

# Module : Humanities and Social Sciences

Level : 1st year

Teacher: Dr. Nassima Amirouche

**Lecture1:** An Introduction to Humanities and Social Sciences

## Objectives:

- Help students to understand the impact that science, technology, and medicine has had on society and understand the future scientific needs of society.
- Lower the walls that exist among disciplines which can make students move across disciplines more freely.
- Students can benefit from advice on which courses to take
- Develop moral and social values

## 1. Humanities, Human Science and Social Science

**Human science** (also, **human sciences**, **humanistic social science**) is a term applied to the investigation of human life and activities by a rational, systematic and verifiable methodology. It includes but is not necessarily limited to fields of study commonly included within the social sciences and humanities, including history, sociology, anthropology, and economics.

It also refers to the investigation of human life and activities via an interdisciplinary framework spanning the sciences and humanities. Underlying human science is the relationship between various humanistic modes of inquiry within fields such as, history, sociology, folkloristics, anthropology and economics, for the purpose of understanding our lives in a rapidly changing world. It is recognized that **human science** encompasses social sciences and humanities, and art.

### what are “Humanities”?

Humanities refer to a sub-division of science which provides individuals a clear-cut study on the outlook of human culture and society. The study of humanities began in ancient Greece. It was much after the 15<sup>th</sup> century that humanities were considered a subject to be studied rather than practiced. Humanities have been derived from the Renaissance Latin word ‘studia humanitatis’. Renaissance scholars were then known as humanists. During the Renaissance, the word ‘humanities’ contrasted with the word divinity and is currently called the classics, which is a main area of study in a lot of universities globally.

Humanities are concerned with human culture, especially literature, history, art, music, and philosophy. Since humans have been able, we have used philosophy, literature, religion, art, music, history and language to understand and record our world.

Humanities is explained and described in several ways by different learned people. Some claim humanities as the study of human civilization whereas others term humanities as study of human culture. It is an umbrella term that encloses different areas of study. All these areas build our knowledge in different part of this subject. Among these areas are: **Literature, Philosophy, law, arts, classics, visual arts and religion.**

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Further, the educational studies that provide intellectual knowledge, other than occupational, are listed under humanities. The subject of Humanities also includes languages, music, theatre, visual arts, etc. The field of humanities helps develop knowledgeable and educated individuals.

Humanities are important as studying them:

1. prepares you to fulfill your civic and cultural responsibilities.
2. allows you to become familiar with and use the creative ideas from great minds outside of science.
3. The state-of-the-art scientific knowledge and techniques you learn in college have a limited shelf life; mastering the humanities provides tools for extending it.
4. Humanities strengthens your ability to communicate and work with others.
5. You will gain knowledge of foreign languages and foreign cultures.
6. The walls that exist among disciplines has been lowered and students can move across disciplines more freely.
7. Students can benefit from advice on which courses to take.
8. Humanities help you understand the impact that science, technology, and medicine has had on society and understand the future scientific needs of society.
9. Interdisciplinary learning adds value to one's degree.
10. Humanities teach you that the supposedly sharp dichotomies that separate science from humanities do not really exist.

With aid from the humanities, those in scientific disciplines are better able to consider society's needs, enabling them to carefully consider where he or she chooses to work, what projects they undertake, and what role it will allow them to play within society.

## **What is “Social Sciences”?**

Social science refers to a branch of science that is dedicated to the scientific study of an individual's society and the relationships different individuals have within the society. Social science was previously referred to as the study of sociology which was initially considered to be the earliest community-based study. The term 'Social Science' which was mostly coined by Auguste Comte, was established in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and has been used for over 200 years now.

The diverse subjects included in Social sciences like civics, demography, economics, welfare, history, media studies, geography, environmental studies, nursing studies, psychology, and so on, are connected to human cultures or human societies in either one way or the other. Specific topics within social studies that are studied in school coursework include geography, anthropology, economics, history, sociology, political science, and civics.

Social scientists use social sciences for creating awareness about the society and they additionally help in defining science in a modern way. Social sciences are different from humanities as it deals with a more scientific method of approach.

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Social sciences require a lot of research to be done, like taking surveys, and this research is known as social research. Certain subjects are considered to be under both humanities and social sciences such as history, law, politics, etc. and there are many more subjects being created every since.

It is important to study social sciences because it is important for people to learn about their own identity, history, and culture. Learning about your own life can help you learn more about the world around you. *Social Science* aware the students about our surroundings and the incidents happened in the past. It has significance to develop an international viewpoint. It is also important for the moral progress of society. It helps to form the man social character. Study of Social Science makes us an efficient citizen of a democracy, and it also helps us to solve the practical problems in our daily life. It is essential for communities and organizations. It also helps the students to know how different societies are managed, structured and governed.

Social Science are important as studying them:

1. gives knowledge about civilization and culture.
2. provides knowledge of social development.
3. develops social behavior.
4. develops civil qualities.
5. develops the power of thinking and reasoning.
6. develops the feeling of universal brotherhood.
7. develops modernization.
8. develops suitable proficiency and good habits.
9. develops the moral and social values.
10. It develops the all-round personality.

## **What is the difference between humanities and social science?**

The difference between social science and humanities are social science focus on aspects of human society and humanities focus on the product of human society. Most individuals tend to confuse themselves when it comes to distinguishing between the two terms- Humanities and Social Sciences. This is because both these terms are comparable areas of study that cover diverse aspects of human conduct and their association with the community like law, sociology, economics, politics, psychology, and linguistics. However, there are quite a few dissimilarities between Humanities and Social Science.

The study of humanities is believed to be more rational than the study of social sciences. Humanities is a discipline of science that helps tackle the customs, heritage, culture, and values of the community and questions the factors that make an individual human. It comprises of subjects like religion, primeval languages, present-day languages, performing arts and philosophy.

On the contrary, in the middle of natural sciences and humanities, lies the study of Social science. Social science is a subdivision of science that includes diverse subjects like psychology, law, administration, political science, economics, history, archaeology, criminology, education, and anthropology. Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Emile Durkheim are acknowledged with regards to contributing a contemporary definition for social sciences.

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The differences between Humanities and Social Science is that **the** study of humanities mainly focuses on the evaluative and analytic study of the cultural factors of mankind and society in a more subjective manner whereas Social Science analyses the scientific study of the relationship of humans within their community in a more objective manner.

## **More differences between them can be summarized in the following:**

- Humanities are a more subjective approach since it is mostly based on philosophies and assumptions. Social sciences are an objective approach since it is based on reality and facts of the society.
- Under humanities, an individual mainly focuses on studying human nature and cultures, such as their traditions and also the heritage. Under social sciences, an individual mostly tries to find out the differences between pure sciences and humanities.
- For the study of humanities, it is not an important task for humanists to conduct surveys and research since humanities adopt a more analytical approach. For the study of social sciences, it is an important task for social scientists to conduct research and surveys since social sciences focus mainly on observations and hypotheses.
- Humanities are not concerned with the marketing policies or policy implementations. Social sciences are concerned with the marketing strategies and the policy implementations since a great deal of research is conducted to help the prevailing market conditions.
- Humanities are considered to be introduced during the ancient Greek civilization and are viewed as an older subject of study when compared to social sciences. Social sciences have fresh subjects developing every day and are newer methods of approach in dealing with human nature and culture.

## **Conclusion**

Humanities and Social Science analyses human aspects, conduct, and interconnection in various economic, cultural, political, social, and environmental conditions to help individuals incorporate a variety of abilities like interrogating, investigating, assessing, and communicating, to analyze historical and modern occurrences, progress, and circumstances.

Humanities and social sciences are often mistaken for one another because of their resemblance to how both these studies are associated with human nature and life. Therefore, to set these two studies apart, the dissimilarities and the meaning of the two terms have been highlighted in this article to give the audience a thorough understanding of the two studies.

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