ABOUT HASS

At SUTD, our students’ exposure to humanities, arts, and social sciences ensures that they graduate with a comprehensive understanding of the world they are creating, designing, and building for. Whether developing a gadget, an app, an integrated online system or a city, understanding the social, cultural, political, and economic dimensions of our world is crucial for technologists of the future.

HASS provides you with critical analytical frameworks and key research skills to understand society and societal needs. Our learning experiences integrate perspectives from humanities, arts and social sciences with engineering and architecture to develop well-rounded designers and technologists with a deep understanding of the world. You will graduate as a future-ready leader conscious of the social role and impact of technology and design innovations.
CORE SUBJECTS

FRESHMORE: TERMS 1 AND 2

Humanities Core Subject
World Texts and Interpretations

Humans have always told stories as they try to understand themselves and their world. Eventually these stories began to be written down, and some such texts have endured for centuries and spread far beyond their locus of origin. Their richness invites multiple forms of interpretation, and their depiction of the human condition has influenced artists, writers, statesmen, filmmakers, and philosophers throughout the centuries. They are woven into a dense web of intertextuality that affects our lives even today.

World Texts and Interpretations equips students with critical reading, writing, and thinking skills by engaging with the interpretative richness of these major documents of human civilisation. As members of a larger community of interpretation, you will learn to identify the connections between various texts and the ways that conversations develop between thinkers throughout history. You will be exposed to different ways of reading and interpreting classic texts and encouraged to develop your own interpretations.

Social Sciences Core Subject
Theorising Society, the Self, and Culture

This subject introduces students to the social sciences and provides you with the conceptual tools necessary to make sense of the complex problems that you will face in the modern world. The subject cultivates an understanding of core issues, fundamental theories and philosophical stances in the social sciences, and explores the manner in which social scientists formulate questions about society that can be addressed with empirical research. Canonical social science texts and methodologies are explored in lectures, discussions and group exercises.

ELECTIVES

PILLAR YEARS: TERMS 4 TO 8

HUMANITIES

Fine Arts
• Film Studies: History, Theory and Practice
• Film Studies II: Production
• Non-fiction and Ethnographic Film: Theory and Practice

History
• Modern China: Pluralism, and Beyond Territoriality
• Photography in Modern Southeast Asia History
• Questioning Modernity in Europe and Asia
• Southeast Asia under Japan: Motives, Memoirs, and Media
• The History of International Development in Asia: The Role of Engineers and Designers
• The World Since 1400

Literature
• Darwin and Design
• Global Shakespeares
• The Chinese Lyrical Tradition: Arts, Literature and Landscape Design
• The Word and the World: Introducing Literary Theory

Philosophy
• Ethics of Leadership
• Sages through the Ages: Readings in Early Indian and Chinese Religion and Philosophy
• The Question of Being

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Anthropology
• Design in the Anthropocene
• “How the Things People Make, Make People”: Material Things in Social Life
• Magic, Science and Religion
• Rice Cultures: Technology, Society, and Environment in Asia

Business and Economics
• Critical Management Studies
• Microeconomics
• Organisational Processes

Psychology
• Human Behaviour, Technology and Design
• Introduction to Psychology
• Psychological Approaches to Bilingualism

Research Methodology
• Making Maps I: Introduction to Spatial Analysis, Data Visualisation and Map Design

Sociology
• Gender Sexuality and Society
• Social Theories of Urban Life
• Sociology of Deviance and Social Control
• Technology and the Self
• Who Gets Ahead? Sociology of Social Networks and Social Capital
HASS MINORS

Digital Humanities (DH) Minor

The DH minor equips students with the skills to develop and apply digital methods in the study of the arts and humanities. The application of computational techniques facilitates new and innovative research that would not be possible using traditional methods.

You will acquire three main skills, namely, archiving, analysis, and visualisation, to help enhance your core work in the arts and humanities, centred on interpretation, reasoning and communication.

You will need to complete:

- Two Freshmore HASS core subjects
- Term 4: DH core subject
- Terms 5 to 8: Four designated DH electives

Design, Technology and Society (DTS) Minor

The DTS minor emphasises critical analysis of the social dimensions of design processes and projects. Grounded in SUTD’s design curriculum, you will be able to cast the critical eye of the social scientist and the reflective sensitivity of the humanist to inform and augment the generation of creative design outcomes that address pressing contemporary issues in a positive, productive way.

The objective of the DTS minor is to educate future design practitioners who can:

- Identify and respond critically, creatively, and constructively to the social, cultural, economic, political, and psychological forces that drive design practice and technology development.
- Reflect on, analyse, and anticipate the ways in which your design outcomes will benefit, displace, or otherwise impact the lives of individuals, societies, and the environment.

You will need to complete:

- Two Freshmore HASS core subjects
- Term 5: DTS core subject
- Term 4, and Terms 6 to 8: Four designated DTS electives

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES

All SUTD students have the opportunity to participate in research right from day one, including joining as a junior member of a faculty-led project in an area he/she is interested in.

HASS regularly organises international conferences, workshops and colloquia on salient themes in the social sciences and the humanities. Internationally recognised scholars are also invited for open presentations and talks. These serve the dual role of linking SUTD scholars to the global research community, while exposing SUTD students to an ever-broadening sphere of topics.

This consists of word embeddings generated from 19th century literature. Gender encoded unigrams, such as ‘she’ and ‘he’, by female authors are depicted as large, pink circles while the corresponding male authored unigrams are depicted as large, grey circles.