

MAHATMA GANDHI CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

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PO BOX: 1, MOTIHARI, DISTRICT: EAST CHAMPARAN — 845 401 (BIHAR)

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M.A. SOCIOLOGY: DETAILED COURSE STRUCTURE AS PER CBCS

Credits Equivalent: 4 Credits (One credit is equivalent to 10 hours of lectures / organized classroom activity / contact hours; 5 hours of laboratory work / practical / field work / Tutorial / teacher-led activity and 15 hours of other workload such as independent individual/ group work; obligatory/ optional work placement; literature survey/ library work; data collection/ field work; writing of papers/ projects/dissertation/thesis; seminars, etc.)

Course Code: SOCY 4101 (CORE COURSE)

Course Title: Introduction to Sociology

Course Objective: The present paper is an attempt to introduce and make familiarize the students with the discipline of Sociology. The course begins with discussion on the emergence of Sociology and aims at critically engaging with the various concepts and major perspectives in detail with the objective to develop a holistic understanding of the relationship between the individual the society. It ends by raising the questions of reflexivity in contemporary sociological writings.

Course Contents:

Unit I: Emergence of Sociology

Early Sociology: Historical Circumstances, Content and Methodological Issues. Sociology and Social Sciences: Approaches and Perspectives.

Unit II: Concepts and Subject-Matter of Sociology

Society, Community, Institution, Association, Status and Role, Social Control, Social Groups, Religion, Culture: Mass Culture, Popular culture; Individual and Society Interrelationship -Socialization, Self and Agency; Stratification and Social Change.

Unit III: Major Perspectives

Functionalism, Marxism, Interpretive Approach, Structuralism, Feminism, Postmodernism.

Unit IV: Reflexivity

Sociological Imagination; Social-Humanistic Perspective; Sociology As An Art Form; Reflexive Sociology

Suggested Readings:

- Bauman, Z. 2010. *Towards a Critical Sociology: An Essay on Common-sense and Imagination*. London: Routledge.
- Berger, P. 1963. *Invitation to Sociology*. New York: Doubleday.
- Beteille, A. 2005. *Sociology: Essays on Approach and Method*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Durkheim, E. 1964. *The Rules of Sociological Method*. New York: The Free Press.
- Giddens, A. 1971. *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory: An Analysis of the Writings of Marx, Durkheim and Max Weber*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Horton, P.B. and Chester L. H. 1972. *Sociology*. Blacklick, Ohio: McGraw-Hill Book Co.
- Inkeles, A. 1987. *What is Sociology?* New Delhi: Prentice-Hall.
- Marx, K. 1969. *The Communist Manifesto*. Moscow: Progress Publishers.
- Merton, R. K. *Social Theory and Social Structure*. New York: The Free Press.
- Mills, C. W. 1959. *The Sociological Imagination*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Nisbet, R. 1976. *Sociology as an Art form*. London: Transaction Publishers.
- Parsons, T. 1951. *The Social System*. London: Routledge.
- Radcliffe-Brown, A.R. 1952. *Structure and Function in Primitive Society*. London: Cohen and West Ltd.
- Ritzer, G. 1992. *Sociological Theory*. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Weber, M. 1949. *Methodology of Social Sciences*. Illinois: The Free Press of Glencoe.

Course Code: SOCY 4102 (CORE COURSE)
Course Title: Classical Sociological Theories

Course Objective: This course aims to provide a critical introduction to the three key classical thinkers of sociology- Karl Marx, Max Weber and Emile Durkheim. The course will begin with a historical introduction to the emergence of Sociology as a discipline with the rise of modernity. The bulk of the course will consist of three modules which will require close readings of some seminal texts of the three thinkers. Their selected works will also be located in their historical context and their key epistemic categories will be engaged with.

Course Contents:

Unit I: Emergence of Sociology: Rise of Modernity

Socio-Historical Background of Sociology.

Epistemological Revolutions: Rise of Sociology as a Discipline in General and Sociological Theories in Particular.

Critical Engagements of Sociology with Modernity.

Unit II: Karl Marx:

Transition from Pre-Capitalist to Capitalist Social formations.

Capitalism and Commodity Production.

Class and Class Conflict.

Unit III: Max Weber

Social Action: Basic Concepts and Terms.

Methodologies of the Social Sciences.

Religion and Social Change

Unit IV: Emile Durkheim

Sociology as Science

Division of Labour and Forms of Solidarity

Systems of Classification

Suggested Readings:

- Abrams, P. 1968. *The Origins of British Sociology*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Durkheim, E. 1933. *The Division of Labour in Society*. Glencoe: The Free Press.
- Durkheim, E. 1982. *The Rules of Sociological Method*. London: Macmillan.
- Durkheim, E. and M. Mauss. 1969. *Primitive Classifications*. London: Cohen & West.

- Marx, K. 1924. *The Class Struggle in France (1848-1850)*. New York: New York Labour News.
- Marx, K. 1954. *Capital - Vol. I*. Moscow: Progress Publishers. (Chapter 1,10 and 14).
- Marx, K. 1964. *Pre-capitalist Economic Formations*. London: Lawrence and Wishart.
- Marx, K. 1969. *The Communist Manifesto*. Moscow: Progress Publishers.
- Nisbet, R.A. 1967. *The Sociological Tradition*. London: Heinemann.
- Weber, M. 1949. *The Methodology of the Social Sciences*. New York: Free Press.
- Weber, M. 1978. *Economy and Society: An Outline Interpretative Sociology* (edited by G. Roth and C. Wittich) - Vol. 1. Berkeley: University of California Press. (Part-I, Chapters 1, 2).
- Weber, M. 2002. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. Los Angeles: Blackwell Publishers.

Course Code: SOCY 4103 (CORE COURSE)
Course Title: Anthropological Theories and Ethnographic Approaches

Course Objective: The course is designed to present various theoretical developments or debates within anthropology. It aims to provide an intensive introduction to some of the most important theoretical perspectives and to show the ways in which they have been used in explaining social and cultural processes among particular peoples. Utilizing a number of ethnographic studies, both 'classic' and more recent, it focuses on the intimate link between theory and ethnography- and attempts to elucidate the distinctive character of Anthropology.

Course Contents:

Unit-I: Classical Approaches in Anthropology

Ethnography As Anthropological Enterprise and a Mode of Looking at the World.

Development of Anthropology: British Tradition-Functionalism and Structural-Functionalism.

Unit II: Structuralist Approaches in Anthropology

Development of Anthropology: French Tradition- Structuralism.

Structuralism and its response to Functionalist and Structural-Functionalist Approaches.

Unit III: Interpretive and Symbolic Approaches in Anthropology

Development of Anthropology: American Tradition- Cultural Anthropology.

Study of Societies and Culture: Symbols and Questions of Meaning.

Unit IV: Modern and Postmodern Approaches in Anthropology

Anthropology and Modernist Cultural and Ethnographic Critiques.

Anthropology and Post-Modernist Cultural and Ethnographic Critiques.

Suggested Readings:

- Abu-Lughod, Lila .1988. *Veiled Sentiments: Honour and Poetry in a Bedouin Society*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Appadurai, Arjun .1996. *Modernity at Large*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Clifford, James and George Marcus. 1986. *Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Dumont, Louis .1980. *Homo Hierarchicus: The Caste System And Its Implications*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

- Evans-Prritchard, Edward .1967. *The Nuer: A Description of the Modes of Livelihood and Political Institutions of a Nilotic People*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Geertz, Clifford .1973. *The Interpretation of Cultures*. New York: Basic Books.
- Ingold, Tim. 2011. *Being Alive: Essays on Movement, Knowledge and Description*. London: Routledge.
- Kuper, Adam .1973. *Anthropologists and Anthropology: The Modern British School*. London: Allen Lane
- Levi-Strauss, Claude .1955. The Structural Study of Myth. *Journal of American Folklore* 68(270): 428-444.
- Levi-Strauss, Claude .1963. *Structural Analysis in Anthropology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University.
- Levi-Strauss, Claude .1973. *Tristes Tropiques*. New York: Atheneum Press.
- Levi-Strauss, Claude.1966. *The Savage Mind* .London: George Widenfeld & Nicholson.
- Malinowski, Bronislaw .1961. *Argonauts of the Western Pacific: An Account of Native Enterprise and Adventure in the Archipelagoes of Melanesian*. New Guinea . New York: E. P Dutton.
- Marcus, George and Michael Fischer .1986. *Anthropology as Cultural Critique: An Experimental Moment in the Human Science*. Chicago: University of Chicago press.
- Nader, Laura. 2011. Ethnography as Theory. *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 1 (1): 211– 219
- Ortner, Sherry .1984. Theory in Anthropology since the Sixties. *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. 26(1):126-66.
- Sahlins, Marshall .1976. *Culture and Practical Reason*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago
- Schneider, David .1968. *American Kinship: A Cultural Account*. Prentice-Hall, New Jersey.
- Singer, Milton .1980. Signs of the Self: An exploration. *Semiotic Anthropology American Anthropologist* 82(3): 485-507
- Turner, Victor .1975. *Revelation and Divination in Ndembu Ritual*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Course Code: SOCY 4104 (CORE COURSE)
Course Title: Indian Society: Structure and Processes

Course Objective: This course enhances students understanding on Indian social structure. This course focuses on both structural and phenomenological aspects of Indian social system with a special attention to the notion of 'change'. By doing so it deals with a set of recurring social problems, that Indian society has been confronting, and analyzes them in the light of prominent theoretical and empirical observations.

Course Contents:

Unit I: Nature of Indian Society

Colonial Discourse, Nationalist Discourse, Subaltern Critique, Post-Colonial Discourse.

Unit II: Institutions

Family, Marriage, Kinship, Caste

Unit III: Processes

Westernization, Modernization, Industrialization, Sanskritization,
Globalization

Unit IV: Identities

Rural, Urban, Cosmopolitan, Civilian, Citizenship, Consumer Class

Suggested Readings:

- Ahmad, I. (ed.). 1981. *Ritual and Religion among Muslims in India*. Delhi: Manohar.
- Beteille, A. 1986. 'The Concept of Tribe with Special Reference to India', *European Journal of Sociology*. 27: 297-318.
- Bose, N.K. 1975. *The Structure of Hindu Society*. Delhi: Orient Longman.
- Caplan, L. 1987. *Class and Culture in Urban India: Fundamentalism in a Christian Community*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Chatterjee, Partha. 1997. *The Nation and Its Fragments: Colonial and Postcolonial Histories*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Cohn, B.S. 1987. *An Anthropologist among Historians*. Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Dumont, L. 1980. *Homo Hierarchicus*. University of Chicago Press.
- Fox, R.G. (ed.). 1977. *Realm and Region in Traditional India*. Delhi: Vikas Publishing House.
- Ghurye, G.S. 1953. *The Indian Sadhus*. Bombay: Popular Prakashan.
- Ghurye, G.S. 1963. *The Scheduled Tribes*. Bombay: Popular Prakashan.
- Gough, K. 1981. *Rural Society in South-East-India*. Cambridge University Press.
- Marriott, M. (ed.). 1990. *India Through Hindu Categories*. Delhi: Sage Publications. (Chapter 1).

- Marriott, M. (eds.). 1961. *Village India: Studies in the Little Community*. Delhi: Asia Publishing House.
- Mayer, A. 1960. *Caste and Kinship in Central India*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.
- Rao, M.S.A. 1974. 'Introduction', in Indian Council of Social Science Research, Review of Research in Sociology and Social Anthropology, Vol. I. Bombay: Popular Prakashan.
- Shah, A.M. 1973. *The Household Dimension of the Family in India*. Delhi: Orient Longman.
- Shah, A.M. and I.P. Desai. 1988. *Division and Hierarchy: An Overview of Caste in Gujarat*. Delhi: Hindustan Publishing Corporation.
- Singh, Yogendra. 1988. *Modernization of Indian Tradition*. Jaipur: Rawat.
- Srinivas, M.N. 1987. *The Cohesive Role of Sanskritization and other Essays*. Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Srinivas, M.N. 1987. *The Dominant Caste and Other Essays*. Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Srinivas, M.N. and M.N. Panini. 1973. 'The Development of Sociology and Social Anthropology in India', *Sociological Bulletin*, 22(2): 179-215.
- Uberoi, Patricia. 1994. *Family, Kinship and Marriage in India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Course Code: **SOCY 4105 (CORE COURSE)**

Course Title: **Methodology of Social Sciences**

Course Objective: This course seeks to understand various approaches to sociological knowledge. This is not a course on methods, tools and techniques of doing sociological research. Instead, it deals with the methodological perspectives, grounded in the essential epistemological issues.

Course Contents:

Unit I: Nature and Function of Social Sciences

The Ideas of Social Sciences: Knowledge and Enlightenment.

Science, Cognition, Knowledge and Approaches.

Unit II: Positivism: Philosophical Background and Sociological Promises

Ideas of August Comte and Saint Simon.

Debating Science: Ways beyond Positivism, Kant's Critique of Pure Reason.

Unit III: Interpretative and Everyday Life

Hermeneutic, Methodological Approach and Sociological knowledge.

Phenomenology, Ethnomethodology and Methodological Propositions

Unit IV: Localizing Approaches: Revisiting The Rules

Methodological Pluralism: Indigenous, Subaltern, Dalit and Feminist.

Reflexivity Turn: Methodological Possibilities.

Suggested Readings:

- Bourdieu, Pierre & Wacquant, Loic. 1992 . *An Invitation to Reflexive Sociology*. London: Polity Press (Introduction).
- Cassirer, Ernst. 2009. *The Philosophy of the Enlightenment*. Princeton University Press.
- Descartes, Rene. 2006. *A Discourse on the Method of Correctly Conducting One's Reason and Seeking Truth in the Sciences*. New York: Oxford University Press (p-5-35) .
- Descartes, Rene. 2008. *Meditations on First Philosophy*. New York: Oxford University Press (p. 10-15).
- Durkheim, Emile. 1982. *Rules of Sociological Method*. London: Free Press (Introduction & Chapter 1).
- Feyerabend, Paul. 2010. *Against Method: Outline of an Anarchist Theory of Knowledge*. 4th edition. New York: Verso.
- Garfinkel, Harold. 1991. *Studies in Ethnomethodology*. London: Polity Press.

- Giddens, Anthony. 1978. Positivism and its Critics, in Tom Bottomore and Robert Nisbet edited. *History of Sociological Analysis*. London: Heinemann, page: 237-286.
- Giddens, Anthony. 1993. *New Rules of Sociological Methods*. London: Polity Press (Chapter 2 & Conclusion).
- Gouldner, Alvin. 1980. *The Coming Crisis of Western Sociology*. Basic Books (Conclusion).
- Haraway, Donna. 1988. Situated knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the privilege of partial perspective, *Feminist Studies*, 14(3): 575-599.
- Hekman, Susan. 1997. *Truth and Method: Feminist Standpoint Theory Revisited*. *Sign: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 22(2): 341-365.
- Kant, Immanuel. 1998. *Critique of Pure Reason*. New York: Cambridge University Press (Introduction).
- Kuhn, T.S. 1962. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press
- Marx, Karl. 2010. *The German Ideology*. Delhi: People's Publishing House (Chapter 1).
- Menon, Nivedita. 2012. *Seeing Like a Feminist*. Delhi: Penguin and Zubaan (Introduction).
- Mukherji, Partha. Ed. *Methodology in Social Research: Dilemmas and Perspectives*. Delhi: Sage (Introduction).
- Popper, Karl. 2002. *Conjectures and Refutations: The Growth of Scientific Knowledge*. London: Routledge.
- Russell, Bertrand. 2004. *History of Western Philosophy*. London: Routledge (p. 453-455, 484-498, 511-520, 551-560, 600-650).
- Sarukkai, Sundar & Guru, Gopal. 2012. *The Cracked Mirror: An Indian Debate on Experience and Theory*. Delhi: OUP.
- Schutz, Alfred. 1967. *Phenomenology of the Social World*. Northwestern University Press.
- Turner, J. H. 1985. "In Defense of Positivism." *Sociological Theory*, 3:24-30
- Weber, Max. 1978. *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretative Sociology*. California: University of California Press (Introduction & Chapter 1).
- Weber, Max. 2011. *Methodology of Social Science*. New York: Transactions (Introduction & Chapter 1).
- Winch, Peter. 2007. *The Idea of a Social Science and its Relation to Philosophy*. London: Routledge.