**UNIT 1: The Importance of the Social Sciences and Humanities Syllabus**

The field of social sciences and humanities encompasses several subject areas like equity and social justice from theory to practice, equity, diversity, philosophy, religion, and general social sciences. The social sciences themes represented in this course explore individual and collective human behavior and needs as well as trends in society. Courses in this area shed light on a variety of social structures, institutions, relationships, and power dynamics. The humanities themes represented in this course encompass philosophy and religion. It explores fundamental questions and ideas about human nature and the human condition.

Students in the social sciences and humanities module are supposed to develop a critical lens through which they can build their awareness of, and make decisions with respect to critical issues in our increasingly complex, multifaceted, and diverse society. Studies in this discipline helps to build understanding about individuals, families, and diverse groups – what people think, how they live, and how we all interact with one another and the world around us. Knowledge and understanding developed through the study of social sciences and humanities can help inform discussion on critical social, cultural, economic, technological, environmental, and wellness issues, and can provide a strong foundation for vibrant, healthy, and engaged citizenship.

The module of social sciences and humanities requires systematic inquiry: through sustained practice, students develop their planning, processing, problem solving, and decision-making capabilities, often while exploring issues of deep personal relevance. The essential questions with which students engage in this course are of thought provoking and open-ended, and have no single correct answer. The questions are meant to stimulate inquiry, debate, and further questions, and can be re-examined over time. Systematic inquiry in social sciences and humanities can help students analyze problems and determine appropriate actions that they can take as individuals, or that can be taken by families, diverse groups, and even societies in response to complex local or global challenges.

This course will provide students with essential knowledge and transferable skills that are applicable in various areas of their lives- in their personal and family lives as well as in their studies and even in their workplace afterwards. Through the social sciences and humanities module, students will be able to bring a broader perspective, integrate useful knowledge, and apply critical thinking skills when studying other modules such as civilization and literature.