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*OFFICE OF DOCTORAL STUDIES*

*O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY SONIPAT*

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**PROGRAMME** : OPEN/Ph.D.  
**SEMESTER** : FALL/SPRING  
**NO. OF CREDITS** : 3  
**SUBJECT** : PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
**LOCATION** : HYBRID

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**INSTRUCTOR** : Dr. AAINA DUTTA  
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**OFFICE HOURS** : PRIOR APPOINTMENT

### **Course description:**

The philosophy of the social sciences considers the underlying theory of the social (or human) sciences, such as history, economics, anthropology, politics, and sociology. The types of question covered include the methodological (the nature of observations, laws, theories, and explanations) to the ontological—whether or not these sciences can explain human nature in a way consistent with common-sense beliefs

### **Learning outcome:**

- To give the students extensive training in philosophy of science and the application of perspectives of philosophy of science on the research process.
- The doctoral student has a good overview of the field of philosophy of science, including concepts, perspectives, theories and conflicts, and has knowledge of its implications for own research.
- Identify basic paradigmatic traditions within social science and knows the importance of these traditions for contemporary social science and their consequences for interdisciplinary perspectives.
- Have a reflective approach, based on philosophy of science, to the knowledge-fronts within her/his research field.
- Have a reflective approach, based on philosophy of science, to the relation between robustness and innovation in research.

### **Goals, Objectives, Modules and Assessments:**

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Module</b>	<b>Assessments</b>
Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to know/understand:	Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:	Syllabus outline:	How the student will be assessed on these learning objectives:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Problem formulation process</li> <li>✓ Research process</li> <li>✓ Application of theory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Understand interdisciplinary scope of the research</li> <li>✓ Analyze research process</li> <li>✓ Formulate realistic research plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Basic perspectives of social science</li> <li>✓ Concept formulation</li> <li>✓ Interpretive Understanding of social action</li> </ul>	Class participation/ Reflections/ Group assignment/ Write ups

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Structure of scientific revolutions</li> <li>✓ End of the philosophy of social sciences</li> </ul>	
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### General competence

- Students should be able to apply perspectives and concepts with interdisciplinary scope in the analysis of research and in the development of own research projects.
- The course will contribute to an interdisciplinary understanding of potential research-strategies and evaluate their consequences in relation to a given problem or need for knowledge.
- Students will be able to identify new needs for knowledge and has the capability on basis of these to formulate realistic research plans with consideration of ethical aspects.
- Students will be able to independently summarize, evaluate and communicate research as well as in the research community as in a broader context.

### Evaluation and Grading:

Description	Weightage	Schedule
Formative Assessment	50%	Detailed Below
Summative Assessment	50%	Course Calendar

*Formative Assessment will consist of Individual/ Group Assignment with 50% weightage.*

*Summative Assignment will be done through evaluation of case studies which carries 50% weightage.*

### Passing Criteria and Attendance Criteria:

As per JGU Guidelines for the given courses.

### Detailed Session Plan

Topics	Class	Readings	Professor
<b><i>Module 1: History of Philosophy of Social Sciences</i></b>			
<b>Introduction and basic concepts and perspectives of social science</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empiricism and Rationalism</li> <li>• Comte and Positivism; Epistemology and Ontology</li> <li>• Implications in the current scenario and Controversies within the field of philosophy of science</li> </ul>	1-2	<b>The Philosophy of Social Science: An Introduction</b> By Martin Hollis	Dr. Aaina Dutta
<b>Concept Formation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Rules of Sociological Method</li> <li>• Sociology of Knowledge</li> <li>• Religion, Culture and the Division of Labour in Society</li> <li>• Anthropology Theory</li> <li>• Gender Theory</li> </ul>	3-5	<b>Research and Pedagogy</b> By Massimiliano Badino Jaume Navarro <b>Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality.</b> By Fausto-Sterling	Dr. Aaina Dutta
<b>Expert Lecture:</b> After the completion of the module, there will be a scheduled expert lecture. Expert will be from the Academia/Industry/Govt. (1hr)			
<b><i>Module 2: Methodological implications and strategies</i></b>			
<b>Positivism and Neo-Kantianism</b> <b>Individualism and Interpretative Understanding of Social Action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dialectic</li> <li>• Materialist Concept of History</li> <li>• Nature, Ideology and Science</li> <li>• Positivism vs Hermeneutics</li> </ul>	6-8	<b>Philosophy of the Social Sciences: a new introduction</b> By Nancy Cartwright and Eleanora Montuschi	Dr. Aaina Dutta
<b>Expert Lecture:</b> After the completion of the module, there will be a scheduled expert lecture. Expert will be from the Academia/Industry/Govt. (1hr)			
<b><i>Module 3: Social and Behavioral Science</i></b>			
<b>The Structure of Scientific Revolutions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systematic Falsification</li> <li>• Hypothetico-Deductive Model</li> <li>• Popper Versus Kuhn</li> </ul>	8-10	<b>Kuhn VS. Popper: The Struggle For The Soul Of Science</b> By Steve Fuller	Dr. Aaina Dutta

<b>Knowledge, Behaviour and Policy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impact Evaluation</li> <li>Choice, Rationality and Realism</li> <li>Nudging, Game theory and Social Change</li> <li>Preferences, Beliefs and Decision-Making</li> </ul>	11-13	<b>Explaining Social Behaviour</b> By Jon Elster <b>Choices, Values, and Frames</b> By Amos Tversky and Daniel Kahneman	Dr. Aaina Dutta
<b>Expert Lecture:</b> After the completion of the module, there will be a scheduled expert lecture. Expert will be from the Academia/Industry/Govt. (1hr)			
<b>Module 4: Philosophy of Social Sciences: Taking Stock</b>			
<b>End of the Philosophy of the Social Sciences</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major Criticism</li> <li>Return of Grand Theory in the Human Sciences</li> <li>Field Theory and Communication Theory</li> </ul>	13-17	<b>Bourdieu's Field Theory and the Social Sciences</b>  <b>Communication Theory And Research</b> By Denis McQuail	Dr. Aaina Dutta
<b>Expert Lecture:</b> After the completion of the module, there will be a scheduled expert lecture. Expert will be from the Academia/Industry/Govt. (1hr)			
<b>Total Sessions</b>	17	<b>One Session = 3Hours</b>	

This teaching activity contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN 2030 Agenda.



