



### 1) Academic Description

This online program forms English for Specific Academic Purposes courses for students of **1<sup>st</sup> year Social Sciences** programme at the University of Biskra. ESS is a preparatory appropriate course for students to be majoring in one of the social sciences –in Biskra – including: **philosophy, psychology, sociology, sciences of education and anthropology**. ESS provides opportunities to carry out in a supported environment academic tasks typically required across master’s programmes in social science fields: evaluating, selecting and using English academic sources in the student's specialist field.

### 2) Outline Content

ESS selected texts offering a preparatory material through which students gain relevant vocabulary, essential concepts and are encouraged to break into English texts for their study fields.



## Introduction:

English, simply, has become the true world language of science, technology, media and business. It is now a language that allows reaching each and every one who counts in the field of the natural sciences, advanced technology, mass entertainment and corporate affairs. Its supremacy is both in natural and social sciences. When it comes to English as a language of science, its advantages for global communication are even more striking than in other domains. Practically the entire scholarly community in the natural sciences reads English, and the vast majority publishes articles in that language.

In this respect, especially for natural sciences, scientists and engineers may find it harder to explain concepts and provide instructions to collaborators who have not learned English, thus perpetuating their exclusion from the realm of science and technology, relegating them to practical, routine tasks. However, this risk is much less in those countries where well-nigh everybody has learned some English in schools.

## English as the language of the social sciences

“Things, however, are much more problematical when it comes to English as the language of the social sciences and the humanities. First of all, these disciplines are much more strongly bound to language. The exactitude that prevails in the natural sciences through the use of formal and quantitative terms and the availability of precise measurements must be achieved in the social sciences and the humanities through meticulous precision in the use of the natural language. In these fields, technical terms are often very close to terms in everyday usage (e. g. role, class, civilization) and it is the continual rubbing together of these different spheres of meaning that conveys to social science writing at once its ambiguity and its richness of meaning.” (Abram de Swaan, English in the Social Sciences, 2019)

“In the natural sciences, most of what can be said in English can also be phrased in mathematics and in formal schemes. But what the social sciences have to say about the social world can only rarely be rendered in mathematical symbols or in diagrams. As a matter of fact, even the translation from one natural language to another presents many difficulties in the social sciences. These translation problems arise at different levels. **When moreover, as happens more and more in countries where English is not the first language, the findings are next published in English, an additional layer of linguistic transformation is introduced, with all the problems that go with it.**” (Abram de Swaan, English in the Social Sciences, 2019).

“The social sciences, the human sciences in general, are so closely and intensely tied to language because human beings are their subjects. But for the social sciences (and quite often the humanities, too) language problems manifest themselves in still another respect, as a central preoccupation. In contrast with most natural sciences, the social sciences are not experimental.” (ibid)

This analysis has its consequences for the teaching of the social sciences and even more so for the professional training of social scientists. Students must be sensitized to problems of interpretation and translation, as essential constituents of the crafts of their trade: observation and comparison. It implies also that students cannot effectively be taught the social sciences in one language only, whether it be their mother tongue or a foreign, world language, e. g. English. If they are to become adequate observers and interpreters of human interaction in its context, they must be intimately familiar with the language used in each particular setting. (ibid)

“Thus the quasi totality of social science knowledge is contained in the English-language corpus of professional literature. A considerable part is also embedded in French, or German, Spanish or Italian texts, but the literature in these other languages is not nearly as complete as that in English. Hence, English has become the medium of choice for all transcultural and transtemporal comparison and classification in the social sciences.” (ibid)



### Social Sciences:

**Social sciences** are a group of academic disciplines dedicated to examining society. This branch of science studies how people interact with each other, behave, develop as a culture, and influence the world. Social sciences focus on how individuals behave within society. Some social science majors include anthropology, psychology, political science, and economics. Social scientists examine institutions like the government, the economy, and family; they also study how individuals and groups interact with one another and what drives human behavior.

Social science as a field of study is separate from the natural sciences, which cover topics such as physics, biology, and chemistry. Social science examines the relationships between individuals and societies, as well as the development and operation of societies, rather than studying the physical world. These academic disciplines rely more heavily on interpretation and qualitative research methodologies and quantitative data analysis, to study society.

Social science differs from natural science in that it examines the human, constructed world rather than the physical world. Fields like biology, chemistry, and physics use the scientific method to propose hypotheses and theories.

The social sciences also share some of the same methodological approaches as those used in the humanities, like qualitative research. Both the humanities and social sciences use analytical and interpretive approaches to learn more about the human world.

Despite these differences, many question whether certain fields — including psychology, economics, history, sociology, political science, and philosophy — fall under the umbrella of the humanities or social sciences.

The origins of social sciences can be traced back to the ancient Greeks. The lives they led, and their early studies into human nature, the state, and mortality, helped to shape Western civilization.

The social sciences are important because they help people understand how to not only analyze their own behavior, but also the behavior and motivations of their peers. The social sciences also give us a better understanding of how to create more inclusive, and effective institutions.

### What Are Social Science Subjects?

Nowadays, colleges and universities offer numerous social sciences programs, including: Anthropology, Archaeology, Economics, Geography, History, Law, Linguistics, Politics, Psychology, and Sociology are some of the most common subjects in the social sciences.

### Note

In this course, our main focus will be on the sum of social sciences that are available to be majoring in for the coming undergraduation levels, which will be discussed for the next online sessions in this order; **philosophy, psychology, sociology, sciences of education and anthropology.**