

Social Sciences

Introduction to Anthropology, Psychology and Sociology

HSP3M

Course Description:

This course introduces the theories, questions, and issues that are the major concerns of anthropology, psychology, and sociology. Students will develop an understanding of the way social scientists approach the topics they study and the research methods they employ. Students will be given opportunities to explore theories from a variety of perspectives and to become familiar with current thinking on a range of issues that have captured the interest of classical and contemporary social scientists in the three disciplines.

Prerequisite: None

Essential Outcomes:

Strand # 1: Self and Others

- Describe some differences and similarities in the approaches taken by anthropology, psychology and sociology to the concept of self in relation to others.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the major questions related to “self and others” that are posed by anthropologists, psychologists, and sociologists.
- Evaluate major contributions to our understanding of the idea of self in relation to others made by leading practitioners in the three disciplines (e.g. Margaret Mead, Sigmund Freud, Jean Piaget).
- Identify and assess the major influences that contribute to an individual’s personal and social development (e.g. heredity, environment, race, gender).
- Explain why behaviour varies depending on context and on the individuals involved.
- Demonstrate an understanding of anthropological, psychological and sociological theories that deal with socialization (e.g. nature vs. nurture)
- Evaluate the role of cultural influences in socialization (e.g. as they affect gender expectations).

Strand # 2: Social Structures and Institutions

- Describe some of the social institutions of at least three diverse cultures.
- Describe the structural ways in which conflict (e.g. sexual and racial harassment) is addressed in the workplace.
- Analyze how different decision-making models in education systems affect the provision of education in society.
- Demonstrate an understanding of recent structural changes in work and education and of the impact of these changes have on Canadian society.

Strand # 3: Social Organization

- Describe the different types of groups that form to serve collective needs (e.g. study groups, political groups, cults, youth subcultures).
- Explain, from the perspectives of anthropology, psychology and sociology, how membership in different groups influences the individual, the family and the community.
- Demonstrate an understanding of discrimination and exclusion in social relationships, from the perspectives of anthropology, psychology and sociology.
- Analyze examples of social or institutional practices in earlier historical periods that formed the basis for social relationships involving discrimination or exclusion in contemporary society. (e.g. apartheid, segregation, gender discrimination)
- Identify examples of bureaucratic organizations (e.g. military, NGO) and describe their characteristics (e.g. cooperative, authoritarian)

Strand # 4: Research and Inquiry Skills

- Correctly use the terminology of anthropology, psychology, and sociology.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the factors that explain human behaviour from the perspective of anthropology, psychology and sociology.
- Formulate appropriate questions for research and inquiry relating to one or more of the main areas of concern in the social sciences.

- Describe the steps involved in social science research and inquiry, including developing and testing a hypothesis.
- Demonstrate an understanding of various research methodologies for conducting primary research (e.g. interviews, surveys, questionnaires).
- Demonstrate an ability to organize and interpret and analyze information gathered from a variety of sources.
- Evaluate the relevance and validity of information gathered through research.
- Record information and key ideas from their research using correct forms of citation (e.g. American Psychological Association – APA Format)