

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Social and Behavioral Sciences (FD-SBS) is one of the six Foundational Disciplines that are part of the WCAS bachelor's degree.

We all exist in a complex web of social relationships. Social phenomena, ranging from the most intimate interpersonal interactions to widespread global conflicts, influence the quality of our lives in countless ways. Social scientists use qualitative and quantitative methodologies to help us understand how we influence, and are influenced by, societal forces. Courses in this area introduce students to theories, methodological approaches, and empirical research findings pertaining to a full range of the human experience, from the level of the individual to that of familial, cultural, political, and institutional structures. Through study of the social sciences, students develop a deeper understanding of their own behavior as well as the complex problems of modern society.

Learning Objectives for FD-SBS

Courses in the Social and Behavioral Sciences prepare students to meet three or more of the following objectives:

- Recognize and articulate reciprocal relationships between societal forces (e.g., norms, laws, organizational structures), psychological forces (e.g., traits, motives, attitudes), and the behaviors of individuals and groups
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of social science theories related to the influence of culture and power on the behavior of individuals, interpersonal relationships, and/or group dynamics
- Use appropriate quantitative or qualitative research methodologies to observe, describe, understand, and predict human behavior and/or institutional actions
- Develop the ability to critique theories, claims, and policies in the social and behavioral sciences through careful evaluation of an argument's major assertions, assumptions, evidential basis, and explanatory utility
- Reflect upon the way in which theories and research from the social and behavioral sciences help elucidate the factors underlying contemporary social issues, social problems, and/or ethical dilemmas in the U.S. and/or abroad, as well as inform potential solutions to societal problems

FD-SBS Courses

Courses approved for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Course	Title
ANTHRO 211-0	Culture & Society
ANTHRO 214-0	Archaeology: Unearthing History
ANTHRO 215-0	The Study of Culture through Language
ANTHRO 221-0	Social and Health Inequalities
ANTHRO 235-0	Language in Asian America
ANTHRO 238-0	Food in Culture & Society
ANTHRO 322-0	Introduction to Archaeology Research Design & Methods
ANTHRO 326-0	Archaeologies of Sustainability and Collapse
ANTHRO 333-0	GIS for the Social Sciences
ANTHRO 345-0	Black Queer Diaspora
ANTHRO 357-0	Biocultural Perspectives on Water Insecurity

ANTHRO 368-0	Latina and Latino Ethnography
ANTHRO 382-0	Political Ecology
ANTHRO 383-0	Environmental Anthropology
ANTHRO 389-0	Ethnographic Methods and Analysis
ASIAN_AM 203-0	Topics in Asian American Social and Cultural Analysis
ASIAN_AM 210-0	Introduction to Asian American Studies
ASIAN_AM 218-0	Asian/Black Historical Relations in the U.S.
ASIAN_AM 225-0	Asian American Communities
ASIAN_AM 235-0	Language in Asian America
ASIAN_AM 251-0	Introduction to Critical Mixed Race Studies
ASIAN_AM 303-0	Advanced Topics in Social and Cultural Analysis
BLK_ST 214-0	Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies
BLK_ST 215-0	Introduction to Black Social & Political Life
BLK_ST 218-0	Asian/Black Historical Relations in the U.S.
BLK_ST 236-0	Introduction to Black Studies
BLK_ST 251-0	Introduction to Critical Mixed Race Studies
BLK_ST 317-0	Black Political Thought
BLK_ST 320-0	Social Meaning of Race
BLK_ST 325-0	Education for Black Liberation
BLK_ST 327-0	Politics of Black Popular Culture
BLK_ST 334-0	Gender and Black Masculinity
BLK_ST 365-0	Black Chicago
BUS_INST 303-0	Leadership in Organizations
CFS 387-0	Field Studies in the Environment & Sustainability
CFS 391-0	Field Studies in Social Justice
CFS 392-0	Field Studies in Public Health
CFS 393-0	Field Studies in the Modern Workplace
CFS 394-0	Legal Field Studies
CFS 395-0	Business Field Studies
CFS 397-0	Field Studies in Civic Engagement
COG_SCI 110-0	Introduction to Cognitive Science
COG_SCI 207-0	Introduction to Cognitive Modeling
COG_SCI 211-0	Learning, Representation & Reasoning
COG_SCI 345-0	Presenting Ideas & Data
COMM_ST 380-0	Political Communication
COMM_ST 381-0	Media, Movements, & Social Change
ECON 201-0	Introduction to Macroeconomics
ECON 202-0	Introduction to Microeconomics
ECON 310-1	Microeconomics
ECON 311-0	Macroeconomics
ENVR_POL 211-0	Food and Society: An Introduction
ENVR_POL 212-0	Environment and Society
ENVR_POL 251-0	The Politics of Disaster: A Global Environmental History
ENVR_POL 337-0	Hazard, Disaster and Society
ENVR_POL 338-0	Environmental Justice
ENVR_POL 339-0	Silent but Loud: Negotiating Health in a Cultural, Food, Poverty, Environ. Caste
ENVR_POL 340-0	Global Environments and World History
ENVR_POL 351-0	Land, Identity and the Sacred
ENVR_POL 353-0	Introduction to Ethnobiology: Theories of Human, Plant and Animal Interactions
ENVR_POL 354-0	Introduction to Cultural Resource Management and Environmental Policy
ENVR_POL 360-0	Animal Law
ENVR_POL 383-0	Environmental Anthropology
ENVR_POL 384-0	Political Ecology

ENVR_POL 385-0	Archaeologies of Sustainability and Collapse	LATINO 334-0	Latino Politics
GBL_HLTH 201-0	Introduction to Global Health	LATINO 366-0	Feminist Aesthetics of the Erotic
GBL_HLTH 221-0	Beyond Porn: Sexuality, Health and Pleasure	LATINO 392-0	Topics in Latina and Latino Social and Political Issues
GBL_HLTH 222-0	The Social Determinants of Health	LEGAL_ST 206-0	Law and Society
GBL_HLTH 303-0	(Re)mixing Qualitative Methods	LEGAL_ST 207-0	Legal Studies Research Methods
GBL_HLTH 306-0	Biomedicine and Culture	LEGAL_ST 211-0	Law and Popular Culture
GBL_HLTH 309-0	Biomedicine and World History	LEGAL_ST 235-0	Crime, Punishment, and Social Control
GBL_HLTH 317-0	Native American Health Research & Prevention	LEGAL_ST 245-0	Undocumented America
GBL_HLTH 318-0	Community-based Participatory Research Course	LEGAL_ST 248-0	Global Legal History
GBL_HLTH 319-0	Trauma and its Afterlives	LEGAL_ST 308-0	Sociology of Law
GBL_HLTH 320-0	Qualitative Research Methods in Global Health	LEGAL_ST 310-0	Moral Panics
GBL_HLTH 321-0	War and Public Health	LEGAL_ST 312-0	Surveillance, Policing, & Law
GBL_HLTH 323-0	Global Health from Policy to Practice	LEGAL_ST 315-0	Corporation in US Law and Culture
GBL_HLTH 326-0	Native Nations, Healthcare Systems, & U.S. Policy	LEGAL_ST 332-0	Constitutional Law I
GBL_HLTH 337-0	Hazard, Disaster and Society	LEGAL_ST 333-0	Constitutional Law II: Civil and Political Rights
GBL_HLTH 338-0	Environmental Justice	LEGAL_ST 340-0	Gender, Sexuality, and the Law
GBL_HLTH 339-0	Silent but Loud: Negotiating Health in a Cultural, Food, Poverty, Environ. Caste	LEGAL_ST 348-0	Race, Politics, and the Law
GBL_HLTH 340-0	Mental Health and the Arts	LEGAL_ST 350-0	Psychology and the Law
GBL_HLTH 357-0	Biocultural Perspectives on Water Insecurity	LEGAL_ST 356-0	Constitutional Challenges in Comparative Perspective
GERMAN 213-0	History, Politics, and Culture in 21st Century German	LEGAL_ST 360-0	Animal Law
GNDR_ST 221-0	Beyond Porn: Sexuality, Health and Pleasure	LEGAL_ST 370-0	Law and Social Movements
GNDR_ST 331-0	Sociology of Gender and Sexuality	LEGAL_ST 383-0	Gender, Sexuality and The Carceral State
GNDR_ST 332-0	Gender, Sexuality, and Health	LING 220-0	Language and Society
GNDR_ST 340-0	Gender, Sexuality, and the Law	LING 312-0	Experimental Sociolinguistics
HISTORY 215-0	History of the American Family	LING 315-0	Experimental Approaches to Word Form Processing
HISTORY 248-0	Global Legal History	LING 320-0	Sociolinguistics
HISTORY 249-0	The End of Citizenship	LING 321-0	Bilingualism
HISTORY 251-0	The Politics of Disaster: A Global Environmental History	LRN_SCI 230-0	Introduction to Teaching and Learning
HISTORY 254-0	Entrepreneurship: A Global History	MENA 290-3	Introductory Topics in Middle East and North African Studies
HISTORY 255-1	African Civilizations	MENA 390-3	Advanced Topics in Middle East & North African Studies
HISTORY 260-2	History of Modern Latin America	NAIS 317-0	Native American Health Research & Prevention
HISTORY 326-0	U.S. Intellectual History	NAIS 326-0	Native Nations, Healthcare Systems, & U.S. Policy
HISTORY 353-0	History of Capitalism, 1500-1850	PHIL 225-0	Minds and Machines
HISTORY 354-0	History of Socialism	PHIL 253-0	Introduction to the Philosophy of Language
HISTORY 367-0	History of Mexico	POLI_SCI 201-0	Introduction to Political Theory
HISTORY 370-0	Music and Nation in Latin America	POLI_SCI 211-0	Introduction to Interpretive Methods in Political Science
HISTORY 376-0	Global Environments and World History	POLI_SCI 220-0	American Government and Politics
HISTORY 379-0	Biomedicine and World History	POLI_SCI 230-0	Introduction to Law in the Political Arena
HISTORY 386-3	Southeast Asia: Decolonization & Independence	POLI_SCI 240-0	Introduction to International Relations
HUM 213-0	Humanities in the World IV	POLI_SCI 250-0	Introduction to Comparative Politics
HUM 220-0	Health, Biomedicine, Culture, and Society	POLI_SCI 320-0	The American Presidency
HUM 325-3	Humanities in the Digital Age	POLI_SCI 321-0	Urban Politics
HUM 370-3	Special Topics in the Humanities	POLI_SCI 323-0	Public Opinion and Voting Behavior
INTL_ST 383-1	Elliott Scholars Program: Foundation Topics in Global Affairs	POLI_SCI 324-0	Political Parties and Elections
INTL_ST 383-2	Elliott Scholars Program: Foundation Topics II in Global Affairs	POLI_SCI 325-0	Congress and the Legislative Process
INTL_ST 393-SA	Development in the Global Context: Participation, Power, and Social Change	POLI_SCI 326-0	Race and Public Policy
LATINO 202-0	Introduction to Latina and Latino Studies 202: Movements	POLI_SCI 327-0	African American Politics
LATINO 203-0	Introduction to Latina & Latino Cultural Studies	POLI_SCI 328-0	Public Policy
LATINO 220-0	Placemaking	POLI_SCI 332-0	Constitutional Law I
LATINO 222-0	Latina/o/x Youth	POLI_SCI 333-0	Constitutional Law II: Civil and Political Rights
LATINO 320-0	Coming of Age in Latinx Studies: Growing Up and Growing Old	POLI_SCI 334-0	Latino Politics
		POLI_SCI 335-0	Political Psychology
		POLI_SCI 336-0	Immigration Politics and Policy
		POLI_SCI 337-0	Gender and Politics

POLI_SCI 338-0	Labor in America	SOCIOL 227-0	Legal Studies Research Methods
POLI_SCI 340-0	International Relations Theory	SOCIOL 235-0	Critical Thought on Race and Ethnicity
POLI_SCI 341-0	International Political Economy	SOCIOL 245-0	Undocumented America
POLI_SCI 343-0	Politics of International Law	SOCIOL 276-0	Introductory Topics in Sociology
POLI_SCI 344-0	U.S. Foreign Policy	SOCIOL 277-0	Native Society: Past and Present
POLI_SCI 345-0	National Security	SOCIOL 288-0	Institutions and Society
POLI_SCI 346-0	European Union in International Affairs	SOCIOL 302-0	Sociology of Organizations
POLI_SCI 348-0	Globalization	SOCIOL 304-0	Politics of Racial Knowledge
POLI_SCI 350-0	Social Movements	SOCIOL 305-0	Population Dynamics
POLI_SCI 351-0	Politics of the Middle East	SOCIOL 307-0	School and Society
POLI_SCI 352-0	Global Development	SOCIOL 309-0	Political Sociology
POLI_SCI 353-0	Politics of Latin America	SOCIOL 310-0	Sociology of the Family
POLI_SCI 354-0	Politics of Southeast Asia	SOCIOL 313-0	Technology and Society
POLI_SCI 355-0	Politics of China	SOCIOL 316-0	Economic Sociology
POLI_SCI 356-0	Constitutional Challenges in Comparative Perspective	SOCIOL 317-0	Global Development
POLI_SCI 359-0	Politics of Africa	SOCIOL 318-0	Sociology of Law
POLI_SCI 361-0	Democracy and Autocracy	SOCIOL 320-0	Gender, Health, and Medicine
POLI_SCI 362-0	Politics of Europe	SOCIOL 322-0	Sociology of Immigration
POLI_SCI 364-SA	France: Politics, Culture, & Society	SOCIOL 327-0	Youth and Society
POLI_SCI 374-0	Politics of Capitalism	SOCIOL 328-0	Inequality & American Society
POLI_SCI 376-0	Civil Wars	SOCIOL 343-0	Social Networks
POLI_SCI 377-0	Drugs and Politics	SOCIOL 348-0	Race, Politics, and the Law
POLI_SCI 378-0	America and the World	SOCIOL 356-0	Sociology of Gender
POLI_SCI 380-0	Political Communication	SOCIOL 376-0	Topics in Sociological Analysis
POLI_SCI 382-0	Religion, Law, & Politics: Politics of Religious Diversity	SOCIOL 392-0	Seminars
POLI_SCI 383-0	War and Change in International Politics		
POLI_SCI 384-0	International Responses to Mass Atrocities		
POLI_SCI 385-0	Negotiation and Conflict Resolution		
POLI_SCI 388-0	Institutions and Society		
PSYCH 110-0	Introduction to Psychology		
PSYCH 213-0	Social Psychology		
PSYCH 215-0	Psychology of Personality		
PSYCH 221-0	Introduction to Neuroscience		
PSYCH 228-0	Cognitive Psychology		
PSYCH 244-0	Developmental Psychology		
PSYCH 248-0	Health Psychology		
PSYCH 303-0	Psychopathology		
PSYCH 313-0	Relationship Science		
PSYCH 317-0	The Holocaust: Psychological Themes & Perspectives		
PSYCH 328-0	Brain Damage and the Mind		
PSYCH 333-0	Psychology of Thinking		
PSYCH 340-0	Psychology and Law		
PSYCH 345-0	Presenting Ideas & Data		
RELIGION 382-0	Religion, Law, & Politics: Politics of Religious Diversity		
SOCIOL 110-0	Introduction to Sociology		
SOCIOL 202-0	Social Problems		
SOCIOL 206-0	Law and Society		
SOCIOL 207-0	Cities in Society		
SOCIOL 208-0	Race and Society		
SOCIOL 210-0	Families and Societies		
SOCIOL 211-0	Food and Society: An Introduction		
SOCIOL 212-0	Environment and Society		
SOCIOL 215-0	Economy and Society		
SOCIOL 216-0	Gender and Society		
SOCIOL 218-0	Education and Inequality: Focus on Chicago		
SOCIOL 220-0	Health, Biomedicine, Culture, and Society		
SOCIOL 223-0	Masculinities and Society		