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MATRIC NO: 19/ LAW01/028

COURSE CODE: GST 118

REVIEW OF CHAPTER 8 OF “HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE: A BRIEF SURVEY.IBADAN: HOPE PUBLICATIONS.PAGES 86-95” BY TEMIDAYO D.OLADIPO AND NOAH O.

­­The topic of this chapter discusses the philosophy of social sciences and applied sciences, it further discusses social sciences in itself and the various problems posed towards social sciences such as the problem of reasons and causes and problem of human person as object of study. This topic relates to the course in diverse ways, philosophers of social science are concerned with the differences and similarities between the social and the natural sciences, casual relationships between social phenomena, the possible existence of social laws, and the ontological significance of structure and agency. The philosophy of social science can be described broadly as having two aims. First, it seeks to produce a rational reconstruction of social science. This entails describing the philosophical assumptions that underpin the practice of social inquiry, just as philosophy of natural science seeks to lay bare the methodological and ontological assumptions that guide scientific investigation of natural phenomena. Second, the philosophy of social science seek to critique the social sciences with the aim of enhancing the ability to explain the social word or otherwise improve our understanding of it.

The author’s primary point in this chapter is to explain the link between philosophy and social sciences and the link between them is what brings about philosophy of science which aims at criticizing the various views of the social word.

One of the main points discussed in this chapter is the subject matter of social sciences in itself. Social sciences is seen as an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behavior, interaction and manifestations, either as an individual in a society or collectively as a group: including the institutions. Disciplines in the social sciences include: sociology, psychology, economics, political science, archaeology and anthropology. Furthermore social sciences seeks to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as object of study

Another point discussed in this chapter are the problems faced by social sciences. The problem of reason and cause is a problem faced by social sciences. One way to solve this problem is to accept reasons are not causes but motive or intent. Another problem is the problem of human person as object of study.

I am of the opinion that this chapter of the book is well-written and the authors covered the topic well and it really supplements the lectures given on the topic by the lecturers. I also found it really interesting to study. I would recommend this book to other students offering this course. It would really be a great help to them.