

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Post-Graduate Syllabus in Sociology
(UNDER SEMESTER SYSTEM)

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL
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COURSE CONTENT

I SEMESTER

(Core Papers)

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DISTRIBUTION OF COURSES AND MARKS

I SEMESTER (Core Papers)

TOTAL CREDIT-16

1 credit (25 Marks) for continuing evaluation in each paper that is 4 credits in total for 4 papers.

		Marks
SOCI-CT-101	Classical Sociological Tradition	100
SOCI-CT-102	Religion and Society	100
SOCI-CT-103	Urban Sociology	100
SOCI-CT-104	Rural Society in India	100

SOCI-CT-101

Classical Sociological Tradition

This course gives the students a broad view of the classical sociological theoretical tradition which took shape in Western Europe in the nineteenth and early twentieth following the rapid social transformation in the post-industrial revolution era. The four noted scholars, namely, Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber and Vilfredo Pareto in their writings, captured conceptually/philosophically, the period of great transformation. When we teach these foundational theories in Sociology in India we look at them critically and explore their relevance in interpreting the contemporary social realities. We take this as a base course which helps develop sociological understanding of the societies and is highly significant in understanding later sociological theories.

Unit I: Emergence of sociology as an academic discipline in the West

Unit II: Contribution of Karl Marx

- i. Marxist methodology, Dialectical Materialism and historical materialism
- ii. Mode of Production, base-superstructure relationship
- iii. Crises in capitalism, alienation of the workers, theory of class and revolution

Unit III: Contribution of Emile Durkheim

- i. Rules of Sociological Method – social fact, positivism, sociological knowledge
- ii. Division of labour, forms of social solidarity, anomie

- iii. The elementary forms of religious life
- iv. Theory of Suicide
- v. A science of morality

Unit IV: Contribution of Vilfredo Pareto

- i. The logical and non-logical action
- ii. Logico-experimental Method
- iii. Theory of residues and derivations
- iv. Critique of democracy
- v. Elite theory

Unit V: Contribution of Max Weber

- i. Methodology of social science – interpretative sociology
- ii. Social action and Ideal type
- iii. Types of domination
- iv. Theory of Social Stratification
- v. Emergence of capitalism
- vi. Rationalization – crisis of capitalism

Unit VI: Continuing evaluation

Readings:

- | | |
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| Abraham, M. F., 1982. | <i>Modern Sociological Theory</i> . Delhi: OUP |
| Aron, Raymond, 1967. | <i>Main Currents in Sociological Thought- Vol. I</i> . UK: Penguin. |
| Bendix, R., 1960. | <i>Max Weber: An Intellectual Portrait</i> . Double Day |
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Marsh and Tony Tant
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| Heydebrand, Wolf (ed),
2012 | <i>Max Weber: Sociological Writings</i> . Delhi: Rawat Publications. |
| Merquior, J. G., 1980. | <i>Rousseau and Weber: Two Studies in the Theory of Legitimacy</i> .
London: Routledge and Kegan Paul. |
| Marx, Karl, 1970. | <i>Critique of Hegel's 'Philosophy of Right'</i> (1843), UK: Cambridge
University Press. |
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Sociological Theories. New York: Random House.
- Turner, J. H. et al. (eds),
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Weber, Max, 1968. *Economy and Society – An Outline of Interpretative Sociology (3 vols).* New York: Bedminster Press.
- Weber, Max, 1948. *From Max Weber – Essays in Sociology*, (tr. and ed. by H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills), London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.

SOCI-CT-102 Religion and Society

The study of religion is inextricably related to Sociology. Religious institutions have evolved at various phases of human civilization keeping in context the material conditions of life of a particular period of time. Religions have performed both the functions of maintaining social order as well as bringing about social change. Sociological study of religion focuses on the relationship between society and religion and aims at a theoretical understanding of the same. It studies the relation of religion with other social institutions and also tries to grasp the fact that religions are dynamic in nature and they try to fulfill functions which material conditions of life demands from them.

Unit I: Introduction

- i. Significance of sociological study of religion
- ii. Evolution of Sociology of Religion
- iii. Religion and Economy
- iv. Religion and Polity
- v. Religion and Gender

Unit II: Sociological Interpretation of Religion

- i. Durkheim and sociological functionalism
- ii. Weber and phenomenology
- iii. Marx and dialectical materialism
- iv. Levi-Strauss and Structuralism

Unit III: Religious Organisations

- i. Cult, Sect, Denomination and Church
- ii. Transformation from Sect to Church
- iii. Religious Organization and Proselytisation

Unit IV: Religious Movements in India

- i. Millenarian Movements
- ii. Reform Movements during the British period
- iii. New Religious Movements

Unit V: Contestation over Religion in India

- i. Religious Fundamentalism and Communalism
- ii. Secularism
- iii. Globalisation and Religion

Unit VI: Continuing evaluation

Readings:

- Baird, Robert D., (ed). 1995. *Religion in Modern India*. Delhi: Manohar.
- Betty, R. Scharf. 1970. *The Sociological Study of Religion*. London: Hutchinson.
- Bhargava, R., 1999. *Secularism and its Critics*. OUP.
- Carroll, Theodora F., 1983. *Women, Religion and Development in the Thrid World*. New York: Praeger Publisher.
- D'Souza, Leela, 2005. *The Sociology of Religion: A Critical Agenda*. New York. Sage Publications.
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- Durkheim, E., 1968. *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. London: George Allen & Unwin.
- Fisher, Mary Pat, 2002. *Religions Today: An Introduction*. London: Routledge.
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- Madan, T. N., (ed), 2004. *India's Religious Perspectives from Sociology & History*. OUP.
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- Shakir, Moin (ed), 1989. *Religion, State and Politics in India*. Delhi: Ajanta.
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- Theodore , M. Ludwig,
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- Vidyarthi, L. P. (ed),
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- Vidyarthi, L. P. et.al.
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- Vidyarthi L. P. 1978. *Sacred Complex in Hindu Gaya*. Delhi: Concept Publications.
- Weber Max. 1976. *Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. London: George Allen and Unwin.
- William, Bryan R., 1982 *Religion in Sociological Perspective*. Oxford: OUP.

SOCI-CT-103 Urban Society in India

Urbanization is as old as modern civilizations that took shape on the rivers Nile and the Indus in around 3000 and 2500 BC respectively. The nature of urban centers and urban life has evolved differentially in different parts of the globe since then. The forces that have contributed to the rise and fall of cities in different historical periods are substantially different. Social scientists have tried to capture, conceptually and empirically, the process of urbanization and its social, economic, political and cultural implications in different continents. The purpose of the present course is to understand the history of urbanization and contemporary urban life, both conceptually and empirically. The focus of the paper is on the history of urbanization in India and the social and cultural transformation that have come as a result of urbanization in contemporary India.

Unit I: Classical Theories about Urban Society

- i. Karl Marx
- ii. Emile Durkheim
- iii. Max Weber
- iv. Tonnies
- v. Simmel
- vi. Ecological Approach (Park, Burgess and McKenzie)

- vii. Louis Wirth

Unit II: Urbanization in India

- i. Forces of urbanization
- ii. Early urbanization
- iii. Urbanization in the colonial period
- iv. Urbanization in the post-Independence period

Unit III: Urban Society in India

- i. Urban society and culture: tradition vs. modernity
- ii. Urban institutions – family, caste, ethnicity

Unit IV: Urban Poor

- i. Genesis
- ii. Classification
- iii. Slums
- iv. Political life

Unit V: Urban Planning and Policies in India

- i. Urban policies
- ii. Programmes for the urban poor

Unit VI: Continuing evaluation

Readings:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Abrahamson, M., 1976. | <i>Urban Sociology</i> . Englewood, Prentice Hall. |
| Bose, Ashish. 1978. | <i>Studies in Indian Urbanisation, 1901-1971</i> . Tata McGraw Hills |
| Castells, Manuel. 1977. | <i>The Urban Question</i> . London: Edward Arnold. |
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| de Souza, Alfred. 1979. | <i>The Indian City: Poverty, Ecology and Urban Development</i> . Delhi: Manohar. |
| Ellin, Nan, 1996. | <i>Post Modern Urbanism</i> . UK: OUP. |
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| Ghosh, A, et.al., 1995 | <i>Basic Services for Urban Poor: A Study of Baroda, Bhilwara, Sambalpur and Siliguri</i> . New Delhi: IISSC. |
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- Judge, Isher, et. al. (ed), 2014. *Urbanisation in India: Challenges Opportunities and the Way Forward*. New Delhi: Sage.
- Kundu, A., 1993. *In the Name of Urban Poor: Access to Basic Amenities*. New Delhi: Sage.
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- Patel, Sujata and Kushal Deb (eds.), 2006. *Urban Studies*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press
- Pathak, C. R., 1998. *Urban Development, Urban Poverty, Industrial Development, Housing Policy and Housing*. Urban Sociology: Critical Essays. Methuen.
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- Sandhu, Ravindra Singh (ed), 2003. *Social Theory and Urban Question*. Hutchinson.
- Saunders, Peter, 1981. *The Family in India: Critical Essays*. Hyderabad: Orient Longman.
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- Shaw, Annapurna (ed.), 2007.

SOCI-CT-104

Rural Society in India

Studies of rural society in India highlights the dynamism of social relationship and behavior that rural society has undergone in the process of westernization and modernizations. Rural society is considered as the backbone of Indian society, the earlier village life was characterized as highly static society. It did not have any political and economic power initially but now has acquired adult franchise, democracy and accelerating transformation. During the last five decades rural people have witnessed massive changes. The prime objective of rural sociology is to make scientific, systematic and comprehensive study of the rural social organization, of its structure, function and objective tendencies of development and on the basis of such studies to discover the laws of its development. Rural sociology emphasize on micro-studies. It studies the

structure, characteristics and functions of rural social institution. It studies institutions like family, marriage, kinship, religion, caste etc. in the rural context.

Due to modern education, means of transport and communication, modernization, urbanization, the rural society is undergoing tremendous change. Rural reconstruction needs rural planning rural sociology serves the purpose and provides guidelines to the institutions and organization which are engaged in developmental task. Study on rural society gives an insight on the rural social organization, its structure, function and evolution as after independence rural problems are assuming great significance. It also helps in understanding problems of India as a whole as it is undergoing a phase of social, economic, political reconstruction.

Unit I: Village studies in India

- i. Historical Development
- ii. Theoretical and Methodological Perspectives

Unit II: Agriculture and social structure

- i. Classification of Indian Peasants
- ii. Agrarian Class Structure
- iii. Social Organisation of Production
- iv. Social Management of Irrigation

Unit III: Politics and power structure

- i. Leadership Pattern and the Power Structure
- ii. Panchayati Raj and the Devolution of Power
- iii. Politics and Conflict

Unit IV: Rural development

- i. Social Dimensions
- ii. Policies and Programmes
- iii. Emerging Issues and Challenges

Unit V: Rural social change

- i. Dimensions of social change
- ii. Emergence of women and weaker section
- iii. Agrarian Reforms, new technology, and globalisation

Unit VI: Continuing evaluation

Readings:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Aslam, M., 2011. | <i>Panchayat Raj in India</i> , New Delhi: National Book Trust. |
| Atal Yogesh & Rajesh Misra (eds). 2004. | <i>Understanding the Social Sphere: The Village and Beyond</i> . Jaipur: Rawat. |
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