FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

ASIGNATURAS CONVERGENTES
Professor: BRENDAN FINBARR ANGLIN
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Academic year: 19-20
Degree course: FIRST
Semester: 1º
Category: COMPULSORY
Number of credits: 6.0
Language: English

PREREQUISITES
An open mind.
SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

As John Donne famously said “No Man is an island”. Humans are by nature a social animal. We are a species that has evolved to believe in specialization – some of us are responsible for production, some for organization, some for distribution, and others for waging war. We have developed elaborate written and unwritten rules, rituals and practices for all our interactions – from eating to reproduction. The social sciences study how we interact with each other and with our surroundings, from the physical to the imagined environment, from conflict to culture, from money to mating, from language to law.

This course introduces and gives a solid grounding in some of the main areas of social sciences: including economics, politics, law, cultural anthropology, criminology, history and sociology. Within these areas we will go into greater detail on subjects such as geopolitics, control of media and communication channels, feminism, racism, political hegemony, war as a tool of control, democracy vs fascism, religion, human rights, fiscal and monetary policy, historical revisionism.

This is about understanding the physical and social world we live in, the forces they exert on us and how we are influenced by them. By critically examining all aspects of the social sciences, we may have to accept that we continue to be one leaf among many on the tree that is humanity, but understanding our place in the whole, we stand a better chance of knowing whether to fall or not, and how, when the wind blows.
OBJECTIVES AND SKILLS

This course will specifically look at the following areas:

- **Economics**: Understand the underlying principles of supply and demand at a micro and macro level and the relationship between society and scarce resources (including people).
- **Politics**: How people organize themselves. Specific ideologies for doing so. Who has the power in a society and how is it exercised – and maintained. Citizenship.
- **Sociology and Cultural Anthropology**: A look at in and out groups and the rituals that define society – in the following areas: race and ethnicity, gender, religion, crime, social movements, conflict, migration.
- **Law**: The difference between ethics, law and justice. Legal systems. Contract law. International Law and basic human rights.
- **Criminology**: The interrelationship between society, legal system, politics and even geography in the subject of crime and criminals.

**Expected Outcomes**

By the end of the course the students should have acquired the following skills and areas of knowledge:

- A perception of the world through the lens of the social sciences.
- The vocabulary and terminology used in the social sciences.
- An overview of the main theorists in the areas of Economics, Sociology, Political Science and Cultural Anthropology.
- An idea of how the different social sciences fit together to describe the world we live in.
- An ability to work as part of a team that engages in a deep analysis of a human society and is able to dissect it at different levels and from different angles.
- Discover a passion for the social sciences as something that is not an academic subject but the reality of the world that surrounds us and flows through us every minute of our lives.
- Ensure that the students have a taste of the subjects that they will cover in greater detail at an individual level over the rest of their degree – specifically in the area of economics and sociology.
METHODOLOGY

The methodology used is Social Science Fiction. This refers to the fact that concepts and ideas of Social Sciences will be examined first in the neutral and relatively sterile environment of a science fiction world. The class will be divided into teams that have to explore different parts of this world and understand how it works – from a political, economic, legal, criminal, sociological point of view. By looking at the fictitious world of Ireti (designed to explore the Social Sciences) it is possible to confront potentially controversial subjects in a neutral environment, take them apart objectively and then with this methodology venture into the exploration of the real world, minus one or two biases, shed in the initial analysis of Ireti. This means that issues related to politics, racism and feminism can be discussed in a sterile environment akin to a laboratory setting. By putting the setting in the form of a novel, it makes the students realise that Social Sciences is something that forms part of the stories of our lives and that involves real people and their narratives and is not just a dusty academic subject that can be placed back up on a shelf when the course is finished.

The teaching method itself is a combination of the Socratic Method, 360° feedback and co-creation. While it is often said that ‘you get out what you put in’, this is most certainly the case in this class. The teacher will act as a facilitator and a guide, but the students will decide as a collective through their actions what paths will be taken. This way learning becomes more real, more relevant, and more exciting.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching methodology</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Estimated time a student should dedicate to prepare for and participate in</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>30.0 %</td>
<td>45 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussions</td>
<td>0.0 %</td>
<td>0 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exercises</td>
<td>23.33 %</td>
<td>35 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group work</td>
<td>33.33 %</td>
<td>50 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other individual studying</td>
<td>13.33 %</td>
<td>20 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100.0 %</td>
<td>150 hours</td>
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PROGRAM

SESSIONS 1 - 2

Introduction
a. Introduction of students and assignation of groups
b. Concepts and paradigms
c. What are the social sciences?
d. Language of the social sciences
e. Research and Reason.
f. Introducing Ireti - a world of six paradigms.

SESSIONS 3 - 4

Sociology i
a. Overview of conflict theory, structural functionalism and symbolic interactionism.

SESSIONS 5 - 6

Economics i
a. Introduction to economics.
b. Sectors of the Economy
c. Concepts of Supply and demand and scarce resource.

SESSIONS 7 - 8

Cultural Anthropology
a. Ethnography
b. Rituals, practices, values, artefacts and assumptions.
c. Death and religion

SESSIONS 9 - 10

Sociology and Specific Groups ii
a. In-groups vs out-groups
b. Feminism
c. Racism
SESSIONS 11 - 12
Political Science
a. What are the different states that currently exist
b. How democratic are democracies
c. Introduction to the political ideologies of communism, liberalism, socialism, capitalism and anarchism.

SESSIONS 13 - 14
Legal systems
a. Link between law and justice
b. Common and civil law systems
c. Introduction to legal terminology
d. Human Rights

SESSIONS 15 - 16
Sociology iii and Political Science
a. Introduction to Hegemony, Power and Authority
b. Class system
c. Monopoly of force and the apparatus of the state
d. Networks vs hierarchies

SESSIONS 17 - 18
Economics ii
a. Microeconomics: Running a business
b. Industrialisation

SESSIONS 19 - 20
Economics iii
a. Macroeconomics, inflation, interest rates, money supply, social welfare, taxation.

SESSIONS 21 - 22
Criminology
a. Measuring crime
b. Who commits crime?
c. Trends in crime.
d. Individual Papers due


SESSIOENS 23 - 24
a. Mid-term exam.
b. Wrap up of key ideas and concepts from the first part of the course
c. Group Presentation

SESSIOENS 25 - 26
a. Project 1: Sociology, cultural anthropology and criminal/terrorist groups.

SESSIOENS 27 - 28
a. Project 2: Economics, politics and legal system and criminal/terrorist groups.

SESSIOENS 29 - 30
a. Group Presentations/Videos
BIBLIOGRAPHY

**Recommended Reading:**
The following books are not obligatory but give a sense of the ideas that run through the course.

**Suggested Reading (Fiction):**
These are not part of the coursework but are good examples of some of the ideas we have looked at on the course in works of fiction.
1. Orwell, George (1945) *Animal Farm*. Penguin
2. Golding, William (1954) *Lord of the Flies*. Faber and Faber
EVALUATION CRITERIA

A. Participation
As this course is about actively participating in class, at a team level, in cross team discussions and as a whole class, there will be an overall participation mark for each session for each individual student. Opportunities for making up for sessions missed through a discussion forum will be provided so missing a class need not be a reason to lose participation points. Physical presence in the class is not enough to ensure a mark for participation for a particular session.

B. Individual Paper
The paper will be written on one of the areas covered in the first 22 sessions of the course and due in session 23-24. The questions that must be answered will be given in session 1. The paper is 1500 words.

All essays will be submitted through Turnitin in online campus. No hard copies are necessary. Essays will be marked according to Structure (25%), Style (25%) and Content (50%) which also includes the appropriate and correct use of sources. Each of this criteria is graded as 0 (poor), 0.5 (average) and 1 (over average). The combination of this 3 general criteria makes up the final mark.

In each of this criteria, the following points have to be observed:

1. Structure:
   - the general plan of the essay;
   - the connection between ideas exposed;
   - the inclusion of an introduction and conclusion;
   - the existence of paragraphs corresponding to ideas or concepts (Five elements of paragraph to be included)

2. Style:
   - the absence of grammatical mistakes,
   - the proper use of academic English corresponding to college level;
   - the adequate use of sources and quotations. APA referencing.
   - Double spaced, Times New Roman 12, with Title page and page headings and numbering. Pdf or Word but not Pages.

3. Content:
   - the level of originality in the essay,
   - the argumentative level of the essay;
   - the relevance of the information contained in it, without being a mere summary;
   - the adequacy of the content to the question proposed;
   - the logical connections between presentation of ideas and final conclusions
   - the relevance of such conclusions without being a mere tautology.
   - In writing the essays, you should follow the guidelines learnt in the Writing Skills course

C. Group Reports and Presentation (25%)
In the main part of the course, each team (established on the first day) will be responsible for uploading at the end of each day a document (using a template provided by the professor) covering the three main sections covered that day in class – main theories/ideas, application to Ireti, application in the real world. The group presentation involves a 5 to 10 minute presentation in class picking out some of the key ideas covered in the group reports and is envisaged to be an overview and summary of the main part of the course.

10
14th June 2019
D. Group Project and final video

This involves the examination of a real world criminal or terrorist organisation from the point of view of all of the areas that have been discussed so far on the course. This will take the form of a 10-15 minute presentation in video format. The content of the video will be put together on the previous two days using a structured template based on all the areas covered in the main part of the course – sociology, law, economics etc. It is expected that the only work on the project that will take place outside the sessions is the actual recording of the video itself.

Points will be given for: Presentation (50%), Content (50%)

Presentation covers issues such as:
- Good use of the visuals
- Working together as a team
- Flow of the presentation
- Structure of ideas
- Originality of the presentation
- Clever use of the video medium in presenting the ideas.
- Clear sound quality

Content
- Understanding of the concepts covered in the class.
- Insights brought to ideas discussed in class
- Proper analysis of a terrorist/criminal group using proper research and investigation and using the mentality and methodology of the social sciences.

Exam

The Mid-term exam will be based on all the questions that have been covered in the PowerPoint presentations and in-class documents from sessions 1-23. The exam serves as a way of consolidating the theory learned without increasing exponentially the workload on the students. This puts a special focus on the theory and methodology of the social sciences rather than specific questions related to Ireti itself.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid Term Exam</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10 %</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Essay</td>
<td>30 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Project</td>
<td>15 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Reports and Presentation</td>
<td>25 %</td>
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- Sobresaliente/Outstanding: 9.0-10.0 (A to A+)
Consistently produces work of the highest quality and craft; exhibits notable progress and development over the course of the semester; meets all course objectives at highest level; attendance is near-perfect, and contributions to course discussions are extremely valuable.

- Notable: 7.0-8.9 (B to B+)
Completes all assignments with work of above-average quality and craft; exhibits significant progress and development; meets most course objectives; attendance and participation are very good.

- Aprobado: 6.0-7.0 (C to C+)

14th June 2019
Completes all assignments with work of acceptable quality and craft; exhibits some progress and development; meets a majority of course objectives. Attendance and participation are acceptable.

· **Aprobado**: 5.0-6.0 (D)
  Assignments are delivered but are incomplete and/or of low quality and craft; exhibits little progress and development; meets few course objectives. Attendance and participation are poor, but absences do not total more than 30%.

· **Suspenso**: 0-4.9 (F)
  Work is incomplete, missing, or does not meet course objectives. Attendance and participation are poor.

· **Automatic Failure/Suspenso**: 0 (F)
  Please note that a student who misses 30% or more of the scheduled sessions receives an automatic 0.0, and loses his or her right to the second “convocatoria.”

**RETAKE POLICY**

· Each student has 4 chances to pass any given course distributed in two consecutive academic years (regular period and July period).

· Students who do not comply with the 70% attendance rule will lose their 1st and 2nd chance, and go directly to the 3rd one (they will need to enrol again in this course next academic year).

· Grading for retakes will be subject to the following rules:

  o Students failing the course in the first regular period will have to do a retake in June/July (except those not complying with the attendance rules, which are banned from this possibility).

  o Dates and location of the June/July retakes will be posted in advance and will not be changed. Please take this into consideration when planning your summer.

  o The maximum grade that a student may obtain in any type of retake will be 8 out of 10.

**PROFESSOR BIO**
Brendan Anglin holds an M.A. in European Integration (1996-1997) and a Postgrad Diploma in Business Administration (1995-1996) from the University of Limerick, Ireland, a B.A. in Economics and History from University College Cork, Ireland (1992-1995) and is currently studying a Ph.D. in Economics and Marketing with the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid (2016-) with a focus on Trust, Culture and International Negotiations. He worked in the International Division of AIB Bank (Double Taxation Treaties and also in charge of financial reporting for a €20 billion balance sheet with Bank of England) and in the consular section of the Irish Embassy in Madrid.

He is the CEO of a company, Fresh Ideas International Training, specialized in Negotiations and Intercultural Communication. Brendan has designed, coordinated and taught degree level courses, programmes for a variety of international masters ((on-line and face-to face) and specialized workshops at several universities and colleges in Ireland, Saudi Arabia and Spain, and in public and private organisations to almost 8,000 students from over 60 nationalities on the areas of intercultural communication, negotiations and presentation skills. (ICEX, Abogacia General, AECID, FIAB, Ministerio de Economía, Irish Defence Forces, University of Limerick, CESMA, Union Fenosa, Banesto, Accenture, Elaborarium, Nh, IEF, INAP, La Complutense, Universidad Menendez Pelayo, The Madrid Polytechnic, Inspiralia, Accenture, A4U, Carlos III etc.). He has also taught 20th Century History in Ireland and Macro-economics in Spain at University level.

At IE he is the coordinator of the IE writing skills and BBA Research and Writing Skills programmes and the Language Proficiency Track course. He is also a professor on the following courses: IE Professional Skills, Presentation Skills, Humanities (BBA and IE Module), Working in a Global World (I and II), Introduction to Social Sciences, and finally, Leadership and Team Building with IE Executive Education. He was awarded “Best Teacher” at IE University in the IE Module in 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 and “Best Teacher” at IE University in the IE Language Center in 2017-2018 and awards for teaching excellence at IE University in 2018-2019. His on-line presence includes the Linked-in Group ‘Fresh Ideas International” with more than 2,000 members and the YouTube Channel – 42 Fresh Ideas (in Leadership). He has also written several books including The Negotiation Jungle, Leadership Skills and Stories, Fuzion, A Case Study, and Ireti: Social Science Fiction. His next book CAPS, How to Prepare the Perfect Negotiation, is due out in 2019.

As a teacher he values fairness above all else. While he aims to create a cordial and friendly atmosphere in class, discipline will be enforced if it is necessary to be fair to the students who want to learn, or arrive on time, or do the assignments on time. He is flexible with student’s needs and the learning process - within the overarching value of fairness. From applying the Leader-leader model to education, student participation in the evaluation process and writing a science fiction novel to teach the Social Sciences, Brendan also looks for innovative ways to bring new teaching methodologies and ideas to the classroom to make the learning process as fun and as effective as possible.

OTHER INFORMATION
CODE OF CONDUCT IN CLASS

1. **Be on time**: Students arriving more than 5 minutes late will be marked as “Absent”. Only students that notify in advance in writing that they will be late for a specific session may be granted an exception (at the discretion of the professor).

2. **If applicable, bring your name card and strictly follow the seating chart**. It helps faculty members and fellow students learn your names.

3. **Do not leave the room during the lecture**: Students are not allowed to leave the room during lectures. If a student leaves the room during lectures, he/she will not be allowed to re-enter and, therefore, will be marked as “Absent”.
   Only students that notify that they have a special reason to leave the session early will be granted an exception (at the discretion of the professor).

4. **Do not engage in side conversation**. As a sign of respect toward the person presenting the lecture (the teacher as well as fellow students), side conversations are not allowed. If you have a question, raise your hand and ask it. If you do not want to ask it during the lecture, feel free to approach your teacher after class.
   If a student is disrupting the flow of the lecture, he/she will be asked to leave the classroom and, consequently, will be marked as “Absent”.

5. **Use your laptop for course-related purposes only**. The use of laptops during lectures must be authorized by the professor. The use of Social Media or accessing any type of content not related to the lecture is penalized. The student will be asked to leave the room and, consequently, will be marked as “Absent”.

6. **No cellular phones**: IE University implements a “Phone-free Classroom” policy and, therefore, the use of phones, tablets, etc. is forbidden inside the classroom. Failing to abide by this rule entails expulsion from the room and will be counted as one absence.

7. **Escalation policy: 1/3/5**. Items 4, 5, and 6 above entail expulsion from the classroom and the consequent marking of the student as “Absent.” IE University implements an “escalation policy”: The first time a student is asked to leave the room for disciplinary reasons (as per items 4, 5, and 6 above), the student will incur one absence, the second time it will count as three absences, and from the third time onward, any expulsion from the classroom due to disciplinary issues will entail 5 absences.

14th June 2019