



COLEGIO SAN AGUSTÍN
CICLO LECTIVO 2019
ÁREA: Sociales

PROFESOR: Pedro Cuello

CURSO: 3
DIVISIÓN: A y B

Annual Planning and Syllabus "Introduction to Social Sciences and Humanities"

AIMS:

The aim of this subject is to introduce the way Social Sciences (in general) and each sub discipline in particular understand reality. In order to do this the subject will focus on how Social Sciences produce knowledge and what that knowledge is like. That's why it will be important the study of methodology used in the area, the different paradigms with their advantages and disadvantages, the different epistemological basis that are found in each Social Science and the history of each, understanding why they have come into life at a certain moment. Also, we are going to work with Scientific productions so that the students could get close to them and understand in practice the theory while producing their own pieces of work.

SUBJECT SUMMARY:

The subject will start with a general introduction to Social Sciences. We are going to focus on the objects that they care for, the way they understand reality and the historical events that have motivated their appearance. Then we are going to study general Methodology and its main concepts so as to learn how they are used in Social Science research. In connection to this, different disciplines will be analyzed, the relationship among them and their different paradigms. After that we are going to study the different methods, we can find in Social Science research, dividing them into qualitative and quantitative methods, ending up with a particular case of social science production so as to put the theory already studied into practice. Students will make a brief production related to Social Sciences on their own.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES:

- Teach the way Social Sciences produce their knowledge , enhancing the integration of methodological tools while using a wide range of sources, quantitative/ qualitative data and IT technologies.
- Understand the complexity in the study of Social Sciences, challenging the social knowledge with the Scientific one.
- Analyze the main Social Sciences methods of research, understanding their advantages and disadvantages.
- Introduce students into a critical way of thinking about our society so that they can understand current affairs

Module 1: Introduction to the Social Sciences.

Key concepts: Philosophy – Ontology – Epistemology – Paradigms – Science – Myth – Logos – Essence – Divided Line theory – Substance, Matter and Form – Inductive and Deductive Theories – Positivism, Interpretivism, Critical Theory – Great Big Theories – Conceptual World-Views – Human beings as a social animal – Human “Nature”– Human Sciences – Basic and Applied.

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Understand different paradigms in Social Sciences.
- Understand the advantages and disadvantages of each paradigm.
- Understand the historical moment when they appeared.
- Understand the way Social Sciences tries to understand their objects.

Skills:

Students will be able to develop their ability to:

- Identify the different paradigms in science.
- Analyze Reality taking into account the way of thinking of the social sciences.
- Develop Critical knowledge of the Social Reality
- Develop Critical analysis of the Social Thinkers.

1, 1: What is Science?

- Philosophy. Introduction to Ontology and Epistemology. Paradigms.
- Introduction to Science. What is considered to be Science and how is it defined? Different debates linked to Scientific knowledge and its definition
- History of the Scientific Method: The transition from Myth to Logos. Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. The Renaissance. Inductive and deductive theories.

1. 2: Paradigms of knowledge in Social Sciences.

- Different paradigms and their historical period: Positivism, Interpretivism, Critical Theory.
- Advantages and disadvantages of each one.
- Popper and Kuhn.

1. 3: Understanding the way of thinking in Social Sciences.

- The field of Social Sciences. Different disciplines and similarities among them.
- The human being as a cultural and social being. Checking the idea of human nature to understand behavior.
- Basic and Applied Sciences.
- Checking the Epistemological statements of different Social Sciences.

Module 2: The Social Sciences as scientific disciplines.

Key Concepts: General Methodology – Methodology in Social Sciences – Steps of a Research Work – Situations of Investigation – Qualitative and quantitative methods – Sample – Operationalization.

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Understand the differences between each type of knowledge.
- Understand what an investigation is, its methods and concepts.
- Identify the different objects in each Social Science discipline.
- Identify the main characteristics of the qualitative and quantitative methods
- Identify the different types of data gathering methods.
- Understand the way the different types of data collection methods are used and their advantages and disadvantages.

Skills:

Students will be able to develop their ability to:

- Understand the main concepts and steps of an investigation with its characteristics.
- Identify different research methodologies depending on each science epistemology.
- Understand how a given historical period, influences the study of Social Sciences.
- Choose methods according to the objectives in each research work.
- Acknowledge the advantages and disadvantages in different methods of data collection.

2.1: Methodology in Social Sciences.

- Steps of a Research Work. The six steps with the activities done in each of them.
- Concepts of methodology applied to Social Sciences. Variables, Universe, Unit of analysis.
- Qualitative and quantitative research methods. Advantages and disadvantages, and how to improve on them. Ways of defining their samples and gathering data with them.

Module 3: Working with specific problems.

Key concepts: Methodology – Theories – Problem – Questions – Guide – Record – Observational Notes – Interview – Observation.

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Apply the concepts acquired to understand a specific science production.
- Understand how to analyze a social science specific production.
- Apply what students learned during the year producing a social science scientific paper-work.

Skills:

Students will be able to develop their ability to:

- Put into practice the knowledge acquired through the year.

3.1: Applying knowledge.

- Production of a personal project in which students must demonstrate what they have learnt through the year. Gathering data with an Interview or an Observation (Qualitative Research Methods)

General Skills:

- Studying and Self- learning
- Information Management
- Organization and Planning
- Research and Investigation
- Decision Making and Critical Analysis
- Team Work

Behavioural Skills:

- Solidarity
- Respect
- Commitment
- Effort

“Llamados a mantener viva la inquietud del amor”

- The 2019 school Motto will be worked on by enhancing self reflexion through debates which will trigger curiosity and the skills previously mentioned.

EVALUATION TERMS.

- Good management of the subject's main concepts
- Commitment with homework and classroom activities.
- Class work.
- Complete / tidy folder
- Oral Tests.
- Activities in class.
- Written tests.

SCHEDULE:

First Term: Module 1. 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3

Second Term: Module 1: 1.3 and Module 2 : 2.1

Third Term: Module 2: 2.1 and Module 3: 3.1

Bibliography:

- O'Donnell, Gerard. "Mastering Sociology". Palgrave, 2002.
- Blundell, Jonathan. "Cambridge IGSE Sociology. Coursebook". Cambridge University, 2014.
- Livesey, Chris. "Cambridge International AS and A level Sociology. Coursebook". Cambridge University, 2014.
- Booklet.