MA Sociology Syllabus
2008-09

Semester I and II

SEMESTER I

COMP. PAPERS
Classical Sociology
Perspectives in Indian Society

Optional Papers
Agrarian Society
Social Movements
Political Sociology
Sociology of Maharashtra

SEMESTER II

COMP. PAPERS
Contemporary Social Theories
Methodology

Optional Papers
Sociology of Education
Sociology of Media
Health and Society
Industry, Human Resource and Society
Objectives:
1. To inform students about the rich tradition of sociological thought
2. To highlight the relevance of classical theory in contemporary scenario

1. ORIGINS OF SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY: HISTORICAL, SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND INTELLECTUAL FORCES
   a) Traditional Feudal Economy and Society in Europe: Characteristics
   b) French Revolution, Industrial Revolution, Emergence of Capitalism and their impact on Economy and Society
   c) The Enlightenment and its impact on thinking and reasoning
   d) Idealism Vs. empiricism

2. KARL MARX
   Theory of Class Struggle and Capitalism
   Theory of Alienation

3. EMILE DURKHEIM
   Contribution to the Methodology of Sociology:
   Sociology as a science- Concept of Social Fact- Methodological Rules
   Division of Labour: Mechanical and Organic Solidarity - causes and functions of increasing division of labour - Pathological forms of division of labour
   Theory of Suicide: Types of suicide and his distinctive sociological interpretation of Suicide.
   Theory of Religion: Durkheim's definition of 'Religion' – Analysis of Totemism as the most elementary religion and its sociological interpretation - Religious Rituals, their types and social function.

4. MAX WEBER
   Contribution to the Methodology of Social Sciences: Distinctive nature of Social Realities - Sociology as an interpretative science - Concepts of 'Verstehen' and 'Ideal Types'
   Theory of Social Action-Concept and types
   Concept of Bureaucracy: Concept, Characteristics, bureaucracy and rationality.
   Views on Capitalism: Analysis of Modern Capitalism - Protestant Ethic and Emergence of Capitalism.; Role of ideas and values in social change

5. Limitations of Classical Theory: Race (Du Bois), Gender (Gilman) and colonialism

Essential Readings:
COMPULSORY PAPER - II
PERSPECTIVES ON INDIAN SOCIETY

Objectives:
1. To acquaint the students to the continuities and contradictions in Indian society through centuries.
2. To trace the history of ideas related to the analysis of Indian society.
3. To analyse the role of colonialism, democracy, nation building and globalization in shaping contemporary, Indian society.

I. Development of Sociology in India and perspectives to study Indian society:
   Indological, (Ghurye,)
   Structural-Functional, (M. N. Srinivas,)
   Dialectical, (D. P. Mukherji, A. R. Desai,)
   Subaltern (R. Guha)
   Non Brahmin (Phule, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar)
   Feminist (Neera Desai, Leela Dube)

III. Debates on Indian Social Institutions
   (a) Family, Kinship and Household (Joint versus nuclear, household versus family)
   (b) Village (phases)
   (c) Urban Settings (going beyond rural-urban continuum)

IV. Bases of Social Stratification in India
   a) Caste
   b) Class
   c) Tribe
   d) Gender

V. Globalization and Indian Society
   (a) Labour
   (b) Education- Issues in higher education
   (c) Farmer’s Suicide
   (d) SEZ
   (e) Debates on Globalization

Prescribed Books
9. Deshpande Satish, Contemporary India: Sociological Perspectives, Viking
20. Omvedt Gail, Dalits and Democratic Revolution, Sage, New Delhi
21. Patel Sujata and Alice Thorner (eds), Bombay Metaphor for Modern India Bombay and Delhi, Oxford University Press.
22. Srinivas M. N., Social Change in Modern India, Oxford University Press, Delhi.
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SO 003 – SOCIOLOGY OF SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Objectives:
1. To introduce the students to the role of social movements in social transformation
2. To help them understand the various approaches to the study of social movements.

I. Nature, Definitions, Characteristics of social movement
   Relationship with State and Civil Society

II. Theories of Social Movements.
   a) Structural –functional
   b) Marxist
   c) Resource Mobilization Theory
   d) New Social Movement

III. Social Movement and Social Change
   a) Reform, Rebellion, Revival
   b) Revolution, Insurrection
   c) Counter Movement

IV. New Social Movements(with specific reference to social basis, leadership, ideology and emotions)
   a) Peasant movement
   b) Labour movement
   c) Dalit movement
   d) Women’s movement
   e) Ecological movement

Readings:
4) Banks J. A., Sociology of Social Movements,
11) Flam H. and King D.Edt.: Emotions and Social Movements, Routledge,NY.
12) Gore M. S., Non Brahmin Movement of Maharashtra, Segment Book Distributors, New Delhi, 1989


30) Robb, Peter, eds. 1993 , Dalit Movements and meeting of labour in India. Delhi – Sage


Optional Paper
Sociology of Maharashtra: Culture and Society

Objectives:
1. To enhance sociological knowledge about the local and regional context of Maharashtra.
2. To acquaint students with the changing trends in Maharashtra with special reference to globalization, Development processes and caste, gender politics

I. Maharashtra: Mapping History and development Indices.

II. Cultural Revolt in Colonial Maharashtra:
- Impact of Satyashodhak Movement
- Non Brahmin Movement
- Right Discourse in Kolhapur State
- Ambedkarite Movement

III. Debate on social reform and Women’s Questions in 19th Cent. Maharashtra (Age of consent, Widow Remarriage, Education, Nation and Mother)

IV. Formation of Maharashtra: Economic, Political and Cultural Issues
- Samyukta Maharashtra Movement
- Girangaon and Working Class Movement
- Ethnic Nationalism: Shiv Sena
- Development of Bahujan, Dalit and OBC politics in Maharashtra

V. Contemporary Issues of Development in Maharashtra
- Regional Disparity in Development
- Issues of Displacement
- Farmer’s Suicide
- SEZ (Special Economic Zone)
- Sex Ratio

References

2. Karve, I. ( ) Marathi Lokanchi Sanskriti, Deshmukh Pub, Mumbai
5. Gare Govind, Maharashtratil Adivasi,


16. Omvedt, Gail, Cultural Revolt in Colonial India,


22. Karve Iravati, Aamachi Samskruti
23. Karve, I. ( ) Marathi Lokanchi Sanskriti, Deshmukh Pub, Mumbai


Optional Paper
Agrarian Society in India

Objectives:
1. To introduce students to different approaches to the study of Agrarian Social structure.
2. To understand the contemporary agrarian society and issues in relevant context.

I. Concept of agrarian social structure.
   a) Structure of peasantry as an analytical category.
   b) Basic feature of agrarian society.
   c) Tribal and Peasant society.

II. Evolution of Agrarian Structure in India
   a) Feudalism
   b) Asiatic Mode of Production
   c) Colonial Land Settlement

III. Programmes in Post Independence India
   a) Panchayati Raj
   b) Community Development Programmes
   c) HYV programmes :- The Green Revolution and its outcome.
   d) Poverty Alleviation programme integrated
      EGS
      SGRY
      NREGA

IV. Agrarian Movements
   a) Telangana
   b) Tebhaga
   c) Naxalbari

V. Post Liberation Policies
   a) Peasant Movement in the 1980s and Politics of Farm Lobby
   b) Globalisation and Its Impact on Indian agriculture.

Reference:-
1) Beteille Andre : Six Essays in Comparative Sociology; OUP, New Delhi 1974, PP 1-50
4) Dhanagare D. N.; Peasant Movement in India; Oxford University Press New Delhi, 1988 PP 1-25 88-155.
5) Omvedi Gail - Land, Caste and Politics; Department of Political Science, Delhi University Delhi 1987, Introduction only.
8) Beteille Andre; Caste, Class, and Power; California University Press, 1971, PP 185-226

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Optional Paper
Political Sociology

Objectives:
1. To study the relationship between society and polity
2. To study the various approaches to study the State
3. To understand the contemporary challenges in India

II. Theoretical Approaches to the State: Liberal, Pluralist, Power-elite, Post-modernist
III. Marxist tradition, Weberian Tradition, the New Political sociology
IV. Society and the state in India and Contemporary Challenges:
   Religious nationalism, Hindutva and politics of the upper castes, the caste system and patriarchy; Language, Ethnicity and Region.

Readings:
   Gershon Shafir (ed) 1998The Citizenship Debates, University of Minnesota Press
   Charles Tilly, Coercion, Capital and European States, Blackwell (1990)
9. Vora Rajendra and Palshikar Suhas, (Ed) Indian Democracy, Sage New Delhi, 2004
12. Desai A.R., State and Society – India – Essays in Dissent, popular Pub,
13. Shakir Moin, “State and Politics in Contemporary India”, Ajanta Publication,
    Delhi, 1986.

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Semester II

Comp. Paper I

Contemporary Social Theories

Objectives:
1. To introduce the students to the contemporary trends in the social theory
2. To compare and contrast various theories and to understand their strengths and weaknesses

I. Meaning of Theory- Nature of Sociological Theory- Levels of theorization
II. Marxism From 30s to 70s: Frankfurt school, Gramsci (hegemony, civil society), Althusser (theory of ideology) and Habermas (lifeworld and system)
III. Structuralism and Post Structuralism: Levi Srauss, Foucault and Derrida
IV. Recent trends in Sociological Theory: A. Giddens and Bourdieu

Readings
8. Smart Barry: Michel Foucault, Routledge, London.
10. Charles Lemert, Sociology After the Crisis Westview 1995
Compulsory Paper II
Methodology of Social Research

Objectives:
1. To acquaint students with the fundamentals of research techniques and methods.
2. To acquaint students with the quantitative and qualitative strategies of research

I. Positivism and Sociology
   Classical View of Science, Reason, rationality and Standard view of Scientific knowledge
   Social science as science, objectivity and ethics, the position of researcher, problem of adequacy.

II. Critiques of positivism
   a) Existential Phenomenology and Ethnomethodology
   b) New philosophy of science: Popper, Fayeraband and Kuhn
   c) Feminist Critiques

III. Quantitative Research Strategies
   a) Survey (interview, questionnaire and schedule)
   b) Content Analysis
   c) Panel Study

IV. Qualitative Research Strategies
   a) Ethnography
   b) Case Study
   c) Oral History
   d) Content Analysis
   e) Participatory Action Research

Readings:
1. Carol Grbich: New Approaches in Social Research, Sage,

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Optional Papers
Sociology of Education

Objectives:
1. To get acquainted with the approaches and contributions in sociology of education
2. To get acquainted with the alternative educational programmes in India

III. The Indian Tradition of Education: Colonial education, contribution of nationalists/Gandhi.
V. Alternative Education Programmes.

Readings:
2. Gore, M.S. et.all (ed.): Papers on Sociology of Education in India, New Delhi, NCERT, 1975.
Optional Paper
Health And Society

Objectives:
1. To sensitize students to health related issues
2. To understand the issues related to community health
3. To understand the role of the State in the area of health

I ) Introduction
   Concepts -Health, Medicine, Illness, Sickness, Disease and Society

II) Theoretical perspectives on health and medicine within sociology
   a) Functional approach
   b) Conflict approach
   c) Interactionist approach
   d) Labeling approach

III) Disease, illness and sickness.
   a) Natural history of disease
   b) Human environment
   c) Social etiology
   d) Social Epidemiology
   e) Ecology of disease

IV) Community Health
   a) Concept of integrated health services
   b) Community health problems in India
   c) Public health care systems in India.

V) The State and Health
   a) Health as a fundamental right.
   b) Health policy of government of India.
   c) Financing of health care and health insurance.
   d) Food and drug adulteration.
   e) Impact of privatization and globalization on health care in India

Essential readings
7. Prentice Hall.


18. Venkataratnam, R. 1979. Medical sociology in an Indian setting, Madras:

References:


Objectives:
1. To introduce students to the different types of media.
2. To introduce new methodologies to analyze media in the context of globalization, nation, gender and community.

I. Media and Modernity, Social History of Media, State and Media in India

II. Theories and concept of Media and Popular Culture
- Folk, Popular, Mass, Alternate
- Ideology
- Discourse and Hegemony
- Propaganda Model

III. Television: Analyzing programmes
- Content
- Transnational Television

IV. Nation, Gender and Community in Indian Cinema
- Regional
- Bollywood
- Transnational

V. Methodologies for Studying Media
- Ethnography
- Audience research
- Discourse analysis

Readings:
3. Rajgopal Arvind: Politics of Television
4. Don Robotham, Culture, Society and Economy: Bringing Production Back in, Sage, London 2005
Optional Paper
Sociology of Labour

Objectives:
1. To understand the changing concept of the labour and work.
2. To understand the processes of migration of labour and labour in organized and unorganized sector

I. Changing Concept of Work and Labour
II. Migration of Labour: Local, Regional and Transnational.
III. Organized labour in India: Working class movement and present challenges.
IV. Labour in unorganized sector: Issues of Gender, Unemployment, Poverty, Age, Caste.
V. Organization in Unorganized Sector: Case Studies.

Readings:
5. Banerjee Nirmala; Women in Unorganised Sector, Hyderabad, Orient Longmans; 1985.
7. Breman Jan: Down and Out
15. Breman Jam, Of Peasants, Migrants and Paupers (1985),
16. Breman Jan, Wage Hunters and Gatherers (1994),
17. Breman Jan, The Labouring Poor in India; Patterns of Exploitation and Exclusion, Oxford Univ. Press, Delhi 2003
18. Breman Jan, Das and R. Agarwal - Down and Out: Labouring under Global Capitalism (Oxford University Press and Amsterdam University Press 2000
20. Breman Jan, Of Peasants, Migrants and Workers, Rural labour Circulation and Capitalist Production in WestIndia (Clarendon Press 1985)

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