

LMD 1st-Year

Lecture 01: **SHS Definitions and Origins**

1- Definition of HSS:

1-1- Human sciences or humanities (HS) are the academic disciplines that study human culture, using methods that are primarily analytical or critical and having significant historical elements.

They include: - Ancient and modern languages (classics). - Literature. - Philosophy. - Religion. - Visual arts (Media types, Drawing, Painting, Film) and Performing arts (Music, dance, theatre)

1-2- Social sciences (SS): are branches of science that deal with the institutions and functions of human society and with the interpersonal relationships of individuals as members of society. In other terms, social sciences tend to study the humans' behaviours in a given society.

They include: - Anthropology - Economics - Political sciences - Psychology - Sociology - Communication studies - Education - Geography - History - Law and Linguistics - Public administration.

N.B. Sometimes you find that (History, Law, Linguistics and Public administration ...) are considered with other branches in the middle between Social sciences and Humanities.

2- Aims of HSS:

The main aims of HSS are: 1- To promote civic competence. 2- To help people develop their ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good.

3-The history of Social and Human Sciences:

The history of Human Sciences:

In the west, the study of humanities can be traced to ancient Greece. As the basis of a broad education for citizens. A major shift occurred with **the Renaissance humanism** of the fifteenth century, when the humanities began to be regarded as subjects to study rather than practice, with corresponding shift away from

traditional fields into areas such as literature and history. In the 20th century, this view was in turn challenged by **the postmodernist movement**, which sought to redefine the humanities in more egalitarian terms suitable for democratic society.

The history of the social sciences:

It begins in **the Age of Enlightenment** after 1650, which saw a revolution within natural philosophy, changing the basic framework by which individuals understood what was “scientific”. Social sciences came forth from the moral philosophy of the time and were influenced by **the Age of Revolution**, such as **the Industrial Revolution** and **the French Revolution**.

The term “social science” may either refer to the specific sciences of society established by thinkers such as Comte, Durkheim, Marx, and, Weber, or more generally to all disciplines outside of “noble science” and arts.

By the late 19th century, the academic social sciences were constituted of five fields: jurisprudence and amendment of the law, education, health, economy and trade, and art.

04-The differences between SS and HS:

- *Humanities and social sciences deal with human aspects like politics, law, linguistics, economics, and psychology.

- * One of the major differences between the two is that humanities involve more critical and analytical approach whereas social sciences deal more with scientific approach.

- * Humanities are considered more philosophical than social sciences.

- * As there is a scientific approach to social sciences, it is considered to be a branch of study in between humanities and natural sciences.

- * Humanities is a branch of science that deals with the heritage and the question of what makes us human.

- * The study of humanities can be traced back to ancient Greece. However, Social sciences were influenced by the French revolution and the industrial revolution.

5- Research methods in HSS:

Research is a scientific undertaking, which, by means of logical methods, aims to discover new facts or old facts and to analyze their 1 sequence, 2 interrelationships, 3 casual explanation and 4 natural laws which govern them.

* Human and Social sciences apply scientific methods to social inquiry on human beings and their life contents.

* HS scientists use different methodologies: description, experiential method, statistical and historical methods.

* HS methodology starts with an assumption and is gradually filled by a series of observations and experiences.

* The data collection methods are often done by a variety of techniques like field observations, interviews, and focus group discussions.

“Scientific method” in HSS

Scientific method is important in HSS as in physical or natural sciences.

HS scientist must:

- Observe carefully.
- Classify.
- Analyze their facts.
- Make generalizations.
- And attempt to develop and test hypothesis to explain these generalization.

HS scientists use the following approach:

Observe

Define the problem Review the literature (become familiar with other)

Observe some more

Develop a theoretical framework

Formulate a hypothesis “make a statement predicting the result”

Choose the research design

Collect the necessary data

. Analyze the results.

Draw conclusions.

6- The main objectives of the HSS process are:

1- To discover new facts.

1- To verify and test old facts.

3- To understand human behavior.

4- To know the connection between human activities and natural laws.

5- To develop new scientific tools concepts and theories –In order to extend the area of knowledge.

6- To understand the functioning of the society and explore social reality.

7- To study individual behavior and social action.

8- To evaluate social problems, their effects, and the solutions.;