UNIVERSITY OF PUNE.


G-1 - Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology.

The course aims at introducing Anthropology as the science of mankind. It seeks to introduce the paradigms from all the four sub-fields of Anthropology which enables anthropologists to study human beings with holistic approach.

At the end of the course the students are expected to know:

- Know the nature, scope, approach and perspectives of Anthropology as a discipline.
- Know the sub-fields of Anthropology.
- Relation with other disciplines.
- Concept of culture.
- Organization of Culture.

First Term

I. Introduction to Anthropology - 16 Lectures.

i. Meaning nature, scope and uses of Anthropology -
   Main sub-fields of Anthropology.
   Social and Cultural Anthropology.
   Biological Anthropology.
   Archaeological Anthropology.
   Linguistic Anthropology.
   Relationship of Anthropology with:
   Sociology, Psychology, History, Economics, Biology.

ii. The Anthropological approach -
   The holistic approach.
   The comparative perspective.
   Cultural Relativism, Ethnocentrism.
   Etic and Emic perspectives.
   Study of human diversity.
   The science of Man.

iii. Human Origin and Evolution -
   Place of Man in animal kingdom.
   Physical and Cultural aspects of human evolution.
   Stages of human evolution:
   - Australopithecus, Homo habilis, Homo erects, Neanderthals and sapiens.
   Concept of Race and Human variation.
   Racism: A critique.
II. Culture - 16 Lectures.
   Concept and definitions.
   The four elements of Culture.
   The attributes of culture.
   Material and non-material aspects of culture.
   Culture and personality.
   Concept of cultural lag.

III. Social Organization - 16 Lectures.

i. Marriage -
   Definition, Functions and Characteristics.
   Rules and types of exogamous marriage and endogamous marriage.
   Modes of acquiring mates.
   Preferential types of marriage.
   Polygamy: polygyny and polyandry.
   Cross cousin and parallel cousin marriages.
   Levirate and Sororate.
   Customary practices among the Tribal communities:
      - Age at marriage, Divorce and Status of Women in Tribal Society.

ii. Family –
   Joint and nuclear family.
   Patrilineal, Matrilineal groups.
   Characteristics, functions of joint and nuclear family.
   Changing nature of family.

iii. Kinship –
   Types of Unilateral kinship groups: Lineage, clan, moiety and phratry.
   Clan and kinship system.
   Functions of clan and kinship.
   Kinship behavior: avoidance, joking relationship.
   Kinship obligations.
Second Term

I. Political Organization –
Definitions and Nature.
Means of Social Control.
Nature of Tribal Leadership – Head-men (indigenous), Hereditary etc.
Law and justice.
Characteristics of law.
Punishment – Enforcement among Tribal communities.

II. Religious Organization –
Religion - Definitions.
Religion, Magic and Science.
Totem, taboo, Shaman (Bhagat).
Magic – White magic, black magic, characteristics and aims of magic.

III. Economic Organization –
Characteristics of Primitive Economic system.
Types of Economic Activities.
Types and Stages of Economy – Hunting - Gathering, Pastoralism, Shifting Cultivation and Settled Agriculture among tribal communities.
Concept of property and inheritance.

Prescribed books -
4. Introduction to Social Anthropology – Mazumdar D. N. & Madan T. N.
5. Origin of Man and His Culture – Stephen Fuchs
7. Races & Culture of India – Mazumdar D. N.

Reading -