

Social Science webpages & blog

Student Guide

<http://socialscience.stow.ac.uk>

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Introduction

Welcome to the social science webpage userguide.

If you haven't already found the webpages, you can access them at <http://socialscience.stow.ac.uk>. You can access them from any PC – the college has lots of computer facilities for students, and if you don't have a PC at home, you may well find that free internet access is available in your local library.

Getting on to the site

There is no **www** in the site name – if you put this in, you will get an error message.

If you continue to get an error message, make sure that you have the spelling correct, and that all the dots are in the right place. If you are still having difficulty, ask a tutor or member of staff in the Flexible Learning Centre for help.

What's on the site

The site has been maintained by tutors for several years now, and we are gradually building up a bank of materials on the site.

At present, you will find materials for

- Behavioural Science
- Care (including some NQ Care units)
- Communications/English
- Criminology
- Health Promotion
- IT
- Journalism
- Media
- Politics
- Press and Broadcasting (under 'Media')
- Principles of Health Care Practice (under 'Care')
- Psychology
- Research Methods
- Social Policy
- Sociology

Women's Studies students have a separate section at <http://socialscience.stow.ac.uk/women.htm>

You will also find a wide range of links relevant to the topics you will cover in class – the social science webpages should be a good place to start if you need to carry out research on the internet for a class activity or assignment.

The Blog

In addition to the class handouts, activities and links provided for each subject area, we have also added a blog for the first time this year.

A blog, for those of you who haven't come across one before, is rather like an online journal – a tutor will post an activity, interesting link or media article relevant to your course, and will invite you to comment on it. This will help you to keep up to date with new developments as well as sharing comments with other students and tutors.

There is a link to the blog from the website, or you can go there directly: <http://www.socialsciencestow.blogspot.com/>

To comment on the blog, click on the 'comments' section at the bottom of an entry. If you are not already registered with blogspot, you will need to register a username and password. This doesn't cost you anything and should only take a minute or two. Again, staff in the Flexible Learning Centre will be able to help if you are unsure how to do this.

Code of Conduct – using the blog

Please remember that although the blog is online, it is still part of your college life, and conduct yourself accordingly. Try to be constructive – the blog is moderated by tutors and offensive posts will be removed. The college's normal disciplinary policy will also apply.

What the site is for:

- Catching up on notes and handouts that you may have missed or mislaid
- Accessing additional materials, useful websites and activities as part of a class exercise, to further your studies or in preparation for an assessment
- Keeping up to date with new developments in the social sciences
- Sharing ideas and experiences with students and tutors through the interactive blog

What the site is not:

- A replacement for getting out of bed of a morning and going to the class
- A magic wand to help you pass the assessment if you haven't done the work

While we will endeavour to keep the site up to date, with as much material as we can, there are practical and copyright barriers which prevent us putting all of the material online – please be patient and make sure that you check with your tutor if you think you may be missing notes.

Queries? Suggestions?

For help with technical issues such as accessing the site or registering for the blog, please speak to a member of staff in the Flexible Learning Centre – you can drop in at any time and they are very friendly!

If you haven't used a computer before or don't feel confident in using a computer, you may well find that you have an IT class included in your timetable. If not, the Learning Hub offer regular IT tutorials for all students.

If you have other queries or suggestions for the site, contact Pam Currie in room 2/21 or pcurrie@stow.ac.uk.