

A HOLISTIC MINDSET TO TACKLE THE COMPLEXITIES OF TODAY



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

A portrait of Professor James T H Tang, a middle-aged man with dark hair and glasses, smiling. He is wearing a dark blue suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a red tie with a small blue pattern. The background is a solid light orange color.

DEAN'S ADDRESS

"We are living in a highly inter-connected and ever-fast digitalizing world where traditional jobs had disappeared and unconventional jobs have emerged in the new economy.

To prepare our graduates for the challenges they will be facing in the new landscape, a holistic university education that combines both theory and practice with academic rigour, as well as opportunities for experiential learning is necessary.

The School of Social Sciences (SOSS) offers you a unique and multi-disciplinary learning experience that will equip you with life-long learning skills and versatility to manage an ever changing social and economic environment. The School offers two distinct specialized pathways in the Bachelor of Social Science Programme; The first pathway is a broad-based integrated curriculum on Political Science, Psychology and Sociology (PPS) that also allows in-depth specialization in each of the disciplines. The second pathway is in partnership with the Schools of Economics and Law that brings together the study of Politics, Law and Economics (PLE) with an integrative approach. Both pathways provide students with the ability to understand critical contemporary issues through the interdisciplinary lenses.

We also have a team of distinguished and devoted faculty members who are outstanding researchers and educators, who bring along their knowledge and professional experience into the classrooms. Coupled with small class sizes, students have more opportunities to share meaningful interactions with their teachers for personal, professional and intellectual growth.

I warmly welcome you to join the SOSS family."

Professor James T H Tang
Dean, School of Social Sciences

SOSS VALUE PROPOSITIONS

Interdisciplinary Approach

The Bachelor of Social Science programme delivers two paths focusing on either the disciplines of Psychology, Sociology and Political Science or the composite discipline of Politics, Law and Economics. The combination of these disciplines grants you a holistic and integrated framework to study phenomena in the social sciences. You will acquire a multidisciplinary mindset that is able to analyse challenging social issues such as workforce motivation, climate change, culture and the arts, and transnational crime.

Multiple Career Pathways

With a broad repertoire of skills and a critical understanding of social issues, you will enjoy access to a wide range of career opportunities across many fields including organisational consulting, human resource

management, entrepreneurship and start-ups, marketing and public relations, and public administration. Whichever major you choose to specialise in at SOSS, you will have abundant opportunities waiting for you after graduation.

Experiential Learning

Our emphasis on experiential learning comes alive through active collaborations with civil society, government, industry partners and international organisations. You will learn to work together with other students to address complex real-world issues that are affecting business, culture, and society. Your course projects will not simply be academic thought exercises. They will represent efforts in making a real and tangible impact on the community around you.

Close Student-Faculty Interaction

As an SOSS student, you benefit from learning from the great minds of our highly qualified faculty. Our small class size provides plenty of opportunities for meaningful interactions with faculty members, facilitating your personal, professional, and intellectual growth. Whether you are having a lively discussion with our faculty members during class or sharing a coffee with them afterwards, they are always happy to engage with you.

Distinguished and Devoted Faculty

We have a team of dedicated faculty members who are outstanding researchers and educators in their respective fields, and bring along their wealth of knowledge and expertise into the classroom.



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The Bachelor of Social Science (BSocSc) Programme delivers an integrative and broad-based undergraduate education with two distinct specialisation paths. You may choose a path that enables you to major in one of three disciplines – **Psychology, Political Science and Sociology**.

Psychology is the scientific study of behaviour and mental processes. Behaviour encompasses everything that people do that can be observed, while mental processes refer to thoughts, feelings, motives, and other unobservable phenomena. Psychological theories and research have a number of applications in the business industry, educational settings, public policy, and more. The major sub-disciplines of psychology include social, developmental, cognitive, biological, health, industrial/organisational, abnormal, and personality psychology.

Political Science addresses important relevant questions, from the protection of rights and the organisation of power within countries to international relations and terrorism. The courses provide the analytical tools to understand and interpret contemporary and historical events, while simultaneously sharing important insights on how power is structured, contested and exercised. The courses draw from all major subfields in political science – comparative politics, international relations, political theory and political economy.

Sociology is a diverse discipline, which aims to explain societal trends and institutions to make sense of culture, politics, and the economy. The sociology courses are oriented toward developing students' critical thinking pertaining to causes and conditions of changes in societies around the globe, with a

particular focus on Asia. The courses also address challenges to societies derived from social inequality, migration and urbanisation, and the role of networks in social outcomes such as fads and fashions.

Alternatively, you may choose a path that enables you to major in **Politics, Law and Economics (PLE)**.

The **Politics, Law and Economics** major is designed to prepare future leaders and thinkers with a deep understanding of global political and economic transformations and the legal frameworks and contexts within which such changes take place. Comprising integrative courses in the fields of politics, law and economics that will hone your strategic and analytical thinking skills, you will be empowered to seek innovative solutions to real world problems.

Bachelor of Social Science Programme Structure

University Requirements (16 Courses)	
Foundation (3)	Technology Studies (1)
University Core (4)	Entrepreneurship (1)
Modes of Thinking (1)	Globalisation (1)
General Education (4)	Asian Studies (1)
Requirements for Major in Psychology/Political Science/Sociology (19 Courses)	Requirements for Major in Politics, Law and Economics (19 Courses)
Social Science Core (4)	Politics, Law and Economics Core (10)
Social Science Major (7)	Politics, Law and Economics Major (4)
Social Science Major-Related (8)	Politics, Law and Economics Major-Related (5)
Common Requirements (1 Course)	
Social Science Capstone Seminar (1)	

Note: The number in each parenthesis indicates the number of courses to be taken in each category.



UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

Foundation Courses (3 Courses)

- Calculus
- Introductory Economics
- Programme in Writing and Reasoning

University Core (4 Courses)

- Business, Government and Society
- Ethics and Social Responsibility
- Leadership and Team Building
- Management Communication

Modes of Thinking (1 Course)

- Critical Thinking in the Real World
- Managing Volatility, Uncertainty, Change and Ambiguity
- Analytical Skills (0.5 course unit)
- Creative Thinking (0.5 course unit)

General Education (4 Courses)*

- Computer as an Analysis Tool (Compulsory under either General Education or Technology Studies)
- Creative Writing
- Culture Identities and Arts
- Dance: East and West

- Drama and Scriptwriting
- Foreign Language (e.g. Bahasa Melayu, French, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Thai)
- Intercultural Communication
- Music: East and West
- Philosophy of Religion
- Post Modern Theatre Studies
- Principles of Coaching in Sports
- Singapore: Imagining the Next Fifty Years

Technology Studies (1 Course)*

- Computer as an Analysis Tool (Compulsory under either General Education or Technology Studies)
- Computational Thinking
- Intellectual Property Law
- Managing Strategic Change
- Social Media Strategies
- Technology and World Change

Entrepreneurship (1 Course)*

- Accounting for Entrepreneurs
- Design Thinking and Innovation

- Entrepreneurship and Business Creation
- Family Business
- Leading New Ventures to Growth

Globalisation (1 Course)*

- Economics of Globalisation
- Global Mega-Trends
- International Business
- Law of International Trade
- Sustainability Design and Management

Asian Studies (1 Course)*

- Asia Pacific Business
- Contemporary South Asian Societies
- Economic Development in Asia
- Politics of South East Asia
- Popular Culture in Asia

* Course listings are not exhaustive and are subject to change from term to term.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PSYCHOLOGY/POLITICAL SCIENCE/SOCIOLOGY

Social Science Core (4 Courses)

- Introduction to Political and Policy Studies
- Introduction to Psychology
- Understanding Societies
- Introductory Statistics

Social Science Major (7 Courses)

BSocSc students under this path specialise in one of the following three disciplines: Political Science, Psychology or Sociology. You are required to declare a major by the end of your second year of study and take seven courses in your chosen major.

Political Science*

- Comparing Political Systems
- Development, Underdevelopment and Poverty
- Elections and Media
- Gender Politics: Exclusion and Empowerment
- Global Political Economy
- Mass Media and Public Opinion Research
- Policy Design and Analysis
- Political Theory
- Politics and Society of India
- Politics of Food Security
- The Politics of Water in Asia

Psychology*

- Psychology Research Methods I and II (Compulsory)
- Abnormal Psychology
- Cognitive Psychology
- Cultural Psychology
- Developmental Psychology
- Evolutionary Psychology
- Industrial and Organisational Psychology
- Psychology of Motivation
- Psychology of Reasoning and Thinking
- Psychometrics and Psychological Testing
- Social Psychology
- Subjective Well-Being

Sociology*

- Research Methods in Sociology and Political Science (Compulsory)
- Gender and Family
- Media and Society
- Nation-Building in Asia
- Social Networks
- Social Stratification and Inequality
- Sociological Theories of Crime and Deviance
- Sociology of Economic Life
- Sociology of Fads and Fashion

- Sociology of Food
- Sociology of Terrorism and Political Violence
- Understanding China's Economic Miracle: Social Origins and Social Impact

Senior Thesis in Psychology/Political Science/Sociology (2 course units)

Eligible students may choose to do a senior thesis in place of two major elective courses.

Social Science Major-Related Options (8 Courses)

The Social Science Major-Related Options in the BSocSc curriculum provide you with the flexibility to choose eight elective courses from the course offerings in the majors in Social Sciences, Accounting, Business, Economics, Information Systems and Law. Of the eight courses in this category, at least two must be selected from the majors in Social Sciences.

Social Science Capstone

This is a required integrative seminar for graduating BSocSc students. This seminar provides an opportunity for the student to integrate the knowledge, skills and learning experiences acquired in the social science programme through relating academic knowledge to important practical applications.

* Course listings are not exhaustive and are subject to change from term to term.



REQUIREMENTS FOR POLITICS, LAW AND ECONOMICS

Politics, Law and Economics Core (10 Courses)

- Business Law
- Company Law
- Intermediate Macroeconomics
- Intermediate Microeconomics
- Introduction to Political and Policy Studies
- Legal Theory and Philosophy
- Intermediate Mathematics for Economics
- Political Theory
- Research Methods in Sociology and Political Science
- Strategic Thinking

Politics, Law and Economics Major (4 Courses)

You must choose one of the following themes and read four courses from the chosen theme:

(A) Choice and Behaviour

- Advanced Microeconomics
- Economic Analysis of Law
- Evolution of Public Institutions: An Economic and Historical Analysis
- Law and Regulation
- Parties and Social Movements
- Policy Design and Analysis
- Probability Theory and Applications
- Psychology of Group Processes and Decision Making
- Psychology of Reasoning and Thinking
- The Economics of Politics

(B) Global Studies

- Development Economics
- Economic Growth
- Evolution of Public Institutions: An Economic and Historical Analysis
- Foundations of ASEAN Law and Policy

- Global Issues in Trade, Law and Development
- Global Migration and Human Security
- Human Rights in International Relations
- International Economics B
- Introduction to Chinese History, Culture, Economics, Politics and Law
- The Economics of Politics
- The Politics of Water in Asia
- World Politics
- World Trade Organisation: Law and Policy

(C) Public Policy and Governance

- Constitutional and Administrative Law (1.5 course units)
- Evolution of Public Institutions: An Economic and Historical Analysis
- Health Economics
- International and Comparative Criminal Justice
- Introduction to Public Policy
- Law and Policy of Ethnic Relations in Singapore
- Monetary Economics
- Policy Design and Analysis
- Public International Law
- Public Policy Taskforce
- Public Sector Economics
- Public Sector Management
- Sustainable Cities
- The Economics of Politics
- Urban Economics and Policy

(D) Distribution and Justice

- Development, Underdevelopment and Poverty
- Economic Growth
- Evolution of Public Institutions: An Economic and Historical Analysis
- Gender Politics: Exclusion and Empowerment

- International and Comparative Criminal Justice
- Jurisprudence: Modern and Critical Theories of Law
- Macroeconomics of Income Distribution
- Politics of Food Security
- Public Sector Economics
- Social Stratification and Inequality

Politics, Law and Economics Major-Related Options (5 Courses)

The Politics, Law and Economics Major-Related Options provide you with the flexibility to choose five elective courses from the course offerings in the majors in Social Sciences, Accounting, Business, Economics, Information Systems and Law.

Senior Thesis in Politics, Law and Economics (2 course units)

Overseas Study Mission

Students may choose to do either a Law Study Mission or a Political Science Study Mission in place of one major elective course.

Social Science Capstone Course

This is a required integrative seminar for graduating BSocSc students. This seminar provides an opportunity for the student to integrate the knowledge, skills and learning experiences acquired in the social science programme through relating academic knowledge to important practical applications.

Course Exemption for SMU Juris Doctor Programme

Students majoring in Politics, Law and Economics (PLE) will only need to read another four more Law courses from the LLB curriculum (in addition to the PLE core courses) to get the following exemption if they are admitted to the Juris Doctor (JD) programme at SMU within three years after graduation.

- Up to three course units (mapped to Law courses taken previously) would be exempted from the 25 course units of the JD programme. This means that the PLE student would only need to complete up to 22 course units to graduate with the JD degree. The grades of the exempted courses would be computed into the JD GPA.
- Of the remaining 22 course units for the JD degree, the PLE student may substitute Law core courses done previously (with a grade of B and above) with Law electives.

SECOND MAJORS

You may choose to declare a second major in another social science discipline (Political Science, Psychology, or Sociology) or in one of the three multidisciplinary second majors offered by the School of Social Sciences:

Arts and Culture Management (ACM)



The Arts and Culture Management second major provides you with the critical perspectives in arts and culture, and arts management specific knowledge to be coupled with the students' respective majors, for entry into the arts and culture industry. ACM grooms the cosmopolitan manager who is at ease with cultural diversity, and able to capitalise on the new ideas and energy through engagement in the arts. ACM uniquely brings together theory, practice, and management. Faculty will join with practice leaders to provide learning that will move beyond classrooms into the field.

Global Asia (GA)



The Global Asia second major is an innovative programme that focuses on the forces, ideas and practices that are reshaping nations, businesses, institutions, individuals, and the ways of life in an Asian world that is being transformed by its global connections. It integrates knowledge from various fields including international relations, sociology, political science, economics, law and cultural studies.

Asia is re-emerging as a major centre of economic dynamism, innovation, and world history. It also faces enormous problems related to inequality, poverty, environmental degradation, geopolitical tensions, and social and personal upheaval. The aim of the GA major is to generate a holistic understanding of how and why these changes are occurring, how states and people are responding, and what this means for countries and citizens in Asia and beyond.

Public Policy and Public Management (PPPM)



The Public Policy and Public Management second major is designed to provide you with a general foundation in the nature of public and non-profit workplaces and their political, psychological, and legal environments. In particular, the major is unique in its emphasis on the integration of academic study with real policy problems that is further enhanced through the Public Policy Task Force Programme.

The Task Force is an important part of the PPPM curriculum and is designed to give you the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills acquired in the classroom to real world problems. You will engage in collaborative, client-oriented, and problem-solving projects on critical public policy and management issues.

Students majoring in Social Sciences can also select second majors from the other Schools.

GLOBAL EXPOSURE



STUDY MISSIONS

Argentina, Chile, China, Germany, India, Qatar, Russia, Spain, UAE, USA, Vietnam and Indonesia.

SUMMER EXCHANGE

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Hong Kong), Humboldt University (Germany)

OVERSEAS INTERSHIP

India, China, the Middle East and Mexico

OVERSEAS EXCHANGE

North and South America, Central America, Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania, Middle East

OVERSEAS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS

China, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand

ALUMNI & STUDENTS TESTIMONIALS

“In an increasingly VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, Ambiguous) world, the ability to view issues from multiple perspectives is not just helpful, but critical. My four years in SOSS helped cultivate in me a love for multi-disciplinary learning, respectful debate and discussion, and creative thinking. This has had a direct and positive impact on my work as today I’m able to analyze issues at work critically, take nuanced decisions, communicate articulately and confidently, and influence stakeholders effectively. These skills that SOSS education instill are absolutely essential for the ever-evolving job landscape, and will help in my career growth.”



Subir Roy, Bachelor of Social Science, Class of 2015,
Majored in Sociology and Public Policy and Public Management
APAC Human Resources Advisory,
UBS AG Singapore

“An SOSS education balances theory with opportunities for real-life application, challenging us to actively engage in different perspectives and strengthen our research and critical thinking skills. More broadly, the heart of a social sciences education cultivates a capacity for uncertainty and an ability to arrive at an answer in spite of uncertainty, fully aware of its limitations. All these have provided a strong foundation as I learn about new industries, business models and problems to be solved every day.”



Tan Wen Yun, Bachelor of Social Science and
Business Management, Class of 2017,
Major in Sociology and Marketing
Business Analyst (Management Consulting),
Delta Partners Group

“I have been fortunate to interact with many professors while studying in SMU. Being surrounded by some of the brightest minds motivated me to apply for postgraduate education. I would not be in graduate school if not for the training I acquired from the SOSS curriculum, the advice I received from faculty mentors and the encouragement from my peers.”



Lester Sim Wei Xiang, Bachelor of Social Science,
Class of 2014, Majored in Psychology
PhD Candidate, Psychology, Personality
and Social Contexts
University of Michigan

“I have gained tremendously from the interactive and engaging pedagogy at SOSS where every one speaks up with their unique perspectives. This is particularly crucial in an increasingly complex world where global and societal issues are no longer in isolation but to be examined and understood in a coherent manner. An education at SOSS has truly opened minds, hearts and doors.”



Tan Bao Ren, Bachelor of Social Science, Class of 2015,
Majored in Sociology and Public Policy
and Public Management,
Manager, Housing and Development Board

“Doing a degree in social science has open my eyes to a new world. Instead of taking the world we live in as it is, social sciences gave me multiple pairs of spectacles that I put on to see the world that is often taken for granted. It questions existing reality and gives us new perspectives in life. Have you ever experienced a feeling of enlightenment when you finished a class? That’s how I felt in my Sociological Theories class. If you want to have a similar experience, consider social sciences. A passion for humans is mandatory.”



Seah Tiong Kiat, Bachelor of Social Science
Class of 2018, Major in Sociology

“School of Social Sciences has provided me with many growth opportunities and exposure to different experiences. I had the opportunity to be part of SMU Patrons Day, SMU Social Science Society (SOSCIETY), and chair the SOSS Freshman Orientation Camp - The Mystery 2017. I also gained overseas exposure through an Overseas Community Service project in Laos. Every experience has helped me to grow as an individual and hone my leadership qualities. SMU is indeed a Different U, focusing on the holistic development of her students. Given another chance, I would definitely choose SMU again!”



Adelaide Seet, Bachelor of Social Science
Class of 2020, Major in Psychology

CAREER PROSPECTS

A Myriad of Career Options

Consulting, Finance, Human Resources, Management

Accenture
Bloomberg
Citibank
Credit Suisse
Deloitte
Government Investment Corporation
JP Morgan
McKinsey & Company
Procter & Gamble
Tableau Software
UBS AG
Unilever
Visa Worldwide

Government

Ministry of Defence
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Social and Family Development
Ministry of Trade and Industry
Prime Minister's Office
Singapore Tourism Board

Media, Marketing, Hospitality, Public Relations

Facebook
Hilton Hotels & Resorts
JCDecaux
MediaCorp
Ogilvy & Mather
Singapore Airlines
Singapore Press Holdings
SingTel
Young & Rubicam

Note: The information listed above is correct at the time of printing.

A Stepping Stone to a Top Postgraduate Degree

The rigorous and cross-disciplinary nature of the BSocSc programme has provided our graduates who majored in Psychology/Political Science/Sociology with a competitive edge in gaining admission into a wide range of top postgraduate programmes across the fields of business, education, humanities and the social sciences.

USA and Canada

Columbia University
Cornell University
Emory University
Harvard University
McGill University
University of California, Berkeley
University of Pennsylvania
University of Virginia
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Europe and United Kingdom

Bristol University
Erasmus University, Rotterdam
Goldsmiths College, London
London School of Economics and Political Science
University of Birmingham
University of Oxford

Asia and Australia

Korea University, Seoul
Monash University
University of Queensland

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SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT
UNIVERSITY

A Different U

School of Social Sciences

90 Stamford Road

Singapore 178903

Contact: +65 6808 5152

Website: www.socsc.smu.edu.sg

Undergraduate Enquiries: undergrad_socsc@smu.edu.sg