

List of Complementary courses From Other Departments That Can Be Read under Unrestricted Electives

Please note that the recommendation below is not exhaustive.

| Subject / Level / Course Code | Course Descriptions | Remarks |
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| Psychology | | |
| PL1101E - Introduction to Psychology | This course introduces psychology as an empirical social science. The aim is to provide students with a broad overview of the different areas of psychology. There are two emphases: (1) expose students to the diversity of topics within the discipline of psychology; (2) provide students with questions and approaches used by psychologists. In doing so, we look at the biological basis for perception, cognition and behaviour, and introduce students to the subfields of behavioural, developmental, social, cognitive, and clinical psychology. | Students who are keen to read Psychology courses at Level 2000 and beyond would need to complete this gateway course as a pre-requisite. |
| PL2131 - Research and Statistical Methods I | This course is aimed at equipping students with the critical thinking and analytical skills necessary as a foundation for evaluating or carrying out empirical research in psychology. It is an essential course for psychology major students. It consists of two sections: the first deals with the design of psychological research; the second covers basic descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. Students will be taught how to design their own empirical study, to carry out appropriate statistical analyses on the data collected so as to draw valid conclusions, and how to write up their findings. Ethical aspects of psychological research are covered. | This course can be taken in lieu of SW3101 Social Work Research Methods. |
| PL3105 - Social Psychology | This course provides a broad foundation for the study of human social behaviour. Topics such as attitudes, social cognition, interpersonal relations and group processes are discussed. One aim of this course is to introduce students to the theories and research of social psychology. A second aim is to help students appreciate how the findings of social psychologists are relevant and applicable to the day-to-day situations in our lives. | Pre-requisite: PL1101E Introduction to Psychology |

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| PL3106 - Abnormal Psychology | <p>This core course covers most of the common mental health problems identified for children and adults, e.g. eating disorders, behavioural problems, attention deficits, learning disabilities, schizophrenia, anxiety, stress, depression, personality disorders, sexual adjustment, substance abuse, suicide, and dementia. The lectures and discussion groups provide an introduction to clinical intervention, but emphasis is placed on the theoretical formulation of problems. Whenever possible, films and case studies are used to supplement the textbook and readings, and a visit to the local Institute of Mental Health will usually be arranged.</p> | <p>Pre-requisite: PL1101E Introduction to Psychology</p> <p>Preclusion: SW3217 Mental Health and Illness (Social Work Elective)</p> |
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| PL3242 - Health Psychology | <p>This course explores the role of psychological factors in physical health. Topics covered may include the relationship of mind and body, the role of human behaviour in health, stress and coping as they relate to health, the nature of illness, patient-practitioner relations, chronic illness and disability, death and dying, and the relationship of psychology to such important health problems as AIDS, cancer, heart disease and pain.</p> | <p>Pre-requisite: PL1101E Introduction to Psychology</p> <p>This course will be beneficial for Social Work majors who are keen to pursue a career in Medical Social Work.</p> |
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| PL3254 - Trauma Psychology | <p>This course provides an overview of current psychological theories in the understanding of human responses to psychological trauma and life adversities. Topics include, traumatic guilt, acute stress reactions, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), complex PTSD, and other disorders (e.g. personality disorders, depression) resulting from interpersonal, relational and family violence, sexual victimization, traumatic loss and death, disaster, and other critical life events. Resilience and post-traumatic growth in the face of life challenges will also be discussed. This course focuses on understanding trauma in the context of comorbidities and complexities, and how to adapt treatment to a wide range of trauma reactions.</p> | <p>Pre-requisites: PL1101E Introduction to Psychology PL3106 Abnormal Psychology</p> |
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| PL3880C - Alcohol, Drugs and Behaviours | The overarching objective of the class is to allow students to become knowledgeable about basic pharmacology and understand how neuropharmacology can lead to changes in behaviour. The teaching style will be lecture with discussion of relevant scientific studies from the animal and human literature. Major topics covered will be neurophysiology, neuropharmacology, effects of alcohol, cocaine, marijuana and nicotine on humans. | Pre-requisite: PL1101E Introduction to Psychology |
| Sociology | | |
| SC1101E - Making Sense of Society | Students are introduced to the concepts used in Sociology and Anthropology. The main objective is to train students to use Sociology in analysing social institutions and processes. For this reason, students are encouraged to relate their experiences in society to the discipline of Sociology and Anthropology. The topics covered in the course are the logic and methods of social investigation; family, work and organisation; power and the state; social inequality (including gender and ethnicity); mass communication and popular culture; values and beliefs; and deviance and social control. | |
| SC2101 - Methods of Social Research | This is an introductory course to the basic concepts and tools of social research, covering the areas of research of problem definition, research design, measurement, and data collection, processing, and analysis. Students are given in-depth understanding of what qualitative, e.g. participant observation, in-depth interviewing, and quantitative, e.g. survey, data collection techniques involve. In addition, students are introduced to qualitative and quantitative data analysis techniques. Students are taught the important aspects of making a good presentation of research findings. This course is mounted for all students in NUS with interest in research methods. | This course can be taken in lieu of SW3101 Social Work Research Methods. |
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| <p>SC2204 - Social Inequalities - Who Gets Ahead?</p> | <p>This course addresses a seemingly simple question: who gets ahead? It introduces students to some of the key theoretical approaches and methodological tools for finding answers to this question. More specifically, it aims at helping students acquire a good understanding of relevant theories, measurement issues, and class maps, structures, societies, and dynamics. The course is accessible to all students who want to understand the impact of class and stratification on contemporary societies.</p> | |
| <p>SC2205 - Sociology of Family</p> | <p>This course focuses on theories of family and social change, by examining perspectives on families, drawing on literature from history, anthropology, sociology, and demography. Questions addressed include: What is a family? What is the relationship between family and household structure and economic, political, and cultural change both historically and in contemporary time? How do couples allocate their time and money in relationships? How do families vary by social class and race/ethnicity? How have attitudes, expectations, and behaviors surrounding childbearing and childrearing changed? Theoretical perspectives on the family are supplemented with case studies of change and variation in families and households.</p> | |
| <p>SC2211 - Medical Sociology</p> | <p>This course will examine the relationship between society and health-related issues. The differing notions of "illness" and "wellness," and how societies influence the type, definition and distribution of disease and illness will be examined. The social organization of medicine, the social functions of healthcare institutions in society will also be explored. Special emphasis will also be given to the role of the state in providing healthcare as well as the relationship between the state and the health industry. This course is mounted for students throughout NUS with interest in society and health-related issues.</p> | <p>This course will be beneficial for Social Work majors who are keen to pursue a career in Medical Social Work.</p> |
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| <p>SC2212 - Sociology of Deviance</p> | <p>This course introduces students to the sociological study of deviance and social control, distinguishing it as a field of research from biological and psychological explanations of deviance. It will trace the historical development of sociological theories on deviance and introduce students to contemporary approaches to deviance and crime. These perspectives will be utilized and illustrated through a study of the changing patterns of defining and controlling deviance in modern societies with reference to selected substantive issues. Students who have a keen interest in issues of social order, social control and conformity will find this course attractive.</p> | |
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| <p>SC2226 - Sociology of Mental Health</p> | <p>This course introduces students to the key issues in the sociology of mental health. It emphasizes the social influences on mental disorders, especially factors associated with the family-of-origin, while acknowledging the medical aspects of mental health. The consequences of mental disorders on individuals and their ecological systems will also be discussed. Students will be equipped with the knowledge to frame mental disorders from a biopsychosocial perspective, view mental disorders as social conditions and be able to attest to the social construction of medical diagnosis of mental disorders.</p> | |
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| <p>SC3230 - Volunteer Workforce</p> | <p>A flourishing modern society can be promoted by volunteerism and civic engagement. Considering that volunteerism is perceived as a crucial indicator of livable society, it has been a concern of many countries including Singapore to promote volunteering among citizens. Mainly through various non-profit voluntary organizations, volunteer workforce helps attain the goal of civic, livable, and harmonious society. This course thus pursues three main themes: (1) the relationship between civil society and civic engagement, (2) the precursors of volunteer workforce (i.e., what makes people volunteer?), and (3) the outcomes of volunteerism (e.g., life satisfaction, health, and status attainment).</p> | |

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| Communications and New Media | | |
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| NM2203 - Social Media in Communication Management | The focus of this course is on the dynamics and management of social media and how it has changed communication management, especially in the fields of public relations and advertising. Topics examined include the impact of digital influence, the relationship between traditional and social media, social media trends, pitfalls in the use of social media, management and evaluation of social media, the future of social media and the “internet of things”. This course will also touch on current issues affecting the industry due to the rise of social media and the resultant implications for both industry and society. | |
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| NM2220 - Introduction to Media Writing | This introductory course provides instruction and practice in writing for the mass media, including the Internet. It explores the similarities and differences in writing styles for all mass media and for the professions of journalism, public affairs, public relations, advertising and telecommunications. It emphasizes accuracy, responsibility, clarity and style in presenting information through the various channels of mass communication. It surveys communication theories of various professions that communicate via the mass media, establishing the basis for advanced studies in writing and communication. It helps students acquire the writing skills they need in communication management careers. | |
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| <p>NM2302 - Mobility and New Media</p> | <p>This course examines the relationship between mobile communications and new media. The first half covers the socio-cultural, political, spatial and economic forms of mobility facilitated and enhanced by new media: the rise of the information economy, digital divides, political mobilisation, cultural globalisation and migration. The second half concentrates on media platforms and devices that give rise to emergent forms of mobile communication and social connection: issues of privacy/publicness, surveillance, immersiveness and information overload that have arisen with the intensifying use of locative media; and possibilities for sociability/intimacy, disembodiment and virtual mobility via identity experimentation.</p> | |
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| <p>NM3230 - Digital Storytelling</p> | <p>The most compelling media content makes use of evocative images, and sometimes an image itself is the story. Knowing how to make, edit, and communicate with images are key skills in the digital age. Students enrolled in this course will be introduced to the skills, theories and methods around communicating with both moving and still imagery. The course will focus on using digital tools to capture, edit and present images as data and for storytelling, communicating with visual imagery in the digital age, and the study and use of visual images for research and communication.</p> | |
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| <p>NM3232 - Strategic Communication</p> | <p>This course introduces students to the concepts and applications of strategic communication management process to meet organisational goals and objectives. Building on the theoretical foundation of strategic communications and applied social scientific research, students will learn to evaluate, analyse and monitor research programmes, and to design communication plans in public, non-profit, and for-profit organisations. Emphasis is placed on learning and conducting assessments of organisational need, performing situational analysis, analysing message design, evaluating media choice, exploring traditional and emerging media tools, and planning effective communication strategies for the respective organisations.</p> | |
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| <p>NM3237 - Health Communication</p> | <p>This seminar is designed to introduce students to a wide range of scholarship in health communication. The seminar will address such issues as doctor-patient interactions, illness narratives, cultural understanding of health, social support, and health campaigns, mass media theories, technologically-mediated health delivery, and socially constructed health meanings to offer an insight into developing more meaningful communicative practices of healthcare. With an emphasis on application, the course equips students with a foundational understanding of the ways in which health communication projects can be conceptualized and delivered.</p> | <p>This course will be beneficial for Social Work majors who are keen to pursue a career in Medical Social Work.</p> |
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| <p>Political Science</p> | | |
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| PS2244/SSA2222 - Public Administration in Singapore | This course deals with major themes and issues in public administration with specific reference to Singapore. It covers relevant domains of the city-state's governance and explores issues such as the relationship between politics and administration, meritocracy and performance, combating corruption, grassroots administration, and e-governance. It also discusses administrative trends and challenges in contemporary Singapore. | |
| PS3262 - Managing Non-Profit Organisations | <p>This course presents a broad overview of non-profit organisation management. Based on public administration and strategic management theory, it focuses on practical problem-solving ideas. Topics to be considered include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shaping an organisation's vision and mission 2. SWOT analysis 3. Decision-making 4. Establishing strategic management capacity 5. Inter-organisational cooperation and partnership 6. Other management techniques | |
| PS3271 - Public Policy Making | This course covers the institutional and procedural dimensions of public policy-making. It introduces theories of policy-making, such as rationality, incrementalism, and policy networks, and it explores how major political institutions-including executives, legislatures, bureaucracies and interest groups-affect the policy-making process. The stages of policy-making, such as agenda-setting and policy formulation, implementation, evaluation and termination, are also considered. Case studies are used to illustrate these complex processes. The course is designed for students who are interested in governance and policy-making and may be considering a career in the public sector. | |
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| Malay Studies | | |
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| MS2213 - Families and Households - Lived Experiences | <p>This course aims to provide an understanding of contemporary forms and practices of Malay families and households. It discusses the underlying concepts in family studies and prevalent notions of the Malay family and household derived from earlier studies. A major focus is to show the changing nature of Malay family and household structures as well as their diverse forms. Furthermore, the dynamic social relationships in households will be analyzed from different perspectives. In addition the course explores how Malay families "design" family styles in a context of changing societies. The course is targeted for students interested in family studies.</p> | |
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| MS3209 - The Malays of Singapore | <p>Who are the Malays of Singapore? How are they perceived and how do they perceive themselves? These and other related questions will be raised in this course. To answer these questions, we will discuss the Malays in the socio-economic and political context they live in. The course is divided into five topics: Topic 1 looks at the socio-history of the Malays. Topic 2 introduces approaches in studying Malays of Singapore. Topics 3, 4 and 5 look at different dimensions of their life in Singapore i.e. as Singapore citizens, as part of the Malay "community" and as members of "Malay families".</p> | |
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| MS3216 - Gender and Islam | <p>This course studies gender relations and the social construction of femininities and masculinities within the Malay-Muslim world. Theories and concepts analysing gender roles and representations in the spheres of family, work, arts, media, social movements and religious texts and laws will be examined. An understanding and appreciation of debates and contestations around questions of gender agency, empowerment or disempowerment as they relate to Islam forms one of the main thrusts of the course.</p> | |

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| Centre for Language Studies | | |
| Chinese Language | | |
| LAC1201 - Chinese 1 | This course is meant for students with no prior knowledge of the target language. Students with prior knowledge (including spoken proficiency) must contact CLS to take a placement test. | For beginners who do not have any formal and informal education in Chinese and have no proficiency in spoken Chinese. |
| LAC2201 - Chinese 2 | This course is a continuation of Chinese 1. It consists of three main components: conversation, grammar and Chinese character learning. Another 280 Chinese characters and 250 phrases will be introduced. Emphasis is placed on listening, speaking, reading and the writing of Chinese characters. Students are required to give short speeches and to conduct projects in tutorials. | Pre-Requisite: LAC1201 Chinese 1 or Passed Placement Test |
| Malay Language | | |
| LAM1201 - Malay 1 | This course is meant for students with no prior knowledge of the target language. Students with prior knowledge (including spoken proficiency) must contact CLS to take a placement test. | Only for beginners who do not have formal and informal knowledge in Malay/Bahasa Indonesia. Students with prior knowledge must sit for a placement test to be allocated to a suitable level. |
| LAM2201 - Malay 2 | This course is a progression from Malay 1 and it seeks to build upon the standard attained by students in that course. This follow-up course introduces students by gradation to the use of standard Malay in relation to administration, commerce and the modern professions. The overriding aim of the course is for students to attain a functional competency in the Malay language for formal and practical purposes where necessary and relevant, aspects of Malay grammar would be taught. | Pre-Requisite: LAM1201 Malay 1 or Passed Placement Test |

| Tamil Language | | |
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| LAL1201 - Tamil 1 | This course is meant for students with no prior knowledge of the target language. Students with prior knowledge (including spoken proficiency) must contact CLS to take a placement test. | Only for beginners who do not have formal and informal knowledge in Tamil. Students with prior knowledge must sit for a placement test to be allocated to a suitable level. |
| LAL2201 - Tamil 2 | This course is a follow up to and continuation of Tamil 1. By the end of the course, students are expected to have a good grammatical understanding of the Tamil language and to have a vocabulary which makes it possible for them to handle all four aspects in Tamil language learning (speaking, listening, reading and writing) with ease and effectiveness. There will be an introduction to features of idiomatic Tamil and to everyday usages. Students will be able to write short compositions and letters and to read newspaper articles, stories and short poems. | Pre-Requisite: LAL1201 Tamil 1 or Passed Placement Test |
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| Chua Thian Poh Community Leadership Centre | | |
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| CLC2204 - Community Development with Youth | This course introduces students to the approaches for youth and communities to achieve the twin aims of youth development and community development. We explore various community-based theories, frameworks and practices of youth participation and engagement, including: Community Youth Development, youth-adult partnership, youth leadership, youth empowerment, youth-led community organising, youth philanthropy, youth-led research. The applications of these concepts in social issues concerning youth in Singapore and elsewhere, as well as their possible impacts and challenges, shall also be examined in this course. | |
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| <p>CLC3301 - Communicating Social Issues in Singapore</p> | <p>Rooted in the discipline of community development, the course aims to cover various frameworks including community-based participatory approaches, the diffusion approach, and community development models and frameworks. These core principles help students think about the practices and theories of communicating for social change and allows students to critically engage with the approaches of development communication. Development communication focuses on the communication processes of social development. Fundamentally, communication for social change and community participation are understood from the perspectives of social marketing, social mobilisation, entertainment-education, media advocacy, information dissemination, and behaviour change. More specifically, the literature behind participatory approaches of the social process of communication that impact the community development process will be highlighted. The course will be tailored for the Singapore context where core elements of the theorising will be applied to various social issues in Singapore.</p> | |
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| <p>CLC3303 - Community Leadership</p> | <p>This course introduces students to the theory and practice of community leadership. Students will be exposed to basic leadership theories, models and frameworks including transformational leadership, transactional leadership, servant leadership, as well as contingent models of leadership. Students will also learn concepts related to community leadership such as power, culture, and conflict in the community. Finally, students will develop critical competencies in leading and managing in the community such as influence and persuasion, negotiation, communication, empathy, and empowerment.</p> | |
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| CLC3307 - Literacy and Community Development | With the rapid growth of digital technology and the evolving competencies needed for individuals to participate meaningfully in contemporary society, it is crucial for the community development field to view literacy as social practices, and more than a set of technical, unitary skills in reading and writing. This course introduces students to various community-based approaches to literacy, such as critical literacy, multiliteracies, participatory literacy education and social partnerships. Using an interdisciplinary approach, we will also examine the practices, contexts and power relations concerning literacy that are essential to community development. | |
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