



Social Sciences and Humanities

Social Science and Humanities/ 2021-2022 / University of Setif 2

Responsible : MR. Chami W.

Introduction:

The scientific study of organized human groups is a relatively recent development, but a vast amount of information has been accumulated concerning the social life of human beings. This information has been used in building a system of knowledge called Social Sciences about the nature, growth and functioning of human societies.

In the light of what has been stated above, we can define social sciences as a branch of science devoted to the study of societies and the relationships among individuals within those societies. “Social sciences as those mental or cultural sciences which deal with the activities of the individual as member of the group”. The term social sciences thus embrace all those subjects which deal with the relationship of man to the society, including humanities¹.

I- Historical Background of Social Sciences *Quexbook 2018*

The history of the social sciences begun in the roots of ancient philosophy. In ancient history, there was no difference between Mathematics and the study of history, poetry or politics, only with the development of mathematical proof did there gradually arise a perceived difference between “scientific” disciplines and others such as the “humanities” or “liberal arts.”

The Age of Enlightenment saw a revolution within natural philosophy, changing the basic framework by which individuals understood what was “scientific”. In some quarters, the accelerating trend of mathematical studies presumed a reality independent of the observer and worked by its own rules.

Social sciences came forth from the moral philosophy of the time and were influenced by the Age of Revolution, such as the Industrial Revolution and the French Revolution. The Social Sciences developed from the sciences (experimental and applied), or the systematic knowledge - bases or prescriptive practices, relating to the social improvement of a group of interacting entities.

¹ Humanities

Encompasses the field of philosophy, literature, religion, art, music, history and language. It refers to the study of the ways in which the human experience is processed and documented.



Social Sciences and Humanities

According to Stearns et al. (2000)² In the period of 1760

- Some effort was spent on the study of man and society. Hobbes` Leviathan; Lock`s Two Treatises on Government; Vico`s New Science; and Montesquieu Spirit of Laws were all published in this period.
- The revival of interest in social science occurred in the middle of the 18th century.
- By the middle of 18th century, capitalism had begun to outgrow its early state and gradually it became the dominant socio-economic system in western and northern Europe.
- In the second half of the 18th century, urbanization and population growth became accelerated, and during this period slums, alcoholism, brutality of manners etc. developed which were to become the targets of social reforms.
- In the other half of the 18th century, in response to the above there is a multiplication of works with a scientific character.

- Auguste comte (1798-1853) invented the term sociology. He was the first to systematize and give a complete analysis of the principles of the positive character of the Social Sciences.
- Montesquieu and Voltaire broke a new path for politics and history.

According to Stearns et al. (2000) 19th Century Development

- At the beginning of the 19th century, social science had attained in all the leading European countries a firm and respectable position.
- In the 20th century we can also observe recurrent occasions when proposals for a generalized social science were made.
- The contribution of Auguste Comte was accepted immediately; Emile Durkheim and the sociologists of the late century and early century were influenced by him.
- Karl Marx gave the first general theory of social science.

According to Stearns et al. (2000) 20th Century Development

- If we examine the course of development of the various social science disciplines, we find that they follow, on the whole, a pattern through which the older natural sciences also passed.
- At this stage the social science has become institutionalized to a high

² Stearns, Peter N., Seixas, Peter & Sam Wineburg (2000). Knowing Teaching and Learning History. *National and International Perspectives* (pp.24). New York & London: New York University Press.



Social Sciences and Humanities

degree. It has now become a subject of research.

- Lawrence A. Kempton in his article “Social Sciences Today” states that social science as science is very young and there is confusion with regards to its limits and boundaries.
- History moves in to the humanities, economics becomes Mathematics, anthropology and psychology ally themselves with biology and the geography is at home with physical science.
- While in its initial period, it may have been the pre-occupation of a group of semi-amateurs, philosopher, practical men in business and government, or gentleman of leisure; it now has become a subject of research on the part of academic specialists.
- In the third and the most mature stage of discipline the battles over method have subsided, the theoretical rivalries tend to be submerged in the efforts to elaborate propositions bridging the differences and contributing towards the further progress of the discipline.

II- Social sciences and humanities.

Things in Common

Both the humanities and social science are concerned with human aspects like, law, politics, linguistics, economics, and psychology as well as human lives and nature

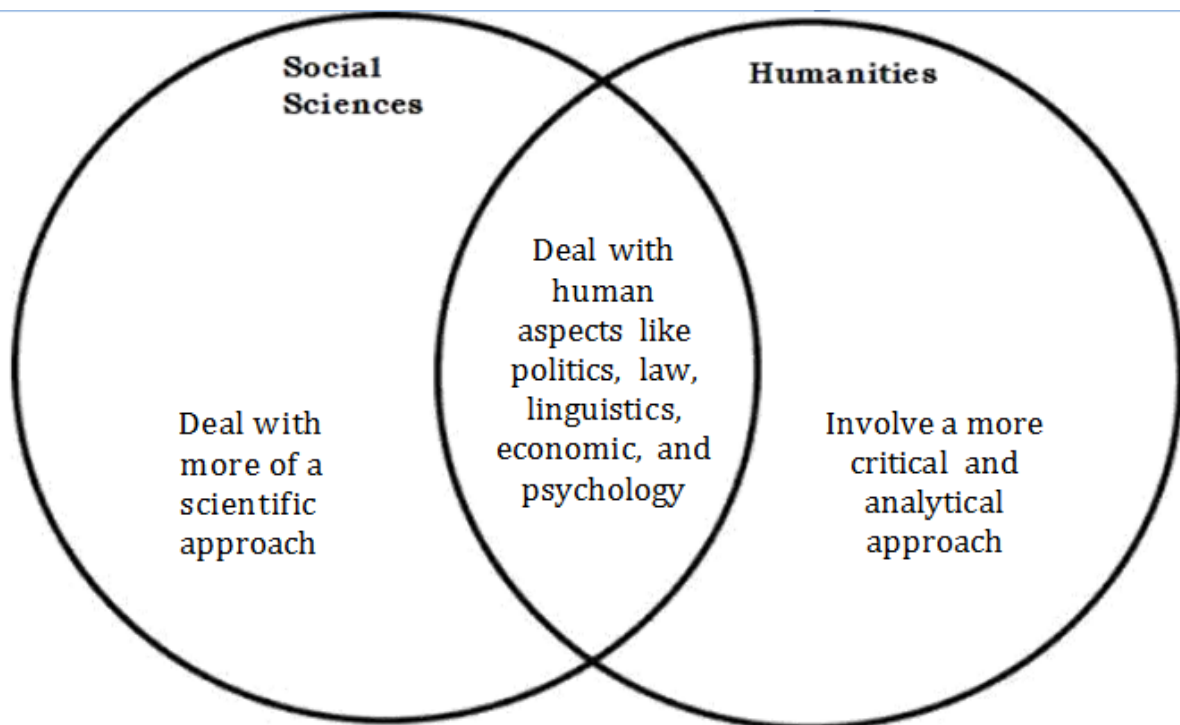
Differences of Social Sciences and Humanities

Social Science	Humanities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Influenced by and developed after the French revolution and the Industrial revolution.• Social science deals with more scientific approach.• Involves application of an empirical, rational, and objective methodology (such as the use of validity and reliability test) to present facts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emerged in the 15th century.• Humanities involved more of a scientific approach.• Deemed to be more philosophical and concerned with heritage and the question of what makes us human. It comprises the application of an interpretative methodology.

Social Sciences and Humanities

Functions of Social Sciences and Humanities

Social Science	Humanities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To analyze, explain, and possibly predict and produce new knowledge of factual information • To generate and produce new knowledge or factual information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To better appreciate the meaning and purpose of the human experience - both broadly in the nature of the human condition, as well as within each individual



What I Have Learned

1. The history of the social sciences begins in the roots of ancient philosophy.
2. Social sciences came forth from the moral philosophy of the time and were influenced by the Age of Revolution, such as the Industrial Revolution and the



Social Sciences and Humanities

French Revolution.

3. In the period of 1760 some effort was exerted on the study of man and society. Hobbes' Leviathan; Lock's Two Treatises on Government; Vico's New Science; and Montesquieu Spirit of Laws were all published in this period.
4. By the middle of 18th century, capitalism had begun to outgrow its early state and gradually it became the dominant socio-economic system in western and northern Europe.
5. Auguste comte (1798-1853) invented the term sociology. He was the first to systematize and give a complete analysis of the principles of the positive character of social sciences.
6. Montesquieu and Voltaire broke a new path for politics and history.
7. At the beginning of the 19th century, social science had attained in all the leading European countries a firm and respectable position.
8. 20th Century Development. At this stage the social science has become institutionalized to a high degree. It has now become a subject of research.
9. Social Sciences as those mental or cultural sciences which deal with the activities of the individual as member of the group.
10. Humanities refer to the study of the ways in which the human experience is processed and documented.



Social Sciences and Humanities

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This module was organized from the original document by

Writer: Wilson C. Antolin Jr.

Editors: Kristle M. Estillore

Ann Christian A. Francisco

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Office Address: Matalino St. D. M. Government Center, Maimpis, City of San Fernando

(P)Telephone Number: (045) 598-8580 to 89

E-mail Address:region3@deped.gov.ph

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Please not hesitate to contact the responsible at

chamiwahid4019@gmail.com



Social Sciences and Humanities

Independent Assessment

Multiple Choice. Choose the letter of the correct answer. Write the chosen letter on a separate sheet of paper.

1. A branch of science devoted to the study of societies and the relationships among individuals within those societies.
 - a. Anthropology
 - b. Humanities
 - c. Natural sciences
 - d. Social sciences
2. It refers to the study of the ways in which the human experience is processed and documented.
 - a. Anthropology
 - b. Humanities
 - c. Natural sciences
 - d. Social sciences
3. Who gave the first general theory of social sciences?
 - a. Auguste Comte
 - b. Charles Darwin
 - c. Karl Marx
 - d. Lawrence Kempton
4. In this stage, the social sciences has become institutionalized to a high degree. It has now become a subject of research.
 - a. 17th Century
 - b. Middle of 18th Century
 - c. 19th Century
 - d. 20th Century
5. In this stage, social sciences had attained in all the leading European countries a firm and respectable position.
 - a. 17th Century
 - b. Middle of 18th Century
 - c. 19th Century
 - d. 20th Century
6. In this period, the capitalism had begun to outgrow its early state and gradually it became the dominant socio-economic system in western and northern Europe.
 - a. 17th Century
 - b. Middle of 18th Century
 - c. 19th Century
 - d. 20th Century
7. When did the revival of interest in social science occurred?
 - a. 17th Century
 - b. Middle of 18th Century
 - c. 19th Century
 - d. 20th Century
8. He was the first to systematize and give a complete analysis on the principles of the positive character of the social sciences.
 - a. Auguste Comte
 - b. Charles Darwin
 - c. Karl Marx
 - d. Lawrence Kempton



Social Sciences and Humanities

9. The following are the definitions of humanities **EXCEPT ONE**.
- Humanities is the study of human culture with particular emphasis on the liberal arts.
 - Humanities is the study of human mind and its functions, especially those affecting behavior in a given context.
 - Humanities is the study of human culture with particular emphasis on individual philosophic self - expressions.
 - Humanities is the study of human culture with particular emphasis on the cultural implications of the natural sciences, social sciences and professions.
10. Which among the following is the reason why people need the field of social science.
- Social sciences can help us make sense of our finances.
 - Social sciences can broaden your horizon.
 - Social scientist help imagine alternative figures.
 - All of the above