

Introduction to Human Sciences Notes

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Contents

1	Introduction	2
	Why Human Sciences?	2
	What do we do in the Human Sciences?	2
	What is Knowledge?	2
	Origin stories of disciplines?	3
2	Sociology	3
2.1	What even is sociology?	3
2.2	‘Modern’ Sociology	3
2.2.1	Development of Sociology	3
	Revolving Science and Nirvana	3
	Colonization innit	3
	Revolving Industries?	3
	Not Narcissism, trust me	3
	More revolving stuff	3
	As you will, Your Grace	3
2.2.2	Development of Sociology in India	3

Course structure

Modules: 6 modules of 4 classes each:

- Sociology - Radhika Krishnan
- Economics - Anirban Dasgupta
- History - Aniket Alam
- Politics - Aakansha Natani
- Psychology - Priyanka Srivastava
- Literature - Nazia Akhtar

Grading Scheme: Absolute grades

- A for exceeding expectations.
- B for meeting expectations.
- C for doing less than expected.

Creativity matters and will be graded.
No assignments.

1 Introduction

Why Human Sciences? Engineers and scientists need an introduction to some information of the goings on around the world acc to policy makers (makes sense tbh). We need to understand how the world functions. But the way it engg is taught doesn't quite convey this.

Humanities, Social sciences are still debated whether they are different sections and whether some disciplines fall under either. Economics for example, does Economics come under either at all? Broadly, Humanities consists of Literature, Psychology, etc.

IIIT uses 'Human Sciences' because we follow the Francophone tradition, which divides between Natural and Human Sciences. Also, Human Sciences manages to cover all disciplines necessary to be taught. Additionally, it settles debates (linguistics is no longer a bane :P).

What do we do in the Human Sciences? Essentially a quest for knowledge naturally separate from Natural Sciences (:P).

In the pre-modern world, knowledge wasn't classified as we know it. All knowledge was thought to be emanating from a common (divine or otherwise) source: Science à la Creationism. The point of science back then was to understand the Divine Plan, per se.

Enter the Heliocentric Revolution, not limited to its lead singer Galileo. This led to an understanding that the laws of nature are the same everywhere and that the Sciences are completely bereft of Divinity (gasp). Often in philosophy, this is called the decentering of creation or disenchantment of nature, because earlier, Nature was seen as some sort of mystical phenomenon that was not always explainable.

History went from the study of God's Will to the study of human behaviour.
—Aniket Alam

What is Knowledge? Earlier, when theology was considered the Prime Science, because everything was attributed to a Divine Will; now Philosophy is considered the Mother discipline, with no trace of theology. History shifts from God's story to humanity's story.

Origin stories of disciplines? A lot of disciplines (pretty much every Human Science) has colonialism as a major influencer, but what most people fail to consider is that decolonialism is also just as major of an influence in pretty much any discipline in Human Sciences.

Perspective plays a huge role in every Human Science, because some social roles see very basic things in very different lights, which can actually give deeper insight into things. This for example leads to a style of study called ‘subaltern study’ which involved the study of societies from the perspective of the people in socially lower strata.

2 Sociology

2.1 What even is sociology?

2.2 ‘Modern’ Sociology

2.2.1 Development of Sociology

Revolving Science and Nirvana European Enlightenment and the advent of the Scientific Revolution was possibly the first time Sociology was moved away from Theology, and society was looked at in a more individualistic way as opposed to a deistic way. Major players in this revolution were big shots like Copernicus, Galileo, etc. The Scientific Method was becoming more and more popular.

Colonization innit The spread of European ideologies along with the ‘discovery’ of ‘new’ landmasses and cultures also increased in the importance of Sociology as a subject. The spread of Capitalism

Revolving Industries?

Not Narcissism, trust me

More revolving stuff

As you will, Your Grace

2.2.2 Development of Sociology in India