

## COURSE OUTLINE

**Course Code / Title** : HS1002 Singapore Society In Transition

**Pre-requisites** : NIL

**No. of AUs.** : 3

**Contact Hours** : 39

### Course Aims

Contemporary Singapore has been described by observers in many different ways. The country has been perceived by some as a model of economic success and multi-ethnic harmony. Others have criticized the high degree of state regulation in the nation-state. This course provides a sociological perspective on various aspects of Singapore society, from its historical formation to its post-independence social transformation. Issues to be covered include the question of national identity and culture. We examine whether Singaporeans possess a common identity and a culture to call their own. We will analyze issues concerning the exercise of political power and the maintenance of authority. We explore methods of governance that shape society and individuals. Finally, we examine social divisions, for example, class, gender, and religious affiliations. Sociology students will learn to develop their sociological lens. That is, their ability to relate personal problems of everyday life to the larger political, economic, social and cultural issues which will especially prepare them for future courses in the Social Sciences.

### Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Outline some key theoretical perspectives in Sociology.
2. Discuss critically the promises and problems facing contemporary Singapore.
3. Identify key facets of economic, social, infrastructural and institutional dynamics shaping Singapore's transformations.
4. Analyse the intricate networks and connections embedded within and beyond Singapore's boundaries.
5. Apply the concepts of engaging the issues facing Singapore that we learnt throughout the course.

### Course Content

Week 1: Developing our socio-spatial lens

Week 2: Formation of Modern Singapore

Week 3: Governing Singapore

Week 4: Singaporean Culture

Week 5: Social Stratification – who gets ahead?

Week 6: Screening of documentaries: Singapore Gaga (2005) and Gods Must Be Hungry (2005)

Week 7: Gender and Family

Week 8: Religion

Week 9: Inter-Ethnic Relations

Week 10: Changing Migration Contours

Week 11: Public Space

Week 12: Civil Society

Week 13: Exam Review

### **Course Assessment**

CA1 Class Participation : 10%

CA2 Term paper : 30%

CA3 Class Presentation : 10%

Final Examination : 50%

**Total** -----  
**100%**