

# Exploring the Social Sciences

*(Economics, Political Science, Sociology, Communications)*



Fall 2020

Are you a rising college freshman who is thinking of taking a gap year, or a gap semester, before starting your college career? Want to explore a career in the applied social sciences, like psychology, economics, public policy and government, advocacy and human rights, or journalism and communication?

Take a virtual class - or 2, or 3, or 4 - from some of our top foreign universities with other international and local students, in English. All classes listed here are taught at the introductory levels with no prerequisites.

Consider combining your academic coursework with a practical, team-based learning approach of an API [Innovation](#) or [Community Engagement](#) Lab or with an opportunity to gain important professional skills with a [Gap Virtual Global Internship](#). Our team has identified and tagged particular courses listed below that pair well with these opportunities.

Popular classes to choose from include:

- Communication and Media in the Digital Age
- Cultural Psychology
- Current Issues in International Affairs
- Economics and Political Science in the EU
- LGBTQ Diversity and Sexual Identity in Latin America
- Democracy in Central America
- Introduction to International Relations
- Global Citizenship and Intercultural Competence
- Genocide and Human Rights in the 20th Century
- Regional Economics and Rural Development
- Social Policy and Community Development

Remember, this is just a small sample of the virtual courses available—talk with an API advisor to let us help you find your perfect course or track!

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## POPULAR COURSES

[Communication and Media in the Digital Age](#) at Universidad Pablo de Olavide: This course introduces students to the major social, economical, political and cultural debates affecting communication and the new media landscapes in Spain and the US. Topics include an overview

of the historical development and main theories of mass communication, and examine critical issues of the digital age such as the rise of citizen journalism, the emergence of social media, the growing role of grassroots movements, copyright and free expression issues, media representation issues, and their overall impact on democracy, ethics and culture.

[Cultural Psychology](#) at Universidad Veritas: This course introduces students to the field of psychology that examines the influence of culture upon human behavior and cognitive processes. We will focus on such topics as cultural factors in self-concept, gender roles, motivation, cognition, emotions, relationships, and social values. Our exploration will be based on psychological theories, research, guest lecturers, and field experiences.

[Current Issues in International Affairs](#) at Libertas University: Course Objectives: 1. To be familiar with the major international and national issues; 2. To be able to gather information regarding these issues, to summarize their essential features, to formulate an educated opinion about them and, finally, to present and defend such opinion orally or in a written form; 3. To develop and practice communication skills including critical thinking.

[Economics and Political Science in the EU](#) at Universidad Pablo de Olavide: The role of the European Union within the international context has been more and more important in the last decades. This course focuses on the origins, development and current issues from a political and economic perspective. It deals with topics such as: unity and diversity in Europe, European institutions, multiculturalism and multilingualism, the difficulties of a common market, etc.

[Global Citizenship and Intercultural Competence](#) at the University of Limerick: With technology making the world ever-smaller, and with the ease of travel between countries, chances are that you will meet someone with a different cultural heritage at some point. Learning about other cultures allows you to move outside your own bubble, and find new ways of thinking, and new ways of approaching problems. This module aims at developing students' intercultural communication competence. It will bring the concept of intercultural learning to life in a way that is engaging and allows students to critically evaluate the importance of culture and language in intercultural communication. The first part of the course explores views of identity, culture, and intercultural communication including the role of language. Students will reflect on their own cultural identities and how these might have informed their interpretations of the "other". In the second part of the course students will carry out a collaborative project of intercultural learning. They will be paired with native-speakers from other cultures and be required to carry out tasks aiming at raising intercultural learning. When you learn about other cultures, you learn that there is more than one approach to life. You also learn that your approach might not always be the best way. Perhaps the cultural heritage of someone else can add another dimension to your life.

[LGBTQ Diversity and Sexual Identity in Latin America](#) at Universidad Veritas: This course will study the LGBTQI+ community and related social issues in the Latin American Context. Special attention will be given to the Costa Rican case study where sexuality, identity, expression, health, community, family, and other social, political and lifestyle issues will be discussed. This course offers students one of the only opportunities to study LGBTQ+ Latin American

dynamics and issues. It is one of the first of its kind in the region and a pioneering offer for study abroad students in the Costa Rican setting. This is a young, but growing field of study in Latin America and defiantly one that deserves much attention, especially as the Latin American region is home to some of the most homophobic countries in the world and at the same time undergoing radical change in terms of its acceptance of the complete spectrum of sexuality and identity expression. This course has three main objectives: 1) students will be invited to explore LGBTQI+ Latin American community issues, 2) to appreciate how particular countries are advancing in relation to equality before the law while studying the social groups pushing for change, and 3) to critically assess present day contexts that are struggling with recently developed anti-discriminatory frameworks.

[Democracy in Central America](#) at ICDS in Costa Rica: This is a distance learning and on-line course, facilitated from Costa Rica, which will give Study Abroad students a unique perspective and exposure to new realities and teaching and research possibilities. This course combines approaches from Political Science and International Relations and offers an opportunity to better understand the Central American region. The aim of this journey is to help students appreciate, understand and critically explore the complex history and current challenges of this region and its inevitable connections with the rest of the world, with an emphasis in the United States, a major influential actor in regional developments. The professor, using techniques appropriately adjusted to distance learning, will invite students to explore and develop their own interests in line with the course contents, and together, throughout the course, enrich class discussion, encourage a broader understanding of the subject through case studies, and stimulate critical knowledge through first-hand research and experiential learning.

[Irish Folklore](#) at University of Limerick: Myths and legends have been a part of Irish culture and folklore since the very beginning. Irish legends are many and have long inspired a nation of gifted storytellers. Irish storytelling has been a staple of our culture since the dawn of time, with songs, tales, and limericks spreading the world as the Irish emigrated. As such an introduction to Irish folklore offers special reference to story-telling and narrative genres; indigenous and international tale-types in Ireland and traditional custom and belief, including calendar customs. Ancient festivals such as Halloween and St. Patrick's day are now celebrated around the globe thanks to the Irish!

[Introduction to International Relations](#) at Libertas University: This course provides students with a comprehensive introduction to international relations as a basis of their academic professional profile. It shows an overview of the world of international relations in an era of globalization. Students will understand the complexity of politics and political patterns of interaction in the world and not only between states and will learn the different dynamics, processes and issues facing the contemporary international system.

[Genocide and Human Rights in the 20th Century](#) at Universidad Torcuato di Tella: The twentieth century was marred by genocide. In Latin America, military dictatorships committed

serious crimes against humanity during the 1970s and 1980s. Argentina, Chile and Guatemala, among other countries in Latin America, experienced a wave of forced disappearances. The purpose of this course is to provide tools with which to analyze these historical cases from a universal and comparative perspective while exploring both their genocidal destruction and the forms of resistance and survival that affected populations engaged in. Human rights education can provide the tools to stop the scourge of genocide in the twenty-first century.

[Regional Economics and Rural Development](#) at Universidad Congreso: This course aims to analyze the structure of agricultural markets, understand the impact of activity on all production units, introduce the main concepts of economic analysis in environmental and territorial area, and contribute to the analysis and design of production policies in the future. *\*Note - would pair well with the API Community Engagement Lab!*

[Social Policy and Community Development](#) at Universidad Congreso: The course is an introduction to the principal concepts of social policy and the most recent discussion of social protection in Latin America and Argentina. The course will also explore the critical perspective of the community development and the relationship between the state, the market and community development. *\*Note - would pair well with the API Community Engagement Lab!*

International University	Country	Virtual Start Date	Virtual End Date	US semester credits per class	Type of Virtual Instruction
Universidad Torcuato di Tella	Argentina	July 29, 2020	Nov 15, 2020	4	Live classes, Argentine time zone
Universidad Veritas	Costa Rica	Sept 28, 2020	Dec 17, 2020	3-4	Recorded and live classes
Universidad Pablo de Olavide	Spain	Sept 28, 2020	Dec 17, 2020	3	Recorded and live classes
International Center for Development Studies (ICDS)	Costa Rica	Sept 9, 2020	Dec 4, 2020	3	Live classes
Universidad Congreso	Argentina	Aug 3, 2020	Nov 20, 2020	3	Recorded and live classes

Libertas University	Croatia	Sept 9, 2020	Dec 19, 2020	3	Live classes
University of Limerick	Ireland	Sept 28, 2020	Dec 18, 2020	3	Live and recorded classes