



Trans-disciplinary Course on Science of Society

IUC Dubrovnik September 1-6, 2014



Human Accomplishment

Accomplishment is a process of conscious purposeful human initiative leading to objectives sought after



- **Wealth, Status, Power**
- **Peace, Prosperity, Harmony, Well-being**
- **Knowledge, Truth, Beauty, Love**
- **Self-realization and Spiritual Fulfilment**

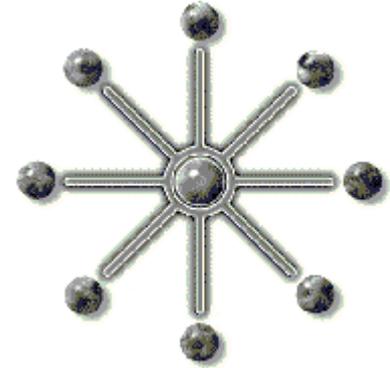
Human Accomplishment Two Perspectives

COURSE 1
Process of Individual
Accomplishment

COURSE 2
Process of Social
Accomplishment

Rationale for this Course

- **The multi-dimensional challenges confronting humanity today defy comprehension and resolution based on the prevailing principles and specialized knowledge developed by separate social science disciplines.**
- **Knowledge which is power needs to evolve to keep pace with the evolution of society.**



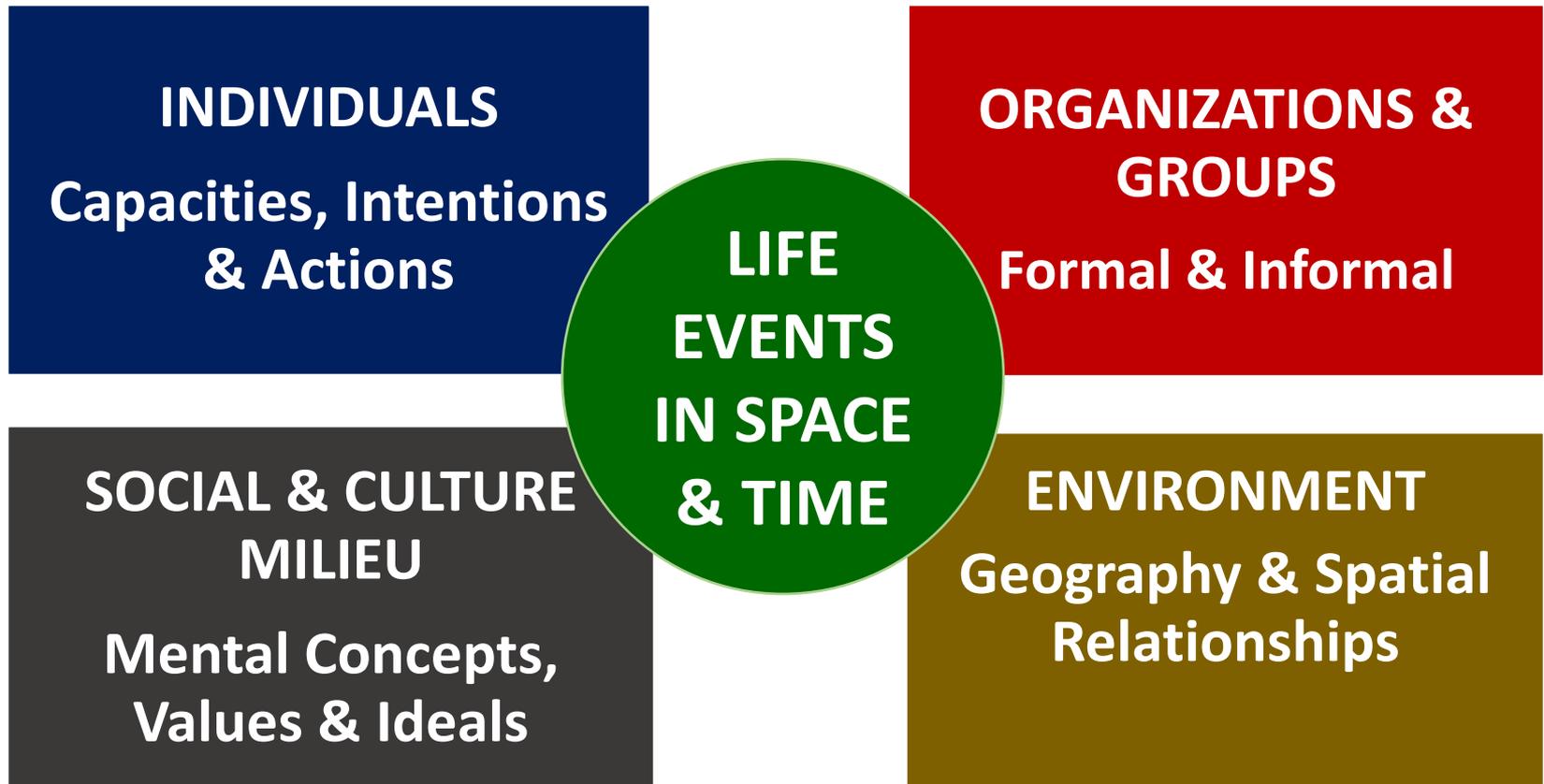
Multi-dimensional Social Evolution

Society is a rapidly evolving social context

- **Time:** The pace of social development is unprecedented and accelerating
- **Space:** Humanity is rapidly expanding from isolated and insulated local and national communities into a closely interconnected global community
- **Knowledge:** These changes are driven by the expansion of knowledge of the world and our self-awareness as a species
- **Organization:** Growing awareness at the collective level is spurring rapid development of social organization in all fields
- **Integration:** Different fields and sectors of activity are becoming more closely integrated into a densely woven social fabric
- **Individuation:** Human beings are becoming more individualized, i.e. the capacity of human personality is rapidly developing
- **Complexity:** All these factors combine to increase social complexity of the challenges to understanding and effective action.

Multiple Forces

Social development is a product of interactions between multiple forces



Premises for a Science of Society

- Mechanistic, reductionist, materialistic, compartmentalized social theory is inadequate to deal with the multi-dimensional complexity of social events and outcomes.
- Society is a complex, open, multi-leveled, conscious, creative web of human relationships – a living organism.
- Social science needs to unpack the significant characteristics that differentiate physical, biological and social systems.
- The Individual occupies a unique position in society as both determinate and determination – as active pioneer and initiator of social novelty and as passive beneficiary of acquired social capacities.
- An effective science of society would necessarily have to transcend disciplinary boundaries to identify principles & processes fundamental to all fields and forms of social activity, change, development and evolution.

Trans-disciplinarity

- “Concerns that which is at once between the disciplines, across the different disciplines, and beyond each individual discipline.”
- Based on the premise that human society and individuality cannot be adequately understood in terms of positivism, reductionism, formalism and naturalism.
- This implies that there are fundamental constructs, forces, processes and characteristics that underlie all social phenomena, knowledge of which can generate greater understanding and more effective action in the real world.



Course Objectives

- To look beyond the boundaries fixed by present concepts, theories and disciplines at the linkages and interdependences between different fields of social activity to identify points at which current theory can expand to encompass factors now regarded as externalities
- To explore fundamental concepts, common principles and social processes applicable to all fields and levels of society
- To clarify similarities and differences between the natural and social sciences that influence our approach to social science to draw relevant insights regarding the future development of social science
- To integrate the role of the Individual in sciences of society
- To re-examine assumptions about time and causality, including anticipation of the future
- To develop common trans-disciplinary terminology, free as possible from discipline-specific terminology
- To examine the prospects and requirements for evolving a trans-disciplinary science of society

New Paradigm in Economic Theory

Transdisciplinary Perspectives

Transdisciplinary Factors

1. **Linkages between fields**
2. **Values**
3. **Knowledge – social construction of reality, rationality**
4. **Perception – trust, limits, opportunities & challenges**
5. **Social Power**
6. **Aspirations – energy**
7. **Relationships – Social Capital – social organization – networks -- subsidiarity**
8. **Human capital – Education – Skills**
9. **Individuality**
10. **Social Process of energy conversion**
11. **Limits to Rationality**
12. **Decision-making**

Transdisciplinary Factors

1. **Linkages between fields**
2. **Values**
3. **Knowledge – social construction of reality, rationality**
4. **Perception – trust, limits, opportunities & challenges**
5. **Social Power**
6. **Aspirations – energy**
7. **Relationships – Social Capital – social organization – networks -- subsidiarity**
8. **Human capital – Education – Skills**
9. **Individuality**
10. **Social Process of energy conversion**
11. **Limits to Rationality**
12. **Decision-making**