

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2020

Humanities and social sciences 110 (HAS 110)

Qualification	Undergraduate
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities
Module credits	8.00
Programmes	BEng Chemical Engineering BEng Chemical Engineering ENGAGE BEng Civil Engineering BEng Civil Engineering ENGAGE BEng Computer Engineering BEng Computer Engineering ENGAGE BEng Electrical Engineering BEng Electrical Engineering ENGAGE BEng Electronic Engineering BEng Electronic Engineering ENGAGE BEng Industrial Engineering BEng Industrial Engineering ENGAGE BEng Mechanical Engineering BEng Mechanical Engineering ENGAGE BEng Metallurgical Engineering BEng Metallurgical Engineering ENGAGE BEng Mining Engineering BEng Mining Engineering ENGAGE
Service modules	Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	2 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Anthropology and Archaeology
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

Social sciences: Perspectives on contemporary society

An introduction to long-standing questions about the nature of human societies and contemporary challenges. Topics to be discussed include globalisation and increasing connectedness; rising unemployment, inequality and poverty; rapid urbanisation and the modern city form; transformations in the nature of work; environmental degradation and tensions between sustainability and growth; shifts in global power relations; the future of the nation-state and supra-national governance structures; and possibilities for extending human rights and democracy. Critical questions are posed about modern selfhood, sociality, culture and identity against the background of new communications technologies, ever more multicultural societies, enduring gender, class and race inequities, and the emergence of new and the resurgence of older forms of social and political identity. These issues are approached from the vantage of our location in southern Africa and the continent, drawing on social science perspectives.

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