

## Core Social Sciences

Students can choose to take a Core Social Sciences course from one of the many disciplines within the social and behavioral sciences. These courses are specifically designed for Spartan Studies to help students use data, quantitative and/or qualitative, to understand humanity and how we function as a society. These courses are not tied to any specific major. Students will practice one of many forms of civic engagement within their course. They are encouraged and expected to utilize the skills learned in these courses in other courses, in their personal lives, and after graduation to view and solve problems using an evidence-based approach. Because these courses incorporate the high impact practice of writing, they are taken in conjunction with or after AWR 201 Writing and Research: The Local and Global. This requirement must be met at The University of Tampa and cannot be transferred in.

### *Core Social Sciences Course Description*

Social or behavioral sciences use empirical data and theory to understand the human world. All students will be required to take a course in a social or behavioral science discipline that reinforces evidence-based approaches to understanding the social world of humans and uses reading and writing as a mode of inquiry and learning. Courses included in the social science core requirement will include content on the local and the global. These courses will also introduce students to the importance of civic engagement. (4 credits)

### *Specific Courses with Course Descriptions*

#### **UTHIS 207 Cities and Global Connections**

This course examines the history of selected cities in relation to transnational, intercontinental, and global connections. Students examine evidence revealing how patterns of social relationships, norms, institutions, and civil society and civic engagement in these cities have shaped locally, how they have changed over time, and how they have been connected to global patterns such as trade, empire, migration, and the exchange of ideas and practices such as race, class, gender, and technology.

#### **UTHIS 208 Wars and Revolutions in the Modern World**

This course examines the history of wars and revolutions in modern times, including political, cultural, economic, and social clashes and upheavals. Investigating the interconnections between local events and global transformations, students examine evidence revealing how wars and revolutions have shaped, and been shaped by social relationships, norms, and institutions, including civil society and civic engagement. The course explores how wars and revolutions have changed over time, and how they have been connected to global patterns such as trade, empire, migration, and the exchange of ideas and practices such as race, class, gender, and technology.

## **UTPSC 200 Politics and Society**

This course examines selected topics in politics and society. Topics may include, but are not limited to, the intersection of politics and globalization, ideologies, pop culture, gender, race, law, justice, and sustainability.

## **UTPSY 209 Psychology in Everyday Life**

Is memory like a camera? Can happiness be learned? Students will examine how psychologists use the scientific method to study a range of everyday human experiences. The course is structured around Dinner Table Conversations that reflect psychology's broad scope, including human development, biopsychology, cognition, social behavior, and psychological health and distress. Writing is a substantial part of the course, and students will address issues in civic engagement in both writing and other activities.

## **UTSOC 222 Tampa Bay as a Sociological Laboratory**

This course explores sociological insights, using the Tampa Bay area as a living laboratory. Students apply classic and contemporary theory and use empirical research methods to generate space- and place-based sociological insights.

## **UTSOC 225 Sustainability and Society**

This course examines the relationship between contemporary society, the natural environment, and sustainability. It will explore the cultural, institutional, organizational, and interpersonal domains of environmental problems and sustainable solutions with an emphasis on social relations. Topics will include topics such as global climate change, species loss, sea-level rise, food insecurity, and environmental justice. This course will also examine the everyday lived experience of sustainability and environmental issues.

## **UTSOC 266 Witches, Satanists, and Atheists: The Decline of Religion in America**

A growing number of people in the US and around the world are rejecting traditional religions. Some are turning to New Age religions or Wicca. Others have created organizations like The Satanic Temple to challenge traditional religions. Many others are now nonreligious. This course examines why traditional religion is declining and explores what comes next, connecting secularization in Tampa, with that in the US, and declining religion internationally.

## **UTSPE 213 The Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication**

The aim of this social science course is to provide an overview of major concepts and research areas related to the negative communication behaviors often experienced in the context of personal relationships. The course will cover relevant dark side communication topics such as secret keeping, jealousy, infidelity, bullying, relational intrusion (snooping), stalking, aggression, conflict, and hurtful communication at the local and larger societal contexts.