

## Course Syllabus

1. **Program of Study** Bachelor of Arts (Social Science)  
**Faculty/Institute/College** Mahidol University International College
2. **Course Code** ICSO 205 **Course Title** Paradigms in the Social Sciences I
3. **Number of Credits** 4 (**Lecture / Lab**) (4-0)
4. **Prerequisite (s)** None
5. **Type of Course** Social Science major core course
6. **Trimester / Academic Year** Second trimester / Every year

7. **Course Description**

An historical survey of the major paradigms in the Social Sciences (History, Political Science, Economics, Sociology, Anthropology, Geography, Psychology) up to the end of the nineteenth century.

8. **Course Objective (s)**

- (i) To give students an overview of the main developments in Social Science thinking during the period covered.
- (ii) To increase the students' ability to assess theoretical material critically.

9. **Course Outline**

| Week | Topic  |           | Instructor |
|------|--|-----------|------------|
|      | Lecture  | Hour      |            |
| 1    | Introduction and general overview. European Thought, 1450 - 1700. The 'Scientific Revolution'    | 4         | Dr. Smith  |
| 2    | Bacon. Descartes. Atomism and Individualism. Locke's <i>Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> | 4         |            |
| 3    | Natural Law and Political Order. The Enlightenment   | 4         |            |
| 4    | Statistics. Economics before Smith   | 4         |            |
| 5    | Bentham and Utilitarianism. Smith's <i>Theory of Moral Sentiments</i>                            | 4         |            |
| 6    | Review. Mid-term examination   | 4         |            |
| 7    | Adam Smith's <i>Wealth of Nations</i> . Malthus and <i>The Principle of Population</i>           | 4         |            |
| 8    | The development of economic theory after Smith   | 4         |            |
| 9    | History Writing up to c. 1900. Prehistory  | 4         |            |
| 10   | Comte and Positivism. Marx. Darwin.  | 4         |            |
| 11   | The early development of Anthropology, Sociology & Psychology                                    | 4         |            |
|      | <b>Total</b>   | <b>44</b> |            |

NB. The lecturer reserves the right to vary the topics as he see fit.

**10. Teaching Method (s)**

Lectures; questions and answers; classroom discussions.

**11. Teaching Media**

Notebook of lecture summaries.

**12. Measurement and evaluation of student achievement**

(i.e. Grading scheme) : Grades given according to a fixed scale (Students receiving marks of 90% and above will receive letter grade A; those receiving less than 50% will fail, etc. Borderline cases (45 - 50%) may be passed if the student's attendance record, punctuality, and classroom demeanor have been exemplary.

**13. Course evaluation**

(i.e. Grading components) : Evaluation will be based on two examinations (Mid-term / Final), each carrying 50% of the marks. Questions will normally take the short answer format.

**14. Reference (s)**

Roger Smith's *The Fontana History of the Human Sciences*. London : Fontana. Also published as *The Norton History of the Human Sciences*. New York : Norton, 1997. [NB. There is a copy of this books on reserve in the MUIC Library]. The book will be used in conjunction with the lecturer's printed notes.

**15. Instructor (s)**

Dr. Peter Smith

**16. Course Coordinator**

Dr. Peter Smith