowa: Wm. C. Brown Publishers
- Pocock, D. (1999). *Understanding social anthropology*. London: The Athlone Press

Other articles and reading materials will also be provided, either as a hard copy or as soft copy posted at <http://brianventura.wordpress.com>