



NAME OF SCHOOL: YPHSL

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME: PhD in LCT

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Zhang Wei (coordinator)

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 25 Mar. 2022

SECTION A – FOR COURSE APPROVAL

COURSE CODE: IDIS702

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Interdisciplinary Research

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Disciplines within the social sciences have given analytical primacy to either the environment (sociology, for instance) or the agent (psychology, for instance) or the interaction (the rational choice school within economics, for instance). As such, the disciplinarily – limited study of social science provides an incomplete understanding of social action. Interdisciplinary work within the social sciences is an attempt to redress this flaw. Interdisciplinary social science then can be defined, equally pithily, as the integrated study of social action. This course is designed to introduce you to the nature and modes of, the steps involved in and the integrative frameworks for pursuing interdisciplinary social science.

The course is divided into three relatively self-contained units. The first unit (seminars 1-5) explores the nature and purpose of knowledge in the social sciences and, in this context, discusses the epistemic goals and the methodological individualism of the different disciplines within the social sciences. The second unit (seminars 6-8) presents several extant sites of interdisciplinary cooperation within the social sciences. The third unit (seminars 9-12) prepares you for engaging in interdisciplinary research; it introduces the different modes of interdisciplinary research and the tasks associated with such research, builds rudimentary familiarity with data-based reasoning, and concludes the course by providing practical advice on implementing an interdisciplinary research project.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, student will be able to:

- 1) Understand the primary research questions and methodologies of the main disciplines of social sciences.
- 2) Understand the basic themes of several existing interdisciplinary research agendas in social sciences.
- 3) Understand the main steps, methodologies, and challenges in conducting interdisciplinary research.

PRE-REQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE/MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE COURSE(S)



N.A.

COURSE AREA

PhD foundation

GRADING BASIS

Graded

COURSE UNIT

1.0 CU

FIRST OFFERING TERM

Academic Year: AY2022/2023

Academic Term: Term I

SECTION B - COURSE OUTLINE/ASSESSMENT

ASSESSMENT METHODS

- 1. Individual Assessment: 70% of total, consisting of**
 - Class Participation 20%
 - Individual report 50%

- 2. Group Assessment: 30% of total, consisting of**
 - Group Project 30%

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All acts of academic dishonesty (including, but not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, facilitation of acts of academic dishonesty by others, unauthorized possession of exam questions, or tampering with the academic work of other students) are serious offences.

All work (whether oral or written) submitted for purposes of assessment must be the student's own work. Penalties for violation of the policy range from zero marks for the component assessment to expulsion, depending on the nature of the offence.



As a reminder on how to avoid plagiarism, students are encouraged to complete this CALI tutorial at:

<http://researchguides.smu.edu.sg/content.php?pid=648621&sid=5370611>.

When in doubt, students should consult the instructor of the course. Details on the SMU Code of Academic Integrity may be accessed at: <http://www.smuscd.org/resources.html>.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND EXPECTATIONS

The course will be taught through interactive seminars. A mixture of lecture, case study and group discussion will be conducted routinely throughout the course. (Do we have project?)

CLASS TIMINGS

The course is taught in one 3-hour session per week over twelve weeks.

RECOMMENDED TEXT AND READINGS

A course pack will be offered for this course. There will be no need to acquire a specific textbook.

WEEKLY LESSON PLAN

Week	Topics	Assignments (TBA)
1	Part A: What is Social Science? The Philosophy of Social Science	
2	The Social Sciences (1): Law and Political Science	
3	The Social Sciences (2): Sociology and Psychology	
4	The Social Sciences (3): Economics, Finance and Accounting	
5	The Social Sciences (4): Management Science and Strategy	
6	Part B: What is Interdisciplinarity? Extant Sites of Interdisciplinarity (1): Politics, Law and Economics	
7	Extant Sites of Interdisciplinarity (2): Psychology, Economics and Management	
8	Mid-term break	
9	Extant Sites of Interdisciplinarity (3): Unban and Sustainability Studies	



10	Part C: Becoming Interdisciplinary The Modes of Interdisciplinarity and Steps in the Interdisciplinary Research Process	
11	Complexity Theory	
12	Game Theory	
13	Managing Interdisciplinary Research: Tips and Tricks on Conducting Collaborative Research	