Social Science
In the College of Arts and Letters

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Offered by Social Science

Major in social science with the B.A. degree in liberal arts and sciences.

Emphasis in environmental studies.

Emphasis in Islamic and Arabic studies.

Teaching major in social science for the single subject teaching credential.

The Major

Social science is a multidisciplinary program, encompassing the faculties and courses of 12 departments–Africana Studies, American Indian Studies, Anthropology, Chicana and Chicano Studies, Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, Psychology, Religious Studies, Sociology, and Women's Studies. The major aims are to promote an appreciation for the interrelatedness of these disciplines by exposing students to their varied methodologies. This program, therefore, is especially appropriate for students who wish to be liberally educated in a broad spectrum of understandings, insights, and appreciations. Students may devise their own focus or select either the emphasis outlined in Environmental Studies or Islamic and Arabic Studies.

The social science major is appropriate for many beginning positions in government and, when supplemented with a business administration minor, for careers in business. For students who continue in graduate study after receiving their bachelor's degrees, it is an excellent preparation for graduate and professional programs in law, social work, public administration, librarianship, counseling, business, and the ministry. Students who complete the Single Subject Teaching Credential in Social Science are prepared to teach world history, United States history, geography, government, and economics in high school.

The social science major with an emphasis in environmental studies provides an opportunity for the student to gain an interdisciplinary perspective on the complex relationship between humans and the natural world. Students in the emphasis will take courses in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, and will identify a topic or theme for their individualized program of study. Graduates majoring in social science with an emphasis in environmental studies are well prepared for positions in state and local government in the area of public lands, parks, and natural resource management. The major is also good preparation for a career or further education in private consulting firms, energy, and environmental advocacy and depending upon the courses chosen, the emphasis may provide a broad background useful in graduate programs in natural resource management, law, social science, history, and the humanities.

The social science major with an emphasis in Islamic and Arabic studies is a multidisciplinary program which is designed to enable students to achieve fuller understanding and deeper insight and appreciation of non-Western cultures. Students who specialize in Islamic studies choose from specific courses in Arabic, history, political science, religious studies, and women's studies. Students who wish to specialize in Arabic studies must also choose from specific courses in Arabic, history, political science, religious studies, and women's studies as indicated.

The social science major in preparation for the single subject teaching credential may be used by students in policy studies or teacher education or as an undergraduate major for the B.A. degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences. With regard to teacher education, the major provides academic preparation for a career teaching history and the social sciences in California public schools. Courses match the junior high coverage of world history from the middle ages to recent times and of early American history, ninth grade subjects such as ancient religions and global cultures, later high school electives in politics and economics, and core high school classes on modern world history and modern US history. In addition to taking the lower and upper division courses on these topics, you may choose upper division courses in the major according to your own interests. Possible choices range from third world politics to Italian renaissance history to aspects of the experience of African-Americans, American Indians, or Chicanas and Chicanos in contemporary California.

Completion of the social science major provides excellent academic training for your teaching career. It also prepares you to take the State of California examination for history and social science teachers, the history/social science CSET.

In addition to demonstrating subject matter competence by completing the major, and passing the CSET, you will have to meet other specific requirements in order to teach history and the social sciences in California public schools. Requirements for entry into any California fifth year program in teacher education are detailed in this catalog under Policy Studies and Teacher Education.

You are encouraged to see the social science adviser as soon as possible for further orientation. Upon declaring the major you will need to see the social science adviser each semester.

Impacted Programs

The social science major, emphases, and social science major in preparation for the single subject teaching credential are impacted programs. Students must enter the university under the designated major code for selected programs. To be admitted to the selected program, refer to the program description for specific impacted criteria.

Advising

All College of Arts and Letters majors are urged to consult with their department adviser as soon as possible; they are required to meet with their department adviser within the first two semesters after declaration or change of major.

Major Academic Plans (MAPs)

Visit http://www.sdsu.edu/mymap for the recommended courses needed to fulfill your major requirements. The MAPs Web site was created to help students navigate the course requirements for their majors and to identify which General Education course will also fulfill a major preparation course requirement.

Social Science Major

With the B.A. Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences
(Major Code: 22011) (SIMS Code: 116701)

All candidates for a degree in liberal arts and sciences must complete the graduation requirements listed in the section of this catalog on “Graduation Requirements.”

A minor is not required with this major.

Impacted Program. The social science major is an impacted program. To be admitted to the social science major, students must meet the following criteria:

a. Complete preparation for the major;

b. Complete a minimum of 60 transferable semester units;

c. Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.

To complete the major, students must fulfill the degree requirements for the major described in the catalog in effect at the time they are accepted into the premajor at SDSU (assuming continuous enrollment).
Preparation for the Major. Three units of statistics selected from Economics 201, Political Science 201, Psychology 280, Sociology 201, or Statistics 119 or 250. A six-unit sequence in each of three of the following departments selected from: (1) Anthropology 101, 102; (2) Chicana and Chicano Studies 120A-120B; (3) Economics 101, 102; (4) Geography 101, 102; (5) History 105, 106; 109, 110; (6) Political Science 101, 102, 103; (7) Sociology 101, 102. Statistics courses taken in a social science department may not be used in fulfillment of that department’s six-unit sequence. (21 units)

Language Requirement. Competency (successfully completing the third college semester or fifth college quarter) is required in one foreign language to fulfill the graduation requirement. Refer to section of catalog on “Graduation Requirements.” Spanish is recommended for those planning to work in this part of the United States.

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement. Passing the Writing Placement Assessment with a score of 10 or above or completing one of the approved upper division writing courses (W) with a grade of C (2.0) or better. See “Graduation Requirements” section for a complete listing of requirements.

Major. A minimum of 33 upper division units to include a 15-unit specialization in one department and the remaining 18 units from among three additional departments. Students may specialize in anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, sociology, or, under certain conditions listed below, Chicana and Chicano studies. The remaining 18 units must be taken from three separate departments other than the department of specialization. Students who specialize in anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science or sociology, may take a maximum of six units in Africana studies or American Indian studies or Chicana and Chicano studies or psychology or religious studies or women’s studies from courses listed below.

Students specializing in Chicana and Chicano studies must select courses from Chicana and Chicano Studies 301, 303, 320, 350A-350B, 480 and take the remaining 18 upper division units in anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, or sociology.

Only students with a specialization in anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science or sociology may take a maximum of six units in the major from Africana studies or American Indian studies or Chicana and Chicano studies or psychology or religious studies or women’s studies from courses listed below.


Master Plan. A master plan of courses taken to fulfill the major must be approved by the social science faculty adviser and filed with the Office of Advising and Evaluations at least one semester prior to graduation.

Emphasis in Environmental Studies
(SIMS Code: 116727)

The adviser for this emphasis is Dr. Sarah S. Elkink, Department of History.

Impacted Program. The environmental studies emphasis is an impacted program. To be admitted to the environmental studies emphasis, students must meet the following criteria:

a. Complete preparation for the major;

b. Complete a minimum of 60 transferable semester units;

c. Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.

To complete the major, students must fulfill the degree requirements for the major described in the catalog in effect at the time they are accepted into the premajor at SDSU (assuming continuous enrollment).

Preparation for the Major. Environmental Science 100, Geography 101, or Geological Sciences 104. (3 units)

Recommended: A college-level biology course; completion of General Education Foundations of Learning II.A. Natural Sciences and Quantitative Reasoning; and completion of General Education Foundations of Learning II.C. Humanities.

Language Requirement. Competency (successfully completing the third college semester or fifth college quarter) is required in one foreign language to fulfill the graduation requirement. Refer to section of catalog on “Graduation Requirements.”

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement. Passing the Writing Placement Assessment with a score of 10 or above or completing one of the approved upper division writing courses (W) with a grade of C (2.0) or better. See “Graduation Requirements” section for a complete listing of requirements.

Major. A minimum of 33 upper division units to include a required core of nine units: three units selected from Biology 315 or Geography 370; three units selected from History 441 or Political Science 334; three units selected from Anthropology 353 or Philosophy 332. With the exception of Biology 315 and Geography 370, courses not selected for the required core can be taken in the field distributions. In addition, nine units of distribution consisting of a minimum of three units in Field A, Humanities, minimum three units in Field B, Social Sciences, and minimum three units in Field C, Natural Sciences. At least 15 upper division units in the emphasis must share a single, interdisciplinary focus approved by the adviser. Courses taken for the required core may not count towards the nine units of distribution in Fields A, B, or C, but may count towards the interdisciplinary focus.

Field A, Humanities: Anthropology 349; History 441, 584; Natural Science 315; Philosophy 332; Religious Studies 376; Women’s Studies 540, 582.

Field B, Social Science: American Indian Studies 420; Anthropology 353, 510, 532; Asian Studies 320; Economics 452, 453, 454, 458; Geography 354, 573; International Security and Conflict Resolution 310; Latin American Studies 540; Political Science 334, 564; Recreation and Tourism Management 305, 485; Sociology 350; Women’s Studies 580.

Field C, Natural Science: Biology 324, 327; Environmental Engineering 320; Environmental Science 301; Geography 303, 375, 409, 426, 570; Geological Sciences 303, 305; Oceanography 320; Public Health 304.

A minor is not required but students are encouraged to complete a minor related to their thematic or regional focus.

Emphasis in Islamic and Arabic Studies
(SIMS Code: 116706)

The adviser for this emphasis is Dr. Hisham F. Foad, Department of Economics.

Impacted Program. The Islamic and Arabic studies emphasis is an impacted program. To be admitted to the Islamic and Arabic studies emphasis, students must meet the following criteria:

a. Complete preparation for the major;

b. Complete a minimum of 60 transferable semester units;

c. Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.

To complete the major, students must fulfill the degree requirements for the major described in the catalog in effect at the time they are accepted into the premajor at SDSU (assuming continuous enrollment).

Preparation for the Major. (18 units)

1. Language: Arabic 101, 102, 201 (12 units) or Persian 101, 102, 201 (12 units).

2. Six units selected from History 100, 101, Religious Studies 101.

Language Requirement. The language requirement for graduation is automatically fulfilled through coursework for preparation for the major.

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement. Passing the Writing Placement Assessment with a score of 10 or above or completing one of the approved upper division writing courses (W) with a grade of C (2.0) or better. See “Graduation Requirements” section for a complete listing of requirements.

Major. A minimum of 30 upper division units. Students who specialize in Islamic studies must take Religious Studies 310, 328, History 473, 474, and Women’s Studies 560 (15 units), and an additional 15 units from Arabic 301, 302, 330, 350, History 574, Political Science 383, Religious Studies 330, 379, and Women’s Studies 331. Students who specialize in Arabic studies must take Arabic 301, 302, 330,
Political Science 363 (14 units), and an additional 16 units from Arabic 350, History 473, 474, 574, Religious Studies 310, 328, 330, 379, Women’s Studies 331 and 560.

Up to six units, with appropriate content, can be applied to either area of specialization from Arabic, History, Political Science, Religious Studies 496, 499, and 596.

Social Science Major
In preparation for the Single Subject Teaching Credential With the B.A. Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences (Major Code: 22011) (SIMS Code: 116703)

All candidates for a teaching credential must take and pass the CSET and complete all requirements as outlined in this section of the catalog under Policy Studies or Teacher Education.

This major may be used by students in policy studies or teacher education or as undergraduate for the B.A. degree in liberal arts and sciences.

Impacted Program. The social science major in preparation for the single subject teaching credential is designated as an impacted program. To be admitted to the major, students must meet the following criteria:

a. Complete with a grade of C or higher: Economics 101, 102; Geography 102; History 100, 101, 109, 110; Political Science 102; Religious Studies 101. These courses cannot be taken for credit/no credit (Cr/NC);

b. Complete a minimum of 60 transferable semester units;

c. Have a cumulative GPA of 2.50 or higher.

To complete the major, students must fulfill the degree requirements for the major described in the catalog in effect at the time they are accepted into the premajor at SDSU (assuming continuous enrollment).

Preparation for the Major. Economics 101, 102; Geography 102; History 100, 101, 109, 110; Political Science 102, Religious Studies 101. (27 units)

These prerequisite courses may not be taken Cr/NC. The minimum grade in each class is C or higher.

Language Requirement. Competency (successfully completing the third college semester or fifth college quarter) is required in one foreign language to fulfill the graduation requirement. Refer to section of catalog on “Graduation Requirements.” Spanish is recommended for those planning to work in this part of the United States.

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement. Passing the Writing Placement Assessment with a score of 10 or above or completing one of the approved upper division writing courses (W) with a grade of C (2.0) or better. See “Graduation Requirements” section for a complete listing of requirements.

Major. A minimum of 42 upper division units to include: Teacher Education 362 (must be taken upon entering the major).

United States and California History: History 410, 445, and three units selected from any 500-level United States history course.


United States Geography: Geography 321.

Ethnic and Women’s Studies: Six units from two departments selected from Africana Studies 322, American Indian Studies 331, 440, Asian Studies 310, Chicana and Chicano Studies 301, 350B, 375, History 422, Women’s Studies 310, 331, 341B, 375.

World History: Twelve units distributed as follows: Three units selected from any 500-level history course in an area other than U.S. history. History 412 and six additional units selected from two of the following areas (500-level history courses selected from any of the two required areas below cannot be used to satisfy both the area requirement and the above three unit requirement):

- Asia: History 420, 421, 423, 564, 567, 570.
- Europe: History 404, 407, 408, 418, 440, 502, 503, 505, 506; Women’s Studies 340.
- Middle East: History 473, 474, 574.

International Politics: Three units selected from International Security and Conflict Resolution 300; Political Science 356, 359, 362, 363, 364, 366, 375, 478, 479.