
SOCIAL SCIENCES

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

RATIONALE

The social sciences 20–30 program is intended to complement the Alberta social studies program by encouraging increased understanding of “man and his world.” Courses in this program are distinct from the social studies curriculum in that they focus on the structure, concepts and methodologies of specific social science disciplines. The electives are not intended to provide an alternative to the existing social studies curriculum. Rather, they have been developed to meet diversified student interests, and to add enrichment and in-depth understanding to the scope of the total curriculum.

STRUCTURE

The social sciences 20–30 program is comprised of a series of 3-credit courses. Each course develops several themes appropriate to one of the following disciplines—Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Religious Studies and Sociology. The sequence in which the courses in any particular discipline may be studied is optional.

In structuring the social sciences program a school is free to select those courses that best complement teacher and student interests.

Some faculties will accept two of the 30-level social science options for purposes of university entrance. Counsellors are encouraged to consult university calendars and/or contact pertinent faculties before advising students to include such options in their programs.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the social sciences courses are:

1. to develop an insight into the basic concepts of the discipline
2. to develop an insight into specific modes of inquiry and skills unique to a particular discipline
3. to develop an understanding of how knowledge is produced in a particular discipline
4. to provide opportunities to experience the emotive qualities inherent to an interest-motivated approach to the study of a discipline.