

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Programs

- Humanities and Social Sciences, PhD (<https://catalog.hbku.edu.qa/academic-degrees/chss/hss/humanities-social-sciences-phd/>)

Division Courses

Humanities and Social Sciences

HSS 701 Proseminar 3 Credits

Grade Mode: Standard Letter, Audit/Non Audit, Pass/Non Pass

The proseminar is designed to introduce first-year PhD students to cutting-edge research across the humanities and social sciences through presentations from a rotating selection of visiting scholars. In addition to expanding conceptual knowledge, these seminars provide a forum for students to be exposed to key issues in the research process. Students also build critical analysis abilities, synthesize across disciplines, and hone clear communication skills through focused activities.

HSS 702 Advanced Research Methods 3 Credits

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

This course prepares doctoral students to design and implement interdisciplinary research in Humanities and Social Sciences. They may do research for degree requirements (thesis) or as independent research projects. The course, therefore, discusses research paradigms, including ontological, epistemological, and axiological issues related to the choice of methodology. As such, the course examines the foundations of qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research, and the ethical issues related to research. These discussions will help student to link broader theoretical and conceptual perspectives and alternative research approaches through which to generate knowledge, construct ideas and present various arguments.

HSS 706 Doctoral Independent Study 3 Credits

Grade Mode: Pass/Non Pass

This course focuses on the student's research proposal and an initial exploration of the literature review. Under the supervision of their supervisor, Students are expected to finalize the writing of an extended thesis proposal of 8000 words (excluding the references) that will include the following sections: The background of the research, the rationale and motivation for their proposed research, the proposed theoretical framework and an initial literature review section.

HSS 710 Informal Political Culture in the Middle East 3 Credits

Grade Mode: Standard Letter, Audit/Non Audit

This course provides a platform for reevaluating political culture by focusing on its informal, unofficial, and independent aspects, diverging from the conventional perspective that predominantly associates political culture with state agencies and institutions. In the Middle East, a significant aspect of the state-society divide is reflected in how individuals perceive politics and how they form and refine their perceptions of it. Through a thorough exploration of 15 distinct yet interconnected subtopics, this course seeks to emphasize the coexistence, contradictions, and interactions between formal and informal dynamics within the Middle East.

HSS 720 Explorations in Interdisciplinarity 3 Credits

Grade Mode: Standard Letter, Audit/Non Audit

This course examines the ways in which interdisciplinarity is practiced in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Students will be exposed to research projects undertaken across contemporary fields of knowledge – including but not limited to the digital humanities, intercultural communication, translation and interpreting, cultural heritage, women and gender studies, sciences and technology studies – and yet inheriting from traditional “disciplines” that have founded the Humanities and Social Sciences (philosophy, literature, linguistics, law, sociology, political science, etc.). Class discussion will be tailored towards mapping the different types of knowledge integration and their tension with knowledge specialization (mono-, anti-, multi-, inter-, trans-disciplinarity). Exposure and discussion, the two pillars of this course, will equip students to critically reflect on the potentials and limitations of interdisciplinarity in the endeavor to bridge the gap between Society and the Humanities and Social Sciences.

HSS 890 Dissertation Hours 1-9 Credits

Grade Mode: Pass/Non Pass

Social Sciences

SS 600 Thinking and Practicing Interdisciplinarity in the Humanities and the Social Sciences 3 Credits

Grade Mode: Standard Letter, Audit/Non Audit

This course will introduce students to the hackneyed and complex notion of interdisciplinarity and to the ways in which it has been theorized in Interdisciplinarity Studies and practiced in Women, Digital and Translation Studies. It will invite students to develop their interdisciplinary skills in critical and reflexive ways.

SS 612 Research Methods 3 Credits

Grade Mode: Standard Letter, Audit/Non Audit

The Research Methods course is an essential component of the MA in Digital Humanities program, designed to equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to conduct rigorous research in the field. The course covers a wide range of research methods, including both qualitative and quantitative approaches, and provides hands-on experience using R for data analysis and visualization. Students will learn how to identify research problems, formulate research questions, conduct secondary research, and understand research integrity and ethics. The course also explores the use of Large Language Models (LLMs) in research and their potential applications in Digital Humanities. By the end of the course, students will have a solid foundation in research methods and be prepared to apply their skills to real-world research projects.

SS 662 The Gulf States and the International Order 3 Credits

Grade Mode: Standard Letter, Audit/Non Audit

This course analyses the contemporary Gulf States from the perspectives of politics, political sociology, economics and international relations. It seeks to locate the states in an international context in order to identify and evaluate the manner in which their policies have evolved. This course will seek to achieve this through an interdisciplinary analysis of the subject matter. It gives focus to the challenges faced and policy responses. The course will conclude with an examination of the challenges of economic, political and security reform in the Gulf States.