SOCIAL SCIENCE

Many of the most pressing problems of our time require a social scientific answer. From questions of the causes of conflict to the causes of poverty, from how to address climate change to how to manage the spread of infectious disease, and from how humans make decisions to how groups reach collective agreements – the social sciences take on some of our most enduring challenges as a species.

Students who complete a Social Science major at NYU Shanghai will be uniquely positioned to tackle a wide range of the 21st century’s global challenges, as well as to pursue an array of careers and programs of graduate study. In recognition of the fact that humanity’s most complex challenges will most likely require multidisciplinary answers, the NYUSH Social Science major offers students a unique opportunity both to learn to connect different social science fields and to pursue a focus in one discipline or topic.

With two innovative core courses about the classical challenges of Social Science and the new frontiers in Social Science methods, all Social Science majors at NYU Shanghai will be exposed to both the timeless questions of social science and the most cutting edge methodological tools available. Students also have the opportunity to take advantage of being in China through a hands-on course in social science research methods in China – a huge untapped place for studying social science.

In addition to the core courses, a cornerstone of the Social Science major is that it requires students to complete rigorous coursework in social science methods, which will equip them not just to understand social science research, but also to conduct it firsthand. Students will also complete two foundational courses, one on individual foundations and another on group analysis, to get a broad sense of the range of social scientific approaches to understanding, predicting, and solving society’s greatest challenges.

As they progress, students will design their own focus, consisting of three courses on one topic or discipline of their interest within the social sciences. In consultation with their advisor, students will craft an upper-level “Focus” track that either serves their interest in a particular social science discipline (for example political science or psychology) or a topic of inquiry (for example, human rights or the environment) from the perspective of multiple disciplines.

Every student will then connect these upper-level focus courses with the strong core, foundations, and methods training, to complete an independent research project as part of a one-semester senior year capstone project.
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

1. General Education Core Requirements: 10-12 courses.

   Global Perspectives on Society I  
   Global Perspectives on Society II  
   Perspectives on Humanities  
   One course in the category: Social Science Perspectives on China  
   One course in the category: Chinese Arts  
   2 classes from: Experimental Discovery in the Natural World; Science, Technology, and Society; Programming and Computational Thinking  
   Mathematics (Calculus recommended)  
   2 semesters of English if native Chinese speaker (based on placement)  
   4 semesters of Chinese through Intermediate II level (based on placement)

2. Major Requirements: 10 courses.

   Not every course listed is taught every semester, and in any given semester other courses may be offered that fulfill these requirements. While students will be able to meet all requirements for the major in Shanghai, some requirements may be met through equivalent courses in the Global Network with prior approval.

2 Foundational Courses (100-200 level)
   These courses provide an introduction to the foundational knowledge and building blocks of analytic methods in a range of social sciences. Typical coursework: A mix of lectures, discussion, assignments, shorter essays, quizzes, and/or exams.

   Microeconomics (ECON-SHU 150)  
   Introduction to Macroeconomics (ECON-SHU 1)  
   Economics of Global Business (ECON-SHU 251)  
   Introduction to Comparative Politics (SOCS-SHU 150)  
   Introduction to International Relations (SOCS-SHU 160)  
   Introduction to Psychology (PSYC-SHU 101)

2 Methods Courses (100-300 level)
   These courses equip students with tools to both critically consume and create advanced social scientific research.

   Causal Inference in the Social Sciences (ECON-SHU 213)  
   Statistics for the Social and Behavioral Sciences (MATH-SHU 20, formerly 130)  
   Econometrics (ECON-SHU 301)  
   Methods of Social Research (SOCS-SHU 141)
Mathematical Choice Theory (MATH-SHU 245)
Mathematics for Economists (ECON-SHU 201)

2 Core Courses (200-400 level) (prereq: GPS I)
The core courses are multidisciplinary courses that will create unexpected connections between the social science disciplines. The courses will give students an understanding of the history and philosophy of social science as well as its current challenges. They may also take advantage of our unique location in China. Students must take one course from each of the two core categories.

- **Classic Problems in Social Science**
  - Introduction to Social-Scientific Thinking

- **New Challenges in Social Science**
  - Complexity* (SOCS-SHU 301)
  - Researching Chinese Politics and Society (GCHN-SHU 270)

  *Complexity is a Technology Enhanced Education (TEE) Distributed Course, which means NYU Shanghai students may enroll in it from anywhere in the GNU.

3 Focus Courses (200-400 levels) – two must be 300 level or higher
These courses give students an in-depth look at one specific topic or one field. In consultation with their advisor, students may focus on one topic from the perspective of multiple fields, or they may focus on a particular social science discipline.

- Intermediate Microeconomics (ECON-SHU 10)
- Intermediate Macroeconomics (ECON-SHU 202)
- History of Economic Thought (ECON-SHU 203)
- Ethics and Economics (ECON-SHU 204)
- Poverty and Income Distribution (ECON-SHU 205)
- Economics of Energy and the Environment (ECON-SHU 206)
- Urban Economics (ECON-SHU 207)
- Financial Crises (ECON-SHU 209)
- Contemporary Chinese Economic Issues (ECON-SHU 212)
- Economic Development (ECON-SHU 255)
- Public Economics (ECON-SHU 353)

- Modern Chinese Governance (GCHN-SHU 240)
- Chinese Revolutions (GCHN-SHU 241)
- Chinese Environmental Studies (GCHN-SHU 243)
- 20th-Century East Asia-US Relations (GCHN-252)

- Media and Participation (INTM-SHU 225)
- Global Media Seminar - China (MCC-SHU 9451)
Focus Options: Discipline-Specific or Self-Designed

At the Focus stage of the major, students will work with their advisor and faculty advisor to propose a track. This track may be: Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, or Self-Designed. If a student chooses a discipline as a track, he/she must complete all Focus courses in that discipline, and will also address the discipline in the Capstone project. A student may also design his/her own interdisciplinary track around a topic of interest, which will also be reflected in the Capstone project. The student’s chosen track will appear on his/her transcript. In the event of a self-designed track, the title of that track will appear. Students will work with their major advisor to find the path that is best for them.

If students plan to enroll in economics courses for all three of their Focus Courses, we recommend they become an Economics major.

1 Capstone Course (400 level)
Students will participate in an advanced seminar course during one semester of their senior year. During this course they will conduct an independent research project using the methods, theories, and data with which they have become familiar over the course of completing this major. The capstone project must be completed in Shanghai.

3. General Electives: 9-11 courses (Must bring credit total to 128 combined in all categories)

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MINOR IN SOCIAL SCIENCE

Students who wish to complete a minor in Social Science must complete four classes from the above list of Social Science major courses.
SAMPLE SCHEDULES

This is just one example of how a student could organize his/her courses if pursuing a Social Science major. It assumes a student begins taking Social Science major courses in the freshman year. See Sample Schedule 2 for a sample plan that begins in the sophomore year. Students may propose alternative course sequences to their advisors.

Sample Schedule 1

Year 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS I</td>
<td>Core Class</td>
<td>Core Class</td>
<td>English or Chinese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS II</td>
<td><em>Foundational Course</em></td>
<td>Core Class</td>
<td>English or Chinese</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POH</td>
<td><em>Foundational Course</em></td>
<td>Core Class</td>
<td>Core Class or Chinese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Elective</td>
<td><em>Social Science Core</em></td>
<td>Core Class</td>
<td>Core Class or Chinese</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Elective</td>
<td><em>Social Science Core</em></td>
<td><em>Methods</em></td>
<td>Core Class or Gen. Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Elective</td>
<td><em>Focus</em></td>
<td><em>Methods</em></td>
<td>Core Class or Gen. Elective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Elective</td>
<td><em>Focus</em></td>
<td><em>Focus</em></td>
<td>General Elective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Sample Schedule 2

#### Year 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td>GPS I</td>
<td>Core Class</td>
<td>Core Class</td>
<td>English or Chinese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td>GPS II</td>
<td>General Elective</td>
<td>Core Class</td>
<td>English or Chinese</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Year 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td>POH</td>
<td>Core Class</td>
<td>Core Class</td>
<td>Core Class or Chinese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td>General Elective</td>
<td>Foundational Course</td>
<td>Social Science Core</td>
<td>Core Class or Chinese</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Year 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td>General Elective</td>
<td>Social Science Core</td>
<td>Methods</td>
<td>Core Class or Gen. Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td>General Elective</td>
<td>Foundational Course</td>
<td>Focus</td>
<td>Core Class or Gen. Elective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Year 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td>General Elective</td>
<td>Focus</td>
<td>Methods</td>
<td>General Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td>General Elective</td>
<td>Capstone</td>
<td>Focus</td>
<td>General Elective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Social Science Major Requirements

Addendum for Current Students

In addition to the below adjustments for the requirements for a major in Social Science, current NYU Shanghai students may also request consideration of substitute courses taken in the GNU if a reasonable case may be made that they satisfy the requirements.

2 Foundational Courses
Unchanged.

2 Methods Courses

- Students may request to substitute other statistics courses for *Statistics for the Social Sciences and Behavioral Sciences*, for example, *Statistics for Business and Economics* (BUSF-SHU 101) or *Probability and Statistics* (MATH-SHU 235, formerly 150).

2 Core Courses

- Students must complete 2 courses, however they do not need to differentiate between “Classic” and “New” categories.
- In addition to the courses listed, the courses *Capitalism, Socialism, Communism: Theory and Practice* (SOCS-SHU 229) and *Modern Chinese Governance* (GCHN-SHU 240) will also satisfy the core.

3 Focus Courses
Unchanged.

Capstone
Unchanged.