

KENYATTA  UNIVERSITY

# SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES



SCHOOL INFORMATION BOOKLET

### **Preamble**

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences is made up of the Dean's office and the departments within the School. The Dean's office is responsible for the day to day running of the School in liaison with the departments. It is also the link between the central University Administration and the departments.

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Kenyatta University is made up of twelve Departments, one Institute and one Centre.

1. Economics
2. English and Linguistics
3. Fine Art
4. Foreign Languages
5. Geography
6. History, Archaeology and Political Studies
7. Kiswahili and African Languages
8. Literature
9. Music and Dance
10. Philosophy and Religious Studies
11. Psychology
12. Sociology
13. Institute of Police and Security Services
14. Centre for Gender Studies




### **Mission**

To generate, disseminate and train perceptive social scientists and professionals for effective leadership in society through teaching, research, publications and community service.

### **Vision**

Promotion of social and economic well being for a working nation.

### **Objectives**

-  To expand and diversify existing programmes in departments in order to offer more opportunities for relevant academic and professional development of students and staff.
-  To implement a socially relevant research agenda for staff and students based on global demands and challenges.
-  To design and develop programmes that enhance acquisition and cultivation of ethical values in staff and students as effective leaders in their various fields.

### **Programme/ Course Requirements & Regulations**

For specific requirements for each programme the student is advised to refer to the University Calendar or consult the relevant department(s). This information can also be obtained from the University website ([www.ku.ac.ke](http://www.ku.ac.ke)).

### **Unit Registration and Class Attendance**

Detailed information on unit registration is contained in the Undergraduate Students' Guide Book which is issued every year. Unit registration is done on semester basis and students are required to officially register for selected units. All units registered for carry equal weight. The student is required to attend all lectures in the units registered. Please note that failure to attend a minimum of 2/3rds of the lectures leads to automatic disqualification from that unit.

### **Number of Units per Semester**

A full time student is required to register for a minimum of 4 units and a maximum of 7 units; however a student may register for an eighth unit in consultation with the Chairman of the relevant department and with approval of the Dean. To qualify to register for an eighth unit, the student must have, however, attained a grade B average in the previous semester, and ensure that the teaching timetable allows one to take the extra unit.

### **Registration, Withdrawal and Change of Units**

Registration, withdrawal and change of units must be done officially and within the set deadline. The student is advised to consult relevant departments and the Dean's office in case of any problem in the selection and registration of units. Students are advised to confirm registration of all their units. Please note that all core units are compulsory.

### **Common Units**

In addition to the respective subjects, the students registered for B.A, B.A (Music), B.A. (Fine Art), and Bachelor of Music will be required to take University Common Units as follows:

### **Compulsory Units**

- |            |                                |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. UCU 100 | Communication Skills           |
| 2. UCU 103 | Critical and Creative Thinking |
| 3. UCU 105 | HIV and AIDS                   |

### **Electives**

Students registered in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences are required to choose one out of the following:

- |            |                                  |
|------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. UCU 101 | Development Studies              |
| 2. UCU 102 | Introduction to Computer Studies |
| 3. UCU 104 | Introduction to Entrepreneurship |

### **Number of Units Required for a Bachelor's Degree in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences**

For a student to qualify for degree classification in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, he/she must have done a minimum of 49 units or 50 for those taking mathematics (which has 4 core units in level 100). This number is inclusive of the University common courses. Students are advised to consult the relevant departments for information on core and elective units as well as possible subject combinations and degree structures. Students are further advised to strictly adhere to regulations on unit registration and avoid overloading themselves with too many elective units.

**Note** that each School has its own minimum number of units required for degree classification.

### **Degree Options**

Degree Options in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

There are four degree options as follows:

1. 3.3.2.2. This means that a student takes 3 subjects in level 100, 3 in level 200, 2 in level 300 and 2 in level 400 series. The student drops one subject after level 200 and continues with two (2) in the levels 300 and 400.
2. 3.3.2.1. This means 3,3 and 2 subject in levels 100, 200 and 300 series respectively and one subject in level 400. The student specializes in only one subject in level 400.
3. 3.3.1.1. This means 3 subjects in level 100 and 200 series and then one subject in levels

300 and 400. This means the student specializes in one subject in levels 300 and 400.

4.3.2.1.1. This means 3 subjects in level 100, 2 in level 200 series and one in levels 300 and 400 series respectively.

Number of Units at Each Level in the Different Degree Options.

(I)3.3.2.2. In level 100 the student is required to take 3 units in each subject plus the four common units making a total of 13 units. However, those taking Mathematics take 4 units in Mathematics making the total number of units 14.

In level 200, students take 4 units in each subject totaling to 12 Units.

In level 300, the student drops one subject and takes 6 units in each of the two subjects totaling to 12 units for the regular program. For majors, the student takes 8 units in the subject they are majoring in and 4 units in the minor subject.

In level 400 the student chooses the units as in level 300.

(ii) 3.3.2.1. It is the same as in 3.3.2.2. in the first 2 levels but in level 400, the student takes a total of 12 units in the one subject they choose to specialize in.

(iii)3.3.1.1. It is the same as in 3.3.2.1 above in the levels 100 and 200 but in levels 300 and 400, the student takes a total of 12 units in the subject he/she is majoring in. This means students specialize in one subject after level 200.

(iv)3.2.1.1. This degree option is offered in special subjects like Fine Art. In this option, the student takes 3 units in three subjects in level 100. In level 200, the student takes 8 units in the special or double subject and 4 units in the other subject totaling 12 units. In levels 300 and 400, the student takes 12 units in the one subject, he/she specializes in.

### **Summary of Units at Each level**

Level 100

University Common Units	4 Units
1st Subject	3 Units
2nd Subject	3 Units (4 for Mathematics)
3rd Subject	3 Units

**Total 13 or 14 for those taking Mathematics**

Level 200

1st Subject	4 (8 for Fine Art students)
2nd Subject	4 (4 for Fine Art Students)
3rd Subject	4 (Not applicable to Fine Art)

**Total 12**

Level 300

1st Subject	6 for 3.3.2.2. (Regular)
	8 for 3.3.2.2. (Major)
	12 for 3.3.1.1. or 3.2.1.1. (double major)

2nd Subject	4 for 3.3.2.2. (Minor) 6 for 3.3.2.2. (Regular) 8 for 3.2.2.2. (Major) 12 for 3.3.1.1. Or 3.2.1.1. (double major)
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**Total    12**

Level 400	
1st Subject	As in level 300 above
2nd Subject	“

**Total    12**

NB: Students taking B.A. (Music) and B. Music to consult the Department of Music and Dance.

NB: Each department has core (compulsory) units in each level and for each degree option the student wishing to specialize in any subject MUST seek approval from the Chairman of the respective department. Students are advised to consult departmental academic advisors when choosing elective units.

**Evaluation and Examinations: *Continuous Assessment and Final Examinations***

Courses/units are graded on the basis of continuous assessment and final examination. In most courses, continuous assessment, popularly known as CATs contribute 30% while the final semester exam accounts for 70% of the total mark. It should be noted that at the end of the semester if a student has no CAT marks in a unit registered for, he/she shall be deemed to have not attended classes and will therefore automatically get a re-take in that unit.

**Auditing Units**

Auditing means taking unit(s) in subjects other than the ones in which the student is pursuing his/her degree. The School of Humanities and Social Sciences encourages students to audit units to enrich and broaden their scope of knowledge. However a student wishing to audit any unit should do so in consultation with the relevant department(s). It should also be noted that although audited units will appear in the student's transcript, they will not count in the computation of the degree classification in which the student is registered.

**Career Prospects and Opportunities**

The Departments, Institute and Centre within the School offer a rich combination of programmes and subject areas which prepare the students for the competitive job market in the modern day world. The following is a brief overview of what the various departments offer and their career prospects:

**1. Department of Economics**

The Department of Economics offers courses that emphasize economics theory, quantitative methods and policy application commensurate with professional aspirations in the discipline. The knowledge and skills acquired can be applied in both public and private sectors.

**2. Department of English and Linguistics**

The Department of English and Linguistics offers a wide range of courses in various areas in English language and Linguistics. Career prospects include; Teaching, Professional Writing, Editorial Work, Mass Media, Translation, Linguistic Research and other related professional fields.

**3. Department of Fine Art**

The Department of Fine Art offers diploma and degree courses that prepare students to develop

creative skills for producing, analyzing and appreciating artworks from various traditions, cultures and orientations. Fine Art graduates can fit in career opportunities such as; Design, Art Education, Publicity, Advertising, Textile, Fashion and Print Industry, as well as establish themselves in self employment.

#### **4. Department of Foreign Languages**

The Department of Foreign Languages offers course in three languages namely; French, German and Japanese (which is offered at certificate level with plans underway to start diploma). Graduates from this department have found employment in the fields of Education, Tourism, Hotel Industry, and in Aviation Industry. At the international level, there is a fast growing market for translators and interpreters.

#### **5. Department of Geography**

The Department of Geography offers a diversity of courses such as Climatology, Hydrology and Water Resources, Population Geography, Settlement, Medical Geography, Development Geography, Tourism, Urban and Regional Planning, Cartography, Remote Sensing and ASAL's among others. The career prospects include; Teaching at various levels, Human Resource, Government Ministries such as: Planning and Agriculture, Water, Tourism; UN bodies and the Private Sector. The department is also involved in developing demand driven programmes encouraging industrial attachment of students and developing joint collaborative research on a number of key areas.

#### **6. Department of History, Archaeology and Political Studies**

The Department of History, Archaeology and Political Studies offers a variety of courses in History, Archaeology and Political Studies. The courses aim at developing historical and socio-cultural consciousness that are critical for development, as well as train and nurture critical, responsible, resourceful and patriotic human power in various sectors of national development. Career prospects exist in the following areas among others; Archaeology, Research in various institutions such as Museums and Archives, Education, Mass Media and Administration.

#### **7. Department of Kiswahili and African Languages**

The Department of Kiswahili and African Languages offers a variety of courses in Kiswahili Language and Literature and in other African Languages. Graduates may become; Educators, Translators, Interpreters, Writers, Public Relations Officers, Administrators, Researchers as well as work in the Mass Media.

#### **8. Department of Literature**

The Department of Literature offers courses to enhance knowledge in critical appreciation and appraisal of the various literary genres. At the same time the creative potential of the students is nurtured and developed to produce Actors, Writers, Producers and Researchers. Other career opportunities can be found in Teaching, Mass Media, Film Industry and Non-Governmental Organizations (N.G.Os).

#### **9. Department of Music and Dance**

The Department of Music and Dance offers courses ranging from Higher Certificate to Doctorate, producing qualified Music teachers, Performers, Technicians, Composers, Producers and Researchers in various organizations, Music Instructors and Choir trainers. Other opportunities include: Music Production and Publishing, Music sales and Marketing and Self employment.

#### **10. Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies**

The department of Philosophy and Religious Studies offers courses in two mutually exclusive areas of philosophy and religious studies. Thus a student taking Philosophy need not take Religious

Studies and vice-versa.

### **Philosophy**

Philosophy offers a rich variety of courses which aim at developing intellectual standards that enable students to think for themselves, make judgments and decisions responsibly and intelligently, solve problems creatively and respond to everyday life issues critically and appropriately. Philosophy also emphasizes courses in Ethics which sensitize students to moral awareness and sensibilities that impact on them as individuals and collectively as members of society. In addition, Philosophy offers a course on Critical and Creative Thinking which is one of the compulsory University common units. Career prospects and opportunities for philosophy graduates exist in the Media, Banking Institutions, Administration, Politics, NGOs, Research Organizations among others.

### **Religious Studies**

There are three main areas of study in Religious Studies, namely; African Traditional Religion, Christianity and Islamic Studies which offer courses from undergraduate to doctoral levels. African Traditional Religion offers courses which highlight the African Traditional Culture and how they impinge on religious tradition. Christianity offers courses in Christian Theology, History and Religion. The background to the Bible and hermeneutics gives students a good exposure to current theological trends. Islamic Studies introduces students to an understanding of Islamic religion, and theology, and classical Islamic concepts as they relate to the faith.

Career opportunities in religious studies can be found in the following areas among others; Teaching, Christian Ministries, Pastoral Care and Counseling, Translation and Research.

### **11. Department of Psychology**

The Department of Psychology offers degree courses designed to meet the fast growing demand for expertise in pure and applied psychology. The department offers courses in areas such as Clinical, Industrial, Health and Social Counseling and Personality Profiles to meet the rising need for professionals in the field of Psychology. Career prospects include Counseling and Clinical work, Industry, Education, Laboratories, Hospitals and Community Care, Games and Sports, Police force and the Army.

### **12. Department of Sociology**

The Department of Sociology offers a variety of programmes in various areas of specialization such as Demography, Community Development, Social Planning and Evaluation. Students taking Sociology can find job opportunities in Non-Governmental (N.G.Os), Development Organizations, Government Agencies, and Research Organizations both locally and internationally.

### **13. Centre for Gender Studies**

The Centre for Gender Studies is in the process of developing a variety of academic programmes in gender studies. Broadly the course are designed to address such issues as: Gender disparities in all sectors of the economy, mainstreaming gender in policy formulation and socio-economic and development programmes.

### **General Information and Advice**

Students joining the School of Humanities and Social Sciences are advised to observe the following in addition to the general rules and regulations governing all students of Kenyatta University.

1. It is the responsibility of every student to familiarize oneself with all University rules and regulations. The rules and regulations are found in the University Calendar, Undergraduate

- Students Guide Book and joining instructions.
- Examinations are important and serious activities in the University life (See the Student Guide). Cheating in examinations is punishable by either suspension or expulsion.
  - Solve problems in good time to avoid being time-barred. It is advisable that you settle down by the second week of every semester.
  - Never follow blindly what others do. Each student should make sure that he/she knows what he/she is doing by consulting all the time. The various officers can be contacted for academic and personal counsel; Departmental Academic Advisor, Chairman of Department, Dean School of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Registrar (Academic).
  - All medical problems should be referred to Kenyatta University Health Unit and any other problems concerning student welfare on campus to the Dean of Students.
  - Keep a record of all units you register and sit for throughout the period of your study at Kenyatta University.
  - Inter/Intra-School transfers are normally done after registration and are usually announced to all students and students are advised to consult the Registrar Academic in case of any problem.
  - All students are encouraged to create rapport with their lecturers. This helps the lecturers to know their students and when need arises, they can be in a better position to write for them meaningful recommendations.
  - At the end of the course, students are advised to officially clear with their departments and leave their contact addresses for future reference.



*For more information, please Contact:*

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