

## **PSY-212: Philosophy of Social Sciences (3 CHs)**

**Pre-requisite: None**

### **Course Description:**

Philosophy of Science has historically been shaped by questions arising from the natural sciences, and in particular the physical sciences. By contrast, this course addresses philosophical questions arising from the distinctive methods and subject matter of the social sciences. How do social scientists go about finding out about the social world? What particular epistemological challenges do they have to confront? What is the ontological status of this social world? Do social entities simply reduce to natural entities? How do the values embed in our social world, shape social science? How should social science aim to shape this social world? This course provides the opportunity to engage with some of the diverse and controversial answers philosophers have given to these questions.

### **Course Objectives**

The course will facilitate students to:

- Know the meaning of philosophy of social sciences.
- Take a philosophical tour of the logic of social science.
- Understand the method of social research.
- Develop the knowledge of the Eurocentric nature of Social Sciences.
- Understand the problem identified by decolonial and postcolonial philosophy.

### **Course Learning Outcomes:**

After completion of course, students shall be able to:

- Familiarize themselves with understanding of some longstanding foundational issues and debates in the social sciences from a philosophical perspective.
- See how such issues and debates engage interestingly and concretely with many central questions in different areas of philosophy.
- Hone their critical thinking skills as these apply to the research programs and longstanding debates both in the social sciences and in philosophy.
- Hone their verbal abilities to engage in informed discussion with one another about these questions, issues, and approaches, as well as their skills to write clearly, critically, and insightfully about them.

### **Course Contents:**

- History of Social Sciences I
- History of Social Sciences II

- Methods and Epistemologies of Social Sciences I
- Methods and Epistemologies of Social Sciences II
- Values and Ethics of Social Sciences
- Eurocentrism and Social Sciences I
- Eurocentrism and Social Sciences II
- Decolonial Philosophy and Social Sciences I
- Decolonial Philosophy and Social Sciences II

### **Textbooks:**

The instructor must use variety to readings rather than suggesting a textbook.

### **Reference Readings:**

- Benton, T., & Craib, I. (2011). Philosophy of social science: A philosophical foundations of social thought (2nd ed.). Palgrave MacMillan.  
[http://www.andreasaltelli.eu/file/repository/Traditions in Social Theory Ian Craib Ted Benton Philosophy of Social Science The Philosophical Foundations of Social Thought 2010 Palgrave Macmillan .pdf](http://www.andreasaltelli.eu/file/repository/Traditions_in_Social_Theory_Ian_Craib_Ted_Benton_Philosophy_of_Social_Science_The_Philosophical_Foundations_of_Social_Thought_2010_Palgrave_Macmillan.pdf)
- Risjord, M. (2014). Philosophy of Social Science: a contemporary introduction. Routledge Taylor and Francis.  
[https://perpus.wildanfauzy.com/Sosial/\(Routledge%20Contemporary%20Introductions%20to%20Philosophy\)%20Mark%20Risjord-Philosophy%20of%20Social%20Science %20A%20Contemporary%20Introduction-Routledge%20\(2014\).pdf](https://perpus.wildanfauzy.com/Sosial/(Routledge%20Contemporary%20Introductions%20to%20Philosophy)%20Mark%20Risjord-Philosophy%20of%20Social%20Science%20A%20Contemporary%20Introduction-Routledge%20(2014).pdf)

