

SOC205 Singapore Society

Level: 2

Credit Units: 5 Credit Units

Language: ENGLISH

Presentation Pattern: EVERY SEMESTER

Synopsis:

Singapore's transformation as a "developing country" that is now part of the "First World" has often been considered exemplary. However, the island-city-nation-state also represents an exceptional case. In attempting to understand Singapore as a 'society' and Singaporeans as a 'people', we first trace its historical roots in pre-modern Southeast Asia and its evolution as a port city and British colony. Against the backdrop of the politics of decolonization, we examine the formation of Singapore as a nation-state, especially the impact of state-led modernization in shaping everyday life and social development. In so doing, we analyze the interrelationships between political rule, economic structure, and cultural change. In particular, we focus on themes such as globalization, nation-building and citizenship, ethnicity, language and religion, population planning and the family, class and gender, and civil society.

Topics:

- Singapore Society as a field of study: Introduction and Singapore in historical perspective
- Making of modern Singapore: Nationhood, nation-building, nationalisation; state-led modernisation
- Culture, family and gender: Ethnicity, language and politics of identity; family and gender relations
- Religion and the secular state: Religious diversity and changes in religious affiliation
- Social divisions and everyday life: social divisions, mobility, consumption
- Civil society and Singapore society from a holistic perspective

Learning Outcome:

- Demonstrate both an analytical and holistic knowledge of Singapore as a society: its past, present and future
- Discuss Singapore's transformation from colony to nation-state and its current challenges
- Recognize the significance of historical legacies in understanding contemporary Singapore
- Differentiate between the sociological concepts of a 'society', 'nation-state', 'culture' or a 'people'
- Analyze the interrelationships between polity, economy, culture, and social structure in Singapore
- Discuss Singapore's current challenges and new developments in light of historical legacies and precedents
- Examine the logic of policy thinking and the efficacy of policy responses to contemporary issues
- Question aspects of everyday life and social change in relation to politics and social structure by cultivating intellectual curiosity about these
- Demonstrate views that are both theoretically grounded and empirically grounded
- Develop independent and critical thinking in questioning conventional wisdom, especially in light of new challenges

Assessment Strategies:

Continuous Assessment Component	Weightage (%)
TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT	25

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Sub-Total	50

Examinable Component	Weightage (%)
Written Exam	50
Sub-Total	50

Weightage Total **100**