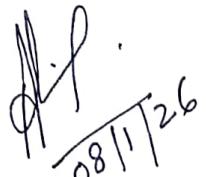


Department of Sociology
Jamia Millia Islamia
New Delhi-110025

M.A. Semester-II
Session-2025-2026

S.No.	Course Code	Title Paper	Marks	Examination Hour	Credit
1	MSO-207	Social Thinkers in India (Optional)	100	3	4
2	MSO-206	City and Society (Optional)	100	3	4
3	MSO-205	Indian Society: Structure and Processes	100	3	4
4	MSO-202	Contemporary Sociological Theory-I	100	3	4
5	MSO-201	Introduction to Social Anthropology	100	3	4
6	CBCS (Swayam) Media, Cultural Dynamics and Social Change (4 credit course)				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start date: 01 Jan 2026 • End date: 30 April 2026 • Enrollment ends: 28 Feb 2026 • Language: English • Link: https://onlinecourses.swayam2.ac.in/nou26_ge55/preview • Course Facilitator: Dr. Bhat Khalid Bashir • Contact: 7889678446, email- ikhalidbhat@gmail.com 				



08/11/26

(Prof. Azra Abidi)
Head

विभागाधार्प / Head
 समाजशास्त्र विभाग / Department of Sociology
 जामिया मिलिया इस्लामिया / Jamia Millia Islamia
 नई दिल्ली / New Delhi-110025

Department of Sociology

SOCIAL THINKERS IN INDIA

M.A. Semester-2

156

Credit-4

Paper Code: MSD-207

Course Objectives:

Indian social thinkers strike a different note giving importance to scientific temper, rationalism and their ideas. They have importance in the scheme of Indian society, education, religious and social reforms and personality development with reference to self. Among Indian thinkers like Swami Dayananda, M.K. Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, Pandita Rama Bai, Ismat Chughtai tried to do reform in the traditional Indian society and conservative thought modifying and adjusting it to contemporary situations. These thinkers represent the spirit of contemporary Indian Philosophy of coexistence and integration towards a modern thought.

This course familiarizes students with the contribution of Indian social thinkers of the last two centuries reflecting India's interconnected socio-cultural, economic and political identities. This paper focuses on contemporary India and interdisciplinary theoretical perspectives of key thinker's ideologies on Indian social problems and sociological issues. The course is basically framed for the students of M.A who are interested to know more about culturally diverse Indian society. The present course includes debates on nationalism, colonialism and post-colonial issues which analyses ethnographic studies on Indian society.

Learning Outcomes

- ❖ After completion of the course the students will be able to understand broad, basic knowledge of great Indian social thinkers.
- ❖ The historical, social and cultural contexts of social issues like, caste untouchability, gender discrimination, educational problems and idea of self.
- ❖ -Students will be able about basic knowledge on Indian society as characterized by religious plurality and interaction.
- ❖ The students will be able to analyze the relevant research literature to develop his /her interest in the contribution made by the Indian social thinkers.

Unit-1 Early Modern Reformist and the Colonial Context

Bengal Renaissance

Ram Mohan Roy and Dayananda Saraswati

Syed Ahmad Khan and Mohammad Iqbal

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Unit -11-Modern Social Thinkers

Rabindranath Tagore: Nationalism and Internationalism

M.K. Gandhi: Swaraj and non -violence

Jawaharlal Nehru: Modern India

Unit-111-Social Justice and Social Change

Caste: Jyotiba Phule, B.R.Ambedkar and Narayana Guru

Gender: Pandita Ramabai, Tarabai Shinde and Ismat Chughtai

Social transformation: M.N.Roy, Jayaprakash Narayan and Vinoba Bhave

Essential Reading

1. A.R. Desai, 1976, Social Background of Indian Nationalism, Bombay: PPH.
2. Chakrabarty, Bidyut & Pandey, Rajendra Kumar, 2009. 'Modern Indian political thought: text and context'. New Delhi: Sage Publications
3. Chatterjee, Partha. 1986. Nationalist Thought and the Colonial World: A Derivative Discourse. New Delhi: Oxford University Press
4. Chakravarty, Uma. 1998. Rewriting History: The Life and Time of Pandita Ramabai.
5. Contribution to Women's Cause', Economic and Political Weekly, 29 October: 47.
6. Dayananda Saraswati, 1984,The Light of Truth, New Delhi: Sarvadeshik Arya Pratinidhi Sabha Dayanand Bhavan
7. Dyer, Helen. 2004. Pandita Ramabai: The Story of Her Life. Reprint. Montana: Kessinger Publishing..
8. Guha, Ramachandra, 2010, First liberal: Rammohan Roy in Makers of Modern India. New Delhi: Viking, Penguin group Publishers. pp. 26-48
9. Guha, Ramachandra, 2010,The Rooted Cosmopolitan: Rabindranath Tagore in Makers of Modern India. New Delhi: Viking, Penguin group Publishers. Pp.185-203.
10. Haithcox, J.P. 1971. Communism and Nationalism in India: MN Roy and Commintern Policy, 1920-39. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

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11. Iqbal Mohammad, 1934, The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam. London: Oxford University Press.
12. Kosambi, Meera. (Compiled and edited). 2000. Pandita Ramabai through Her Own Words: Selected Works. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
13. Limaye, Madhu, 1991. Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru a historical partnership. New Delhi: BR Publishing Corporation.
14. M.K. Gandhi Hind Swaraj Natarajan 1962 A Century of Social Reform in India, Bombay: Asia Publishing House New Delhi: Kali for Women. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
15. Overstreet, G. D and Marshall Wind miller. 1960. Communism in India. Bombay: Perennial Press
16. Parekh,C.Bhikhu, 1991, Gandhi's Political Philosophy: A Critical Examination. London: Macmillan Academic and Professional Ltd
17. Pathak, Dev Nath & H.M Kumar, Sanjeev (ed.) 2018, Modern South Asian Thinkers. New Delhi: Sage.
18. Ray, Sibnarayan (ed.) 2000a. Selected Works of M.N. Roy, 1917–1922. Volume I.
19. Roy, M.N. 1971. Indian in Transition. Bombay: Nachiketa Publications.
20. Sengupta, Padmini. 1970. Pandita Ramabai: Her Life and Work. Bombay: Asia Publishing House

Suggested Readings:

1. Gail Omvedt, 1976, Cultural Revolt in a Colonial Society, Bombay: Scientific Socialist Education Trust
2. Habib, Irfan. 1995. Essays in Indian History. New Delhi:
3. Oommen, T.K. 1990. State and Society in India: Studies in Nation-building. New Delhi: Sage Publications

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Department of Sociology

CITY AND SOCIETY

M.A. Semester- II

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Paper Code : MSD-206

Credits-4

Course Objectives

This course is an attempt towards conceptualizing the city, not merely as a *site* for the play of social interaction, but as a concept that merits attention in its own right, given the explosion of the 'urban'. It transcends the disciplinary 'boundedness' by ignoring the pre-occupation of conventional urban sociology to view the city predominantly as a problem; eschews the debates between anthropology *in / of* the city, or the tendency to privilege a specific theoretical vantage point at the cost of other equally or maybe more illuminating perspectives - within or outside the discipline. A multi-disciplinary, comparative and global panoptical is, therefore, adopted to understand the way capital and culture transform as well as get transformed by urban space; how the historic, cultural and spatial uniqueness of a place resists global attempts at 'place-lessness'; what roles does state, planners, architects, civil society and middle class play in making the city; and how the underclass lives out its everyday life in the city and continues to cull an indispensable niche for itself despite a harshly competitive urban environment.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, the students would be able to use classic as well as contemporary concepts, theories and perspectives to articulate urban transformations underway all across the globe and especially in India. The course will provide an introduction to multiple ways of looking at the city and urban life – with views, both, from above and below. It will give training to understand city as a text as well as context and comprehend the structural as well cultural aspects of city. The students would be sensitized to be open to new ideas from everyday urban experiences. They would be fully alert and ready to engage with the latest debates at the frontier of urban theory, practice and policy. At the end of the course, they would be prepared to not only take up advanced research in the field but also be able to enter into the field of urban advocacy, urban planning, policy and practice, if they feel so inclined.

Unit I: Perspectives

- Modernity and urban experience (*Weber, Simmel, Wirth*)
- Urban Planning and design (*Le-Corbusier, Howard, Whyte, Jacobs*)
- Space, place and identity (*Lefebvre, Sassen, Zukin*)

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Unit II: Production and politics of urban space

- Public space and the right to the city (*urban restructuring, economics of agglomeration, appropriation and privatisation*)
- Urban development, re-development and informality (*resettlement policies, informal urbanisation, and housing*)
- Placemaking (*rebuilding communities and public realm*)

Unit III: Spatialisation of class, culture and difference

- Consumer culture : (*spaces of consumption, gentrification, urban class and processes of inclusion and exclusion*)
- Represented City: (*visual culture, cinéma, street culture*)
- Gendered spaces (*flaneur, mobility, urban fear, sexual geography*)

Essential Readings:

1. Brenner, Neil and Roger Keil. (Eds.). 2006. *The Global City Reader*. Routledge: New York, London, chs.4,5,9,10,26,37.
2. Bridge, Gary and Sophie Watson. 2000. *A Companion to the City*. Blackwell: Oxford, Malden. Chs. 11,25,26,28. 31, 32, 35, 42, 44, 45, 46.
3. Chen, Xiangming , Anthony M. Orum and Krista E. Paulsen. 2013. *Introduction to Cities: How place and space shape human experience*, Wiley-Blackwell: Malden, Oxford. Part-I.
4. *Economy and political weekly* 2007. Vol. 42, No.17. Pp. 1510-1526, 1542-1548. (For, Gender and space).
5. Ghertner, D.A., 2011. 'Gentrifying the state, gentrifying participation: Elite governance programs', in Delhi. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 35(3), pp.504-532.
6. Harvey, David. 2008. 'The Right to the City', in *New Left Review*, pp.23-40.
7. Kaur, Kulwinder. 2019, "Shifting Urban Redevelopment Policies and the Aspirations for a Slum Free India: Experiences of Urban Poor in Delhi", in *Man in India*, Vol. 99. (1-2): 157-167.
8. Kaur, Kulwinder. 2016. 'Towards a consumer society: Looking beyond the middle class' in Kulwinder Kaur, (ed.), *The Coming of Consumer Society*, Manohar: New Delhi, (2016), pp. 11-31.
9. Kaur, Kulwinder. 2015. 'Questioning the "end of public space": A reflexive ethnography in American cities', in *Eastern Anthropologist*, 68:4 , pp. 573-592.

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10. Kaur, Kulwinder. 2017. 'Malling of Urban India : Social History and Evolution in a Global and Comparative Framework' in South Asian Anthropologist, 17:1, pp. 111-119.
11. Lefebvre, H. 1991. *The Production of Space*, Oxford: Blackwell.
12. Lin, Jan. and C. Mele. (Eds.). 2005. *The Urban Sociology Reader*. Oxon and New York: Routledge. Chs by Simmel, Wirth, and Zukin, pp. 23-41, 281-289.
13. Le Gates, Richard T. and Frederic Stout, eds. 2003. *The City Reader*, London: Routledge. Pp. 103-117, 158-175, 179-197, 2017-216, 299-304, 311-329, 367-375, 382-396, 407-446.
14. Lefebvre, H. 1991. *The Production of Space*, Oxford: Blackwell Lefebvre, H. 1991.
15. Low, Setha. 1996. "Spatializing Culture: The Social Production and Social Construction of Public Space." *American Ethnologist*, vol. 23, no. 4, pp. 861-879.
16. Mitchell, Don. 2003. *The Rights to the City: Social Justice and the Fight for Public Space*. The Guilford Press: New York and London.
17. Nandy, A., 1998. Introduction: Indian popular cinema as a slum's eye view of politics in Ashish Nandy (ed.), *The secret politics of our desires: Innocence, culpability and Indian popular cinema*, St. Martin Press, Zed Books: NY, London, pp. 1-18.
18. Parsons, Deborah. 2000. *Streetwalking the Metropolis: Women, the City and Modernity*. Oxford University Press: Oxford and New York. Introduction and Ch.1. pp. 1-42.
19. Patel, S., 2018. 'Rethinking Urban Studies Today' in *Sociological Bulletin*, 67(1), pp. 1-19.
20. Patel, S. and Goyal, Omita. (Eds.). 2018. *India's Contemporary Urban Conundrum*. Taylor & Francis. Selected chapters.
21. Paddison, Ronan and Donald McNeil. 2010. Urban Studies, Vol-I. Chs. 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, Vol II, ch 16, 19, 20, 24, 29, 31; Vol-III, Chs Intro, chs 40, 44, 46, 48, 51, 53, Vol IV, chs. 55-58, 67, 70, 77.
22. Paroda, Barbara. 'Ten ways to transform cities through placemaking and public spaces' <https://www.archdaily.com/362988/ten-ways-to-transform-cities-through-placemaking-and-public-spaces>.
23. Roy, Ananya. 2009. 'Why India cannot plan its cities: Informality, insurgence and the idiom of urbanisation' in *Planning Theory* (Special Issue: Strangely Familiar), vol. 8(1); pp. 76-87. Sage.
24. Sandhu, Jasmeet and Gurpreet Bal. (Eds.). 2013. *Urban development and Governance: Issues, Concerns and Challenges*. Introduction.
25. Sennett, Richard. 1969. *Classic essays on Culture of Cities*, Ch 'The nature of City' by Max Weber. Appleton Century Crofts and original by University of Michigan: Michigan.

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26. Sharma, R.N. and R.S. Sandhu. (Eds.).2013. 'Small Cities and Towns in Global Era: Emerging Changes and Perspectives' Ch1, 3, 5.
27. Shaw, Annpurna. 2007. (Ed.). *Indian Cities in Transition*. Orient longman : New Delhi. Chs. 1-5, 11, 14.
28. Wells, K., 2007. The material and visual cultures of cities. *Space and Culture*, 10(2), pp.136-144.
29. Whitzman, C., 2007. 'Stuck at the front door: gender, fear of crime and the challenge of creating safer space'. *Environment and Planning A*, 39(11), pp.2715-2732.
30. Wilson, Elizabeth. 1992. "The Invisible Flaneur," *New Left Review*. No.191. Pp.90-110.

Suggested Readings

1. Brosius, Christiane. 2010. India's Middle Class : New forms of Urban Leisure, consumption and Prosperity. Routledge: London, New York.
2. Campbell, Scott and Susan S Fainstein. 2003. *Readings in Planning Theory*. Blackwell: Introduction, Ch. 2 .
3. Chauncy, G. 1994. Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture and the making of Gay New York: Basic Books.
4. Cuthbert, Alexander R. *The Form of Cities: Political Economy of Urban Design*. Blackwell: Malden, Oxford. Ch.1, 4, 5, 8.
5. Dupont, V.D., 2011. The dream of Delhi as a global city. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 35(3), pp.533-554.
6. *Economy and Political Weekly* 2007. Vol. 42, No.17,pp. 1510-1526, 1542-1548. (For Gender and space, special issue).
7. Hertz, B.-S. and Knauer, Lisa M. 1997. "Queer Spaces in New York City: Places of Struggle, Places of Strength", in Gordon Brent Ingram, Anne-Marie Bouthillette, and Yolanda Retter, (eds.). *Queers in Space: Communities, Public Places, Sites of Resistance* Seattle, WA: Bay Press, pp. 356-370.
8. Kaur, Kulwinder. 2017. 'Urban Segregation and Policy Response: Lessons from Housing Strategies across the Globe', in *Indian Journal of Development Research and Social Action*, 13:1, pp. 113-130.
9. Kleniewski, Nancy. (Ed.).2005. *City and Society*, Chs 3, 6, 12, and 15.
10. Lin, Jan. and C.Mele. (Eds.). 2005. *The Urban Sociology Reader*. Oxon and New York: Routledge. Selected Chs.

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11. Levy, Jacques. Ed. 2008. *The City: Critical essays in Human Geography*. Ashgate: Hamshire, Burlington. Ch. 10, 16, 17, 18, 19, 25.
12. Mahadevia, D., 2011. Branded and renewed? Policies, politics and processes of urban development in the reform era. *Economic and Political Weekly*, pp.56-64.
13. Mazumdar, R., 2007. *Bombay cinema: An archive of the city*. Univ of Minnesota Press.
14. Rao, U., 2010. Making the global city: Urban citizenship at the margins of Delhi. *Ethnos*, 75(4), pp.402-424.
15. Stevenson, Deborah. 2009. *Cities and Urban Cultures*. Rawat: New Delhi.(Reprint).
16. Valentine, G., 1989. 'The geography of women's fear', in *Area*, pp.385-390.
17. Zukin, S., 2012. Whose culture? Whose city?, in *The urban sociology reader* (pp. 363-371). Routledge.

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Department of Sociology

Indian Society: Structure and Processes
M.A. Sociology, Semester-II

Credit-4

Paper Code: MSD-205

Course Objectives:

Indian society has always fascinated academics to percept and comprehend its complex intersectionality. It offers a formidable academic challenge to make sense of the co-existing multiple realities. Sociologists have applied various perspectives to understand this diversity. Through empirical investigation sociology have made tremendous progress popularly held belief with the help of theories and methods of sociology. This paper critically examines the conservative understanding of Indian society and highlights the changes and continuity witnessed in Indian society. There is a great deal of misinformation and myth surrounding the Indian society which requires complex analysis facts, figures and empirical investigation. The complexity of caste, gender and ethnicity in contemporary societies need careful attention. It explores the complex issues of diversity, identity, inequality and social justice. Each unit in the paper tries to understand Indian society from a sociological perspective. It attempts to understand the outcomes of the resistance and alteration in Indian society. Larger objective of understanding Indian society is to understand the processes of social engineering and nation building project.

Learning Outcomes:

After Studying the course students will be able to:

- Explain the major approaches to understand Indian society
- Discuss the various dimensions of diversity and inequality prevalent in Indian society
- Describe important structural elements which influence our day-to-day interaction and relation.
- Describe the dynamism of resistance and change in Indian society.

Unit I: Understanding Indian Society

- Perspectives: Structural-functional, Indological, Marxist & Subaltern
- Debates on Indian Society
- Diversity and Social Inequality

Unit II: Indian Social Structure

- Caste, Class and Tribe

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- Family and Kinship
- Rural and Urban Social Structure

Unit III: Social Interaction and Processes

- Identity: Exclusion and Inclusion
- Dissent and Protest
- Legislation and Social Change

Essential Readings

1. Agnes, Flavia (2011). Family Laws and Constitutional Claims (Vol.1). Oxford University Press, New Delhi.
2. Aloysius, G (2014). Nationalism without a Nation in India (pp.1-22). Oxford University Press, New Delhi.
3. Berreman, G. (1972). Social Categories and Social Interaction in Urban India. *American Anthropologist*, 74(3), new series, 567-586.
4. Chakrabarty, D. (1995). Modernity and Ethnicity in India: A History for the Present. *EPW*, 30(52), 3373-3380.
5. Dahiwale, S.M. (ed.). (2005) Understanding Indian Society: The Non-Brahmanic Perspective (Ch. 1, 2, 3, 5 & 11).
6. Deshpande, A. (2013). Affirmative Action in India, OUP, Delhi.
7. Dhanagare, D.N., (1999). Themes and Perspectives in Indian Sociology, Rawat Publications.
8. Driver, E. (1962). Caste and Occupational Structure in Central India. *Social Forces*, 41(1), 26-31.
9. Dumont, Louis (1970). *Homo Hierarchicus*, London, Paladin.
10. Dushkin, Lelah. (1961). "The Backward Classes" *Economic Weekly*.
11. Embree, A. (1972). India--A Plural Society. *The High School Journal*, 56(1), 45-53.
12. Friedman, L. (1967). Legal Rules and the Process of Social Change. *Stanford Law Review*, 19(4), 786-840.
13. Galanter, Marc (1984). Competing Equalities: Law and the backward Classes in India, OUP, Delhi.
14. Gary S. Becker. (1974). A Theory of Social Interactions, *The Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 82, No. 6 (Nov. - Dec) pp. 1063-1093.
15. Jodhka, S.S. (ed.) (2013). Village Society Orient Black Swan, New Delhi (Ch. 1 & 3).
16. Karve, Iravati. (1994). The Kinship map of India, in Patricia Uberoi(ed.) *Family, kinship and marriage in India*, Delhi: OU, pp.50-73.
17. Kolenda, P.. (1997). Caste in Contemporary India: Beyond Organic Solidarity, Rawat Publication, Jaipur
18. Mencher, Joan (1974). "The Caste System Upside down, or the not-so-mysterious east" *Current Anthropology*, 15(4), 469-493.
19. Oommen, T. (1994). Religious Nationalism and Democratic Polity: The Indian Case. *Sociology of Religion*, 55(4), 455-472.

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20. Parekh, B. (1995). Cultural Pluralism and the Limits of Diversity. *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political*, 20(4), 431-457.

21. Rao, M.S.A (ed.) (1992). *Urban Sociology in India*. Orient Longman Ltd.

22. Shah, A. M. (1998). *The Family in India: Critical Essays*. New Delhi: Orient Longman, pp.52-63.

23. Shah, A.M. (2010). *The Structure of Indian Society: Then and Now*, Rutledge, New Delhi.

24. Sharma, K. (1984). Caste and Class in India: some Conceptual Problems. *Sociological Bulletin*, 33(1/2), 1-28.

25. Singh, D. (1991). Protest Movements in India. *The Indian Journal of Political Science*, 52(4), 448-457.

26. Singh, Y. (1986). *Modernisation of Indian Tradition*, Rawat Publication, Delhi.

27. Srinivas M.N. (1995). *Social Change in Modern India*, Orient Longman, New Delhi.

28. Srinivas, M.N. (1980). *India: Social Structure*, HPC, Delhi.

29. Stroope, S. (2012). Caste, Class, and Urbanization: The Shaping of Religious Community in Contemporary India. *Social Indicators Research*, 105(3), 499-518.

30. Thomas, G. (2005). Solving India's Diversity Dilemma: Culture, Constitution, & Nehru. *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, 6(2), 21-27.

31. Thorat, S., & Attewell, P. (2007). The Legacy of Social Exclusion: A Correspondence Study of Job Discrimination in India. *EPW*, 42(41), 4141-4145.

32. Thorat, S. & K. S. Newman (ed.) (2010). *Blocked by caste: economic discrimination in modern India*. New Delhi, OUP.

33. Xaxa, Virginius. (2008). *State, Society, and Tribes: Issues in Post-colonial India*, Person, New Delhi.

Suggested Readings

1. Ball, H., Simpson, G., & Ikeda, K. (1962). Law and Social Change: Sumner Reconsidered. *American Journal of Sociology*, 67(5), 532-540.
2. Béteille, A. (1967). Race and Descent as Social Categories in India. *Daedalus*, 96(2), 444-463.
3. Borgatta, E. (1965). The Analysis of Patterns of Social Interaction. *Social Forces*, 44(1), 27-34.
4. Bose, N.K. *Tribal Life in India*, NBT, India
5. Desai, A.R. (2005). Social Background of Indian Nationalism, Popular Prakashan (Selected Ch.)
6. D'Souza, V. (2006). Individuation in Indian Society: From Collective Identity to Individual Identity. *Sociological Bulletin*, 55(2), 281-299.
7. Ghurye, G.S. (1950). *Caste and Class in India*, Bombay, Popular Depot.
8. Gottlob, M. (2007). India's Unity in Diversity as a Question of Historical Perspective. *EPW*, 42(9), 779-789.
9. Mason Oleott. (1944). The Caste System of India. *American Sociological Review*, 9(6), 648-657.
10. Mucha, J. (2012). Toward an Interactionist Sociology of Ethnic Relations. *Polish Sociological Review*, 177, 19-37.

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11. Perumal Murugan. Black Coffee in a Coconut Shell: Caste as Lived Experience
12. Redfield, R. (1955). The Social Organization of Tradition. *The Far Eastern Quarterly*, 15(1), 13-21.
13. Redfield, R. (1956). Little Community, Peasant Society and Culture, Chicago.
14. Rosen, George (1966). Democracy and Economic Change in India. Berkeley. The University of California Press.
15. Singh, Y. (1996). Sociology and the Emerging Challenge of Change. *Sociological Bulletin*, 45(1), 1-13.
16. Sinha, S. (1958). Tribal Cultures of Peninsular India as a Dimension of Little Tradition in the Study of Indian Civilization: A Preliminary Statement. *The Journal of American Folklore*, 71(281), 504-518.

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Department of *sociology*
Contemporary Sociological Theory I

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M. A. Sociology, Semester II

Paper Code : *MSO -202*

Total Credits: 4

Course Objectives:

Contemporary Sociological Theory I is the first of the two contemporary sociological theory courses required for the graduate students. It focusses on the explanation of the transition from classical to contemporary theory. The rise of American Sociology with Parsons and Merton and their contributions to the school of structural-functionalism is analyzed. The works of some of the contemporary sociologists (Adorno, Horkheimer, Habermas, Althusser, Gramsci, Goffman, Giddens, Bourdieu) are discussed which address empirical, normative, methodological and theoretical issues in Sociology. Their works have been innovative and profound and had great effect on how we think and do sociology today.

Learning Outcomes:

- To acquire in-depth knowledge of selected contemporary theories.
- To have insight into the use of different sociological theories and the connection between present sociology and classical sociological theories.
- To develop the capacity for critical reflection on micro and macro levels of sociological analysis.

Unit I: Social Systems and Processes

- Transition from Classical to Contemporary Theory
- Structure, System and Functions: Parsons, Merton
- Systems Theory: Luhmann

Unit II: Culture and Political Economy

- Frankfurt School: Adorno, Horkheimer, Marcuse, Walter Benjamin
- Communicative Action: Habermas
- Neo-Marxism: Althusser, Gramsci

Unit III: Self, Structure and Social Action

- Symbolic Interactionism: Mead, Goffman
- Duality of Structure & Agency: Giddens
- Practice: Bourdieu

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Essential Readings for Unit I:

1. Agamben, G. 2009. 'What is Contemporary?' in *What is an Apparatus? and Other Essays*, Stanford University Press.
2. Goddard, David, 'Anthropology: The Limits of Functionalism' in Robin Blackburn (ed), 1977, *Ideology in Social Science*, Glasgow, Fontana/Collins, (chap.4).
3. Luhmann, Niklas (1995) *Social Systems: Outline of a General Theory*, Stanford University Press: California (Preface).
4. Merton, R.K., (1968), *Social Theory and Social Structure*, Glencoe: Free Press. (chap. 1)
5. Parsons, Talcott (1951) *The Structure of Social System*, Free Press, Glencoe (Preface by Bryan Turner, chaps 1 & 2).
6. Ritzer, George and Goodman, D. J., 2003, *Sociological Theory*, McGraw Hill, New York, (Chapter 7 and 9)
7. Turner, Jonathan (2001) *The Structure of Sociological Theory*, Rawat Publications, Jaipur. (Chaps. 3, 4 and 5)
8. Zeitlin, Irving M. (2004) *Rethinking Sociology: A Critique of Contemporary Theory*, Rawat Publications, Jaipur

Essential Readings for Unit II:

1. Adorno, Theodor (2004) *The Culture Industry: Selected Essays on Mass Culture*, Routledge: London (Introduction and chap. 3)
2. Althusser, Louis (2006), *Lenin and Philosophy and Other Essays* (Translated by Ben Brewster), Aakar Books: New Delhi
3. Bottomore, Tom (2007), *The Frankfurt School and its Critics*, Routledge, London and New York.
4. Benjamin, Walter. 1969. "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction" in *Illuminations* edited by Hannah Arendt. New York: Schocken Books.
5. Gramsci, Antonio (2004), *Selections from the Prison Notebooks*, Orient Longman, Chennai. (Part I – chap. 1 and Part II - chap. 2)
6. Habermas, Jurgen, 1991, *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere: An Inquiry into a category of Bourgeois Society*, The MIT Press: Cambridge (Part I and II)
7. Habermas, Jurgen, 1987. *The Theory of Communicative Action. (Vol. Two Lifeworld and System: The Critique of Functionalist Reason.)* Boston: Beacon Press.
8. Held, David (1980). *Introduction to Critical Theory: Horkheimer to Habermas*, 1980, University of California Press: Berkeley and Los Angeles
9. Horkheimer, Max (1982) *The Social Function of Philosophy in Critical Theory. Selected Essays*, Continuum: New York.
10. Horkheimer, M. and Adorno, T. 1944 (2002). *Dialectic of Enlightenment* (chap. 4: "Enlightenment as Mass Deception").
11. Marcuse, Herbert. 2002. *One-Dimensional Man: Studies in the Ideology of Advanced Industrial Society*. Routledge (Preface by Douglas Kellner).

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Essential Readings for Unit III:

1. Bourdieu, Pierre (1977) *Outline of a Theory of Practice*, Cambridge University Press: Cambridge
2. Bourdieu, Pierre (1985) 'The Genesis of the Concepts of Habitus and Field' in *Sociocriticism: Theories and Perspectives*, Vol. II, No.2, December
3. Giddens, Anthony, (1984), *The Constitution of Society*, Polity Press, Cambridge.
4. Goffman, Erving, (1959), *The Presentation of self in Everyday Life*, Anchor, New York.
5. Mead, George Herbert (1962) *Mind, Self and Society: From the Standpoint of a Social Behaviorist*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago
6. Ritzer, George and Goodman, D. J., (2003), *Sociological Theory*, McGraw Hill, New York, (Chapter 10 and 15)
7. Turner, Jonathan (2001) *The Structure of Sociological Theory*, Rawat Publications, Jaipur. (Chaps 15, 22)

Suggested Readings:

1. Agger, Ben 1991. 'Critical Theory, Post-Structuralism, Post-modernism: Their Sociological Relevance' *Annual Review of Sociology* 17: 105-131
2. Calhoun, Craig et. al. (eds.), 2002, *Contemporary Sociological Theory*, Blackwell
3. Carreira da Silva, Filip & Baert, Patrick, 2010, *Social Theory in the Twentieth Century and Beyond*, Cambridge, Polity Press.
4. Craib, Ian, 1984, *Modern Social Theory: From Parsons to Habermas*, 1984, Wheatsheaf Books, Sussex. (Chaps 3, 11 and 12)
5. Dahrendorf, Ralf, Jun., 1958, Toward a Theory of Social Conflict, *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 2, No. 2 , pp. 170-183
6. Goffman, Erving. 1983. "The Interaction Order. American Sociological Association 1982 Presidential Address". *American Sociological Review*. 48:1-17.
7. Jay, Martin (1973) *The Dialectical Imagination: A history of the Frankfurt School and the Institute of Social Research 1923-1950*, Little Brown & Company: Canada (Chap. 1).
8. Joll, James, 1977, *Gramsci*, Fontana/Collins, Glasgow
9. Salamani, Leonardo, 1981, *The Sociology of Political Praxis: An Introduction to Gramsci's Theory*, Routledge & Kegan Paul: London (pp. 25-70 & pp. 126-155).

Department of Sociology
Introduction to Social Anthropology

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M.A. Sociology, Semester-II

Paper Code: MSO-201

Total Credit-4

Course objectives:

This course aims to help students develop a basic knowledge of its foundation, theories and a critical understanding of the academic discipline of Social Anthropology. It introduces a number of different theoretical approaches and also attempts to demonstrate the importance of the anthropological perspective to other academic disciplines and to everyday problems arising in divergent cultural contexts. It focus on some basic social institutions and also on the contemporary concerns within Anthropology. Societies and people around the world are extremely diverse in their conduct and ideas and the study of these variations and the common humanity which underlies them lies at the core of Anthropology.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to describe social Anthropology as a distinct discipline
2. They will be able to compare different human behaviour in its social context.
3. They will gain knowledge about cross-cultural background against which to view their own culture as well as contemporary social problems
4. They will be able to understand some of the Anthropological theories used in, to study cultural and social diversity

Unit - I

Historical origins to Anthropology

- 1) Colonial context and Anthropology
- 2) Myth, mind and Structure
- 3) Rituals and practices

Unit - II

Social Institutions

- 1) Kinship, descent and Marriage
- 2) Stateless societies
- 3) Economy and Exchange

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Unit - III

Contemporary concerns

- 1) Construction of the other
- 2) Social Anthropology of complex societies
- 3) Paradoxes of globalisation

Essential Readings:

- 1) Asad, Talat. 1973. (Ed.) Anthropology and the Colonial Encounter. Ithaca Press (Selected chapters)
- 2) Banton, Michael (Ed.).1965. The relevance of models for Social Anthropology. Tavistock Tavistock publications (Chap-5)
- 3) Beattie, John.2005. Other cultures. London. Taylor and Francis(Chap-7,8,9,12,13).
- 4) Brown, A.R. Radcliff, and Daryll Forde (Eds.) 1956, African system of kinship and Marriage, London, OUP (Introduction)
- 5) Eisenstadt, S. N. 1961. Anthropological Studies of Complex Societies, Current Anthropology, Vol. 2, No. 3 (Jun.)
- 6) Eriksen, T.H. 2001. An introduction to social and cultural Anthropology. London. Pluto Press(Chap-1,7,8,11,12.)
- 7) Fabian, Jonannes. 1983. Time and the Other-Anthropology Makes its Object, New York, Columbia University Press
- 8) Fortes, M and Evans Prichard (Eds.).1961. African political system. Oxford. Oxford university press(Intro.Chap-7,8).
- 9) Gluckman, Max et.al.1966. Essays on the ritual of social relations, Manchester. Manchester university press
- 10) Gluckman, Max.1965. Politics, law and ritual in tribal society. Oxford. Basil Blackwell (Chap-3)
- 11) Goody, Jack (Eds.) 2004. The Character of kinship, London and New York, Cambridge University press (Chap-1).
- 12) Jonathan, Xavier Inda and Renato Rosaldo.2002. The Anthropology of globalisation, Blackwell publication
- 13) Kuper, Adam.1983 .Anthropology and Anthropologist. New York and London, Routledge and Kegan Paul(Chap-1,2,3,4,7)
- 14) Kushner, Gilbert. 1969. The Anthropology of Complex Societies. in, *Biennial Review of Anthropology*, Vol 6 : 80-131
- 15) Levi Strauss, Claude 1974. Structural Anthropology. London, Basic Books(Chap-7,11)
- 16) Levi Strauss, Claude. 1966. The savage mind. London. Weidenfeld and Nicolson
- 17) Malinowski, Bronislaw.2002. Argonauts of the western Pacific, London, Routledge (Chap-3)
- 18) Mauss, Marcel.2002. The Gift. London and New York. Routledge.
- 19) Moore ,Jerry. D. (Ed.)2009. Visions of culture ,New Delhi, Rawat publication(Part-3&5)
- 20) Parkin, Robert and Linda Stone (eds.) 2004. Kinship and Family: An Anthropological Reader. Oxford. Blackwell

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21) Turner, Victor. 1991. The ritual process-structure and anti-structure. New York.
Cornell university press

22) Uberoi, Patricia (Eds.) 1993. Family, Kinship and Marriage in India, Delhi, OUP (P.P
1-44,176-186;198-222,273-286

Suggested Readings

- 1) Brown, A.R Radcliff, 1952, Structure and Function in primitive society, New York,
The free press (Chap-1,2,3)
- 2) Cheater, Angela P. 1989. Social Anthropology. New York and London. Routledge
(Chap-1,5,6,8)
- 3) Eriksen, T.H. 2004. What is Anthropology? London, Pluto Press
- 4) Graeber, David. 2004. Fragments of Anarchist Anthropology. Chicago, Prickly
Paradigm Press
- 5) Levi Strauss Claude. 2001. Myth and meaning. New York and London. Routledge
- 6) Moore, Henrietta. 1999. Anthropological theory today. Cambridge UK. Polity
Press(Intro,Chap-1)

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