School of Social Sciences

The social sciences are concerned with the study of people, individually and in groups and collectivities. Social scientists ask such questions as: How are groups formed? How do people produce and distribute goods? Why do cities grow, and why do some cities decay? What are the causes of war, of racial discrimination, of revolutions? What role does law play in our society? And, how can we improve our quality of life?

Thus, the major concern of the social sciences is the testing of ideas about social, political, and economic institutions. The methods of study and research may range from quiet introspection to participant observation in a community setting to the manipulation of computerized data using advanced statistical techniques. Yet in this great diversity there remains a shared commitment to the description, explanation, and prediction of human behavior -- to understanding. And increasingly, social scientists have added a commitment to action: applying their ideas to real-world situations.

Programs and General Courses

The School of Social Sciences has six degree-granting programs: Crime and Justice Studies, Economics and Finance, Geography, Government and Politics, Public Administration, and Sociology. Within each of these programs, students may specialize in areas that complement their interests and career plans, such as urban studies, political economy, law and society, and comparative studies.

Minor Areas of Study

The School of Social Sciences offers minors in Crime and Justice Studies, Economics and Finance, Geography, Government and Politics, Public Administration, and Sociology. Minors are described following each major.

Related Minor Areas:

Minor in Gender Studies (18 hours)
The Gender Studies minor is 18 semester hours. The courses consist of GST 2300, two courses chosen from GST 3301, GST 3302, GST 3303, and nine other hours chosen from AMS 3300, AMS 3318, AMS 4379, BIS 4V04, GOVT 3353, GOVT 3355, GOVT 3356, GOVT 3357, GOVT 4333, GOVT 4334, GOVT 4338, GOVT 4354, GOVT 4363, HST 3324, HST 3366, HST 3371, ISAH 3330, ISAH 3394, ISGS 3312, ISGS 4311, ISGS 4320, LIT 3327, LIT 3380, PSY 3334, PSY 3338, PSY 4345, PSY 4346, SOC 3302, SOC 3343, SOC 3352, SOC 3355, and SOC 4355.

Minor in Spanish/Hispanic Area Studies (18 hours)
Six semester hours of college-level Spanish and at least six semester hours in Social Science courses with a specific focus on Spain and/or Latin America, and six hours of such courses in Arts and Humanities. See the College Master for a list of approved courses.

Social Studies Teacher Certification

Teacher certification is offered in Composite Social Studies, Economics, Geography, Government, and History. Each teaching field requires 24 hours in that field, while the composite requires 48 hours. Specific course requirements are available in the Teacher Development Center or the Office of the College Master in the School of Social Sciences.

Social Science Core Requirements

All undergraduates receiving degrees in the School of Social Sciences must have taken and passed a core of courses designed to provide breadth and an interdisciplinary perspective beyond any individual social science discipline. These courses include:
• Three semester hours in economics (normally ECO 2302 Principles of Microeconomics or ECO 2301 Macroeconomics);
• Three semester hours in sociology
• SOCS 3303 Introduction to Social Statistics
• SOCS 3103 Social Statistics Laboratory
• IS 3336 Culture Regions, or some other Social Science course with a comparative or international focus, such as CJS 3319, ECO 3370, ECO 4360, ECO 4362, ECO 4382, GOVT 3328, GOVT 3350, GOVT 4320, ISSS 3347, ISSS 3349, or ISSS 4366
• GOVT 3325 American Public Policy
• CJS 3301 Theories of Justice, or some other Social Science course with a distributive justice emphasis, such as GOVT 3353/SOC 3353, GOVT 4364/SOC 4364, SOC 4356, SOC 4361, ECO 4320/PA 4313, GOVT 4334/SOC 4334 or GOVT 4333/SOC 4333

Fast Track Baccalaureate/Master's Degrees

Undergraduate Social Science majors (Economics and Finance, Geography, Government and Politics, Public Administration, and Sociology) with a strong academic record (3.0 or above) are encouraged to enter the Fast Track program, which allows students to take graduate courses for undergraduate credit while at the same time satisfying requirements for a master’s degree in Applied Economics, Geographic Information Sciences, Applied Sociology, or Public Affairs. Qualified seniors may take up to 15 credit hours of graduate courses during their senior year. Students enrolled in the Fast Track must maintain a 3.0 grade point average and earn grades of B or better in graduate courses taken. Students who are interested in the Fast Track should talk with the College Master and complete an application form prior to the final 30 credit hours of work for the B.A. or B.S. degree.

Geography (B.A.)

Geography is a social science which explores the ways in which humans have organized their activities in space, used and modified the earth's resources and environments, and created distinctive landscapes and regions. These concerns are inherently interdisciplinary: geographers who explore environmental relationships have become skilled in earth science (for example, geomorphology or climatology) or have become leaders in the development of cultural ecology, linking closely with anthropology and archaeology; geographers who study spatial organization forge close ties with urban and regional economists and sociologists, as well as with those who study international trade and economic growth. Geographers have played leading roles in the development of urban studies and of regional science, and are active in such policy arenas as urban planning, regional development, risk analysis, and environmental management.

Recently, geographic analysis has been enriched by the development of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technologies, and U.T. Dallas's Bruton Center for Development Studies has created a certification program for those who wish to add GIS competencies to their marketable skills. This certification is recommended for all geography majors who meet the requirements for enrolling in graduate courses. Students interested in the GIS Certificate should consult with their academic advisor.

Geography majors who graduate from U.T. Dallas, especially those who incorporate the GIS Certificate into their curriculum, are provided an educational experience to allow them to put their degrees, backgrounds, and experience to use in a wide variety of post-graduate educational and occupational positions, including:

• Graduate School in Geography (or a related social or environmental science discipline) or our own graduate programs in Political Economy and Public Affairs;
• Urban Planning or Public Policy;
• Marketing, Real Estate or Locational Analysis program needing GIS-competent investigators;
• Employment in GIS-using Agencies at the federal, state, and local government level.

Bachelor of Arts in Geography Degree Requirements (120 hours)
I. Core Curriculum Requirements: 42 hours

A. Communication (6 hours)
   3 hours Communication (RHET 1302)
   3 hours Communication Elective (GOVT 3325)
B. Social and Behavioral Sciences (15 hours)
   6 hours Government (GOVT 2301 and 2302)
   6 hours History (HST 1301 and 2301)
   3 hours Social and Behavioral Sciences Elective (recommended: SOC 1301 or 2319)
C. Humanities and Fine Arts (6 hours)
   3 hours Fine Arts (AP 1301)
   3 hours Humanities (A&H 1301)
D. Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning (6 hours)
   3 hours Mathematics (at or above the level of College Algebra)
   3 hours Quantitative Reasoning (SOCS 3303)
E. Science (9 hours)
   GEOS 1303/1103 Physical Geology
   GEOS 1304/1104 Introduction to Earth History
   1 hour Science elective

1 Curriculum Requirements can be fulfilled by other approved courses from accredited institutions of higher education. The courses listed in parenthesis are recommended as the most efficient way to satisfy both Core Curriculum and Major Requirements at U.T. Dallas.

II. Major Requirements: 52 hours

Major Preparatory Courses (9 hours)
   ECO 2302 Principles of Microeconomics*
   GEOG 2301 Social Relations and Spatial Organization*
   GEOG 2302 The Global Environment*
   GEOS 1303/1103 Physical Geology
   GEOS 1304/1104 Introduction to Earth History
   SOC elective

Major Core Courses (22 hours)
   GEOG 3301 Cultural Ecology
   GEOG 3304 Tools for Spatial Analysis
   GEOG 3331 Urban Growth and Structure
   GEOG 3370 The Global Economy
   GEOG 3371 Introduction to Economic Development
   GOVT 3325 American Public Policy
   SOCS 3103 Social Statistics Lab
   SOCS 3303 Social Statistics

One of the following:
   CJS 3301 Theories of Justice
   ECO 4320/PA 4313 Public Sector Economics
   GOVT 3353/SOC 3353 Law and Gender
   GOVT 4333/SOC 4333 Sex and Politics
   GOVT 4334/SOC 4334 Gay and Lesbian Politics
   GOVT 4364/SOC 4364 Civil Rights Law and Society
   GOVT 4361 Law and Society
   SOC 4356 Social Welfare Policy

And one of the following:
   CJS 3319 Comparative Justice Systems
   ECO 4360 International Trade
ECO 4362 Development Economics
ECO 4382 International Finance
GOVT 3328 International Relations
GOVT 3350 Comparative Politics
ISSS 3336 Culture Regions
ISSS 3347 World's Advanced Economies
ISSS 3349 World Resources and Development
ISSS 4366 Japanese Organization and Management

Major Related Courses (21 hours)
15 hours Geography upper-division electives
6 hours Major and Related electives

2 A Major requirement that also fulfills a Core Curriculum requirement. Hours are counted in Core Curriculum.

3 Most students take 6 hours of upper-division GEOG courses. However, subject to advisor approval, courses from other disciplines may be used to satisfy this requirement. Students seeking the Certificate in GIS must satisfy the requirements for taking graduate classes as an undergraduate student. The GIS Certificate requires POEC 6381, 6382, 6383, 6387, and a prescribed option course.

* Indicates a prerequisite to be completed before enrolling in upper-division GEOG courses.

III. Elective Requirements: 26 hours

Advanced Electives (6 hours)
All students are required to take at least six hours of advanced electives outside their major field of study. These must be either upper-division classes or lower-division classes that have prerequisites.

Free Electives (20 hours)
This requirement may be satisfied with lower- and upper-division courses from any field of study. Students must complete at least 51 hours of upper-division credit to qualify for graduation.

Minor in Geography (18 hours)

For a minor in Geography, students must take GEOG 2301, GEOG 2302, GEOG 3304, and three of the following: GEOG 3301, GEOG 3331, GEOG 3370, GEOG 3371.

Specified Course Descriptions

A&H 1301 (HUMA 1301) Exploration of the Humanities (3 semester hours) An introduction to the concept of cultural tradition through the study of selected works of literature, philosophy, music, and visual art. Emphasis on the relations among various forms of cultural expression and developing students' ability to interpret complex artistic works in their historical, cultural, and intellectual contexts. General education core course. (3-0) S

AP 1301 (ARTS 1301) Exploration of the Arts (3 semester hours) This course introduces students to the physical and intellectual demands required of the author, the performer, and the visual artist. This introduction includes, but is not limited to, the student's production of a creative project as well as written assessments of art and performance. (3-0) Y

CJS 3301 Theories of Justice (3 semester hours) A survey of the basic theoretical rationales and perspectives concerning the concept of "justice" with selected readings from classical and contemporary theorists. (3-0) Y

CJS 3319 Comparative Justice Systems (3 semester hours) A survey of the differing policies, practices, and procedures of crime and justice cross-nationally. Special emphasis will be devoted to U.S. / Mexico comparisons, while additional emphasis will be placed on such comparisons as U.S. / Canada and U.S. / England. (3-0) R

ECO 2302 (ECON 2302) Principles of Microeconomics (3 semester hours) An introduction to theories of the behavior of markets. Topics include the theory of demand and supply, market structure, resource markets, international interdependence in commodity markets, the role of government policy and regulation. (3-0) S

ECO 4320 Public Sector Economics (3 semester hours) A study of the economics of the public sector, including taxation, public expenditures, and fiscal policy. Examines the theoretical foundation for government intervention in the economy, and the incentive effects of government policies on work, investment, and the spending of income. (Same as PA 4313.) Prerequisite: ECO 3310. (3-0) R
ECO 4360 International Trade (3 semester hours) Studies international relationships among national economies with a principal focus on trade relationships. Examines theories of trade, rationale for protectionism, and the foundation of exchange markets. Prerequisite: ECO 3310. (3-0) Y

ECO 4362 Development Economics (3 semester hours) A study of development and economic growth, with a principal focus on less-developed countries. Includes theories and patterns of development, the role of human resources, capital resources, agriculture, and international markets. Prerequisites: ECO 2302 and ECO 3311. (3-0) Y

ECO 4382 International Finance (3 semester hours) Studies the international financial system, including the foreign exchange markets and the balance of payment accounts and a discussion of international monetary theory. Prerequisite: ECO 3311. (3-0) T

GEOG 2301 Social Relations and Spatial Organization (3 semester hours) An introduction to concepts and types of spatial organization, and to relationships between environment and behavior. An examination of ideas of space and place is followed by discussion of the relationships between social relations and spatial arrangement, and of the nature, functions, and types of territoriality. Systems concerns of spatial analysts are contrasted with behavioral concerns of environmental psychologists to permit a focused assessment of designers' concepts of territory, image and milieu, public and private spaces, etc. Among the related ideas reviewed are those of proxemics, mental maps, topophilia, and time-space budgets. The course concludes by classifying and exemplifying various modes of spatial organization: space-contingent, space-forming and space-transforming. (3-0) T

GEOG 2302 The Global Environment (3 semester hours) An introduction to the physical aspects of the world's geography emphasizing the interrelationships between the earth and its climate, vegetations, soils, and landforms. Provides a global perspective on the physical environment and the interactions between global systems to produce regional differences. (Same as GEOS 2302.) (3-0) T

GEOG 3301 Cultural Ecology (3 semester hours) Human communities adapt to their environments by means of their technologies and organizations, which in turn reshape the environment, in on-going cycles. Cultural ecology, closely related to human ecology and cultural geography, is the study of such relationships. This course provides an introduction to the basic concepts of cultural ecology, with particular emphasis on the relations between land and the human population it sustains and the differentiation of urban and rural society. (3-0) T

GEOG 3304 Tools for Spatial Analysis (3 semester hours) An introduction to the primary methods used in geographic analysis. Topics include spatial statistics, cartography, and geographic information systems (GIS). This course is designed to provide a foundation for all other upper-level Geography courses. Prerequisite: SOCS 3303 or STAT 1342. (3-0) T

GEOG 3331 Urban Growth and Structure (3 semester hours) Deals with the economic and spatial processes underlying urban growth and regional development, and with the structural and demographic characteristics of urban areas as well as the social and psychological dynamics of urban life. (Same as ECO 3331.) (3-0) T

GEOG 3370 The Global Economy (3 semester hours) Considers the changing relationships of population, resources, and the economy, the transformation of classical spatial economics, and the processes producing increasing globalization. Particular attention is paid to technological change and to the dynamics of world trade and investment. (Same as ECO 3370.) (3-0) T

GEOG 3371 Introduction to Economic Development (3 semester hours) An introductory survey of development and economic growth in less developed countries. Examines various regions of the world in order to highlight the essential theories and processes of economic development. (Same as ECO 3371.) Prerequisites: ECO 2302. (3-0) T

GEOS 1103 (GEOL 1103) Physical Geology Laboratory (1 semester hour) A laboratory to accompany GEOS 1303. The exercises include mineral and rock identification. Topographic maps, geologic maps, and aerial photographs are used to study surface landforms, geologic phenomena and tectonic processes. GEOS 1303 is a corequisite or prerequisite. (0-3) S

GEOS 1104 Earth History Laboratory (1 semester hour) A laboratory to accompany GEOS 1304. Exercises include: fossil identification, stratigraphy and correlation, the geologic time scale, age-determination techniques, and maps. (0-3) Y

GEOS 1303 (GEOL 1303) Physical Geology (3 semester hours) Introduction to the Earth as a unique planet. The course investigates minerals and rocks which make up the Earth. The structure of the Earth and dynamics of its internal mechanisms are explored. Plate tectonics and surface processes which sculpt the Earth are the topic of the second half of the course. Other planets and celestial bodies within the solar system are contrasted with Earth. Field trip. (3-0) S

GEOS 1304 Introduction to Earth History (3 semester hours) Introduction to the history of the Earth. The history of life and an introduction to the principles of paleontology, stratigraphy and global change will be discussed. All topics will be discussed in the context of the tectonic evolution of North America. Field trip. Prerequisite: GEOS 1303 and GEOS 1103. (3-0) Y

GOVT 2301 (GOVT 2305) Constitutional Foundations and Political Behavior in the U.S. and Texas (3 semester hours)
This course examines the evolution and current state of political behavior and public policy making in the U.S. and Texas. Topics discussed will include the constitutions, federalism, intergovernmental relations, voting, elections, political parties, public opinion, and interest groups. (Fulfills one-half of the legislative requirement of 6 hours of American government.) (3-0) S

**GOVT 2302 (GOVT 2306) Political Institutions in the U.S. and Texas** (3 semester hours) This course explores the primary institutions of U.S. and Texas government. It examines the bureaucracy as well as the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government at the state and federal level. (Fulfills one-half of the legislative requirement of 6 hours of American government.) (3-0) S

**GOVT 3325 American Public Policy** (3 semester hours) This course examines the making of public policy in the U.S. political system. Students will examine the various public policy models and case studies related to specific policy areas. All students are required to write a policy related term paper to fulfill the University's writing requirement. (3-0) Y

**GOVT 3328 International Relations** (3 semester hours) This course explores the power relationships among national actors and organizations. Topics may include origins of the state system, international security, globalization, north-south relations, ecological security, and the implications of world demographic patterns. (3-0) R

**GOVT 3350 Comparative Politics** (3 semester hours) A comparative analysis of political life in different cultural and national settings. A consideration of different theoretical approaches to comparative politics. (3-0) T

**GOVT 3353 Law and Gender** (3 semester hours) Examines how laws and legal institutions reflect and reproduce cultural notions of gender. Focuses on how legal equality and sex discrimination have been defined and challenged. Topics include rape law, reproductive issues, marriage and divorce, pornography, workplace regulations, and, generally, how gender and race ideologies interact in legal decision making. (3-0) R

**GOVT 4333 Sex and Politics** (3 semester hours) This course examines the role of gender and sexuality in shaping our society. Topics include the biology, psychology and sociology of gender and sexuality in shaping the current debates about reproduction of equality. (Same as SOC 4333.) (3-0) T

**GOVT 4334 Gay and Lesbian Politics** (3 semester hours) This course examines the rise of the Gay Movement in the United States. It examines the origins of the movement, the shift towards militancy and the current issues facing gays and lesbians in the United States. Specific topics include Stonewall, gays in the military, AIDS, and the Gay Rights struggle in litigation. (Same as SOC 4334.) (3-0) R

**GOVT 4361 Law and Society** (3 semester hours) Analyzes laws and legal institutions as forms of regulation and social control. Explores the links between legal decision making, social structure, and cultural knowledge systems. Theoretical perspectives on law and society, law and ideology, the relation of law to public policy, and legal change as a strategy of social reform are explored. (Same as SOC 4361) (3-0) R

**GOVT 4364 Civil Rights Law and Society** (3 semester hours) Examines the development of civil rights law, and how social ideologies are reflected and reproduced in race and sex discrimination law. Explores how power is exercised through law, and how legal change is pursued as a strategy for social reform. Topics include antislavery and the judicial process, the Reconstruction Amendments, the role of the Supreme Court in U.S. society, school segregation cases, and hate speech. (Same as SOC 4364.) (3-0) Y

**HST 1301 Themes and Ideas in American History** (3 semester hours) An introduction to the methods of historical inquiry through the study of selected main themes in American history. A course designed to offer students an understanding of the historical and cultural context of America in the contemporary world. Fulfills one-half of the Texas legislative requirement for six hours in American history. (3-0) S

**HST 2301 Issues in American History** (3 semester hours) Readings, commentary, and discussion aimed at varying aspects of history and culture. Fulfills one-half of the Texas legislative requirement for six hours in American history. (3-0) Y

**ISSS 3336 Culture Regions** (3 semester hours) Survey of a major region of the world as defined by a set of common cultural traditions and institutions such as Latin America, the Islamic World, Africa south of the Sahara, or South Asia. Each time the course is offered it will review both the key cultural features and the major disciplinary approaches needed to create an interdisciplinary comprehension of the region. Areas will be announced in advance, and the course may be repeated for credit when a different culture region is treated. (3-0) Y

**ISSS 3347 The World's Advanced Economies** (3 semester hours) This course examines the U.S. economy in relation to the world's advanced industrial economies using conceptual tools from several social sciences disciplines. Primary emphasis will be placed on comparative economic performances and the influences of differing models of capitalism, macroeconomic and cyclical patterns, demographics, income and employment trends, and patterns of economic integration. (3-0) T

**ISSS 3349 World Resources and Development** (3 semester hours) Analysis of resource mobilization, technological
changes, and economic development from a multidisciplinary perspective. Primary focus on the problems of the less-developed countries. Topics include: technology transfer, industrialization strategy, education policy, population growth, nutrition, and foreign aid. (3-0) R

ISSS 4366 Japanese Organization and Management (3 semester hours) An examination of the structure of Japanese organizations: small and large business firms, government ministries, and multinational corporations. Consideration is also given to the relationships between the education system and labor market, and government and business. (3-0) R

PA 4313 Public Sector Economics (3 semester hours) Study of the economics of public finance, including taxation, public expenditures, and fiscal policy. Special attention to current issues such as tax reform and federal expenditure policy. Prerequisite: ECO 3310. (Same as ECO 4320.) (3-0) R

RHET 1302 (ENGL 1302) Rhetoric (3 semester hours) The course presents an integrated approach to writing, reading, and critical thinking by developing the grammatical, logical, and rhetorical skills necessary for university writing. All classes work in a computerized learning environment. Students are taught basic computer literacy and submit all work electronically and on paper. (3-0) S

SOC 1301 (SOCI 1301) Introduction to Sociology (3 semester hours) An overview of the sociological perspective and its application to social research and social policy. (3-0) Y

SOC 2319 Race, Gender and Class (3 semester hours) The study of how race, gender, and class systems are interwoven. Explores how the multiple statuses of individuals (race, gender, and class) combine to produce packages of privileges and disadvantages. Topics include the social meanings of color, sex/gender systems in historical and contemporary perspectives, theories of power, stereotyping, affirmative action, and welfare debates. (3-0) Y

SOC 3353 Law and Gender (3 semester hours) Examines how laws and legal institutions reflect and reproduce cultural notions of gender. Focuses on how legal equality and sex discrimination have been defined and challenged. Topics include rape law, reproductive issues, marriage and divorce, pornography, workplace regulations, and, generally, how gender and race ideologies interact in legal decision making. (3-0) R

SOC 4333 Sex and Politics (3 semester hours) This course examines the role of gender and sexuality in shaping our society. Topics include the biology, psychology and sociology of gender and sexuality in shaping the current debates about reproduction of equality. (Same as GOVT 4333.) (3-0) T

SOC 4334 Gay and Lesbian Politics (3 semester hours) This course examines the rise of the Gay Movement in the United States. It examines the origins of the movement, the shift towards militancy and the current issues facing gays and lesbians in the United States. Specific topics include Stonewall, gays in the military, AIDS, and the Gay Rights struggle in litigation. (Same as GOVT 4334.) (3-0) R

SOC 4356 Social Welfare Policy (3 semester hours) Explores the origins of social welfare institutions, programs, and services in American and European societies. Reviews critiques of social welfare policies from diverse ideological and political perspectives as well as recent studies of program implementation and effectiveness. Examines the politics of social welfare reform. (3-0) R

SOC 4364 Civil Rights Law and Society (3 semester hours) Examines the development of civil rights law, and how social ideologies are reflected and reproduced in race and sex discrimination law. Explores how power is exercised through law, and how legal change is pursued as a strategy for social reform. Topics include antislavery and the judicial process, the Reconstruction Amendments, the role of the Supreme Court in U.S. society, school segregation cases, and hate speech. (Same as GOVT 4364.) (3-0) Y

SOCS 3103 Social Statistics Lab (1 semester hour) A laboratory to accompany SOCS 3303. Corequisite: SOCS 3303. (1-0) S

SOCS 3303 Introduction to Social Statistics (3 semester hours) This course introduces students to the basic tools of statistics and shows how they are used in the analysis of social science data. A fundamental understanding of these tools is a critical foundation for social science research in many fields. The course covers descriptive statistics, inference from samples, hypothesis testing, and the basics of regression analysis. NOTE: This course is required of all social science majors and is a prerequisite for a required course in social science research methods within each discipline (for example CJS 3304, ECO 3304, GEOG 3304, GOVT 3304, PA 3304, or SOC 3304). Prerequisite: College Algebra (MATH 1314 or equivalent). (3-0) S