POSTGRADUATE
SYLLABUS
2018
SOCIOLOGY

(With effect from Academic Session 2018-2019)

Semester 1
SOCL: 0701

Classical Thinkers

• Karl Marx
  a) German Ideology
  b) Communist Manifesto

• Emile Durkheim
  a) The rules of sociological method
  b) The Division of Labour

• Max Weber
  a) Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism
  b) Class, Status and Party
  c) The City
• Post-Marxism

  a) Antonio Gramsci
  b) Karl Mannheim
  c) Jurgen Habermas

Basic Readings

  g) Marx, Karl & Engels, F (1888), Manifesto of The Communist Party, Kolkata, National Book Agency (P) Ltd.
SOCL: 0702

Kinship, Relationality and Mobility

Course Objective:

This is a postgraduate course that explores the interstices of kinship and belonging with social networks, diasporic community identities, migratory patterns and variegated concepts of relatedness. It builds upon the basic understanding and debates about kinship, marriage and family that students have from the undergraduate course, and looks at concerns about kinship as an object of study, a structure and as relationship along these dominant axes: The trajectory of kinship studies in anthropology and Sociology which have accompanied structural transformations; the mobilities that are facilitated by consanguinal and affinal networks sometimes acquiring transregional/ transnational character as with diasporic communities and finally with emerging concepts of belonging and relationality. It problematizes the notion of Kinship itself as well as its intellectual origins in the 19th century. The course aims to provoke students to think about the various ways in which political, technological and legal changes have restructured understandings about kinship in everyday life and the ‘spillages’ of kinship into questions of community identity, religion, economy particularly for mobile mercantile communities like the Marwaris and the Gujaratis. The debates around belonging and relatedness that emerge from concerns about assisted reproduction techniques, legislative changes like the legalization of gay marriages in some countries, transnational adoption etc. indicate an intensified transformation of how we think about our descent, ancestry and other social connections. These will also be explored not just through sociological and anthropological texts but also from their representation in films and popular literature.

Modules

1. The intellectual beginnings of Kinship Studies

1.1 The Nature Culture Debate

1.2 The Invention of Kinship: Lewis Henry Morgan’s contribution to Kinship Studies

1.3 Levi Strauss and the place of incest and reciprocity in Kinship Studies

1.4 Schneider and after

2. Kinship Networks and Migration

2.1 Kinship Networks and how they operate

2.2. Diasporic Communities

2.3 Kinship networks and mobilities


3. Kinship Practices

3.1 Official and Practical Kinship: Pierre Bourdieu

3.2 Kinship, Honour, Identity

3.3 Genealogical Memory and Amnesia

3.4 The Model of Heterosexual Kinship


4. Concerns about Relatedness and Belonging

4.1 The new ‘normal’: Transformations in kinship, family and marriage

4.2 Relationality, Substance and Friendship

4.3 Kinship, Genetics and assisted reproduction technology

4.4 Concerns around adoption and belonging


1. The Vocabulary of Classical Political Philosophy

State
Civil Society
Sovereignty
Democracy
Nationalism

2. Introduction to Political Anthropology

Cross Cultural Political Process
Emergence of Modern State
Theories of State: Liberal, Pluralist, Post-modernist etc.

3. Power

Machiavelli
Hegemony
Ideology
Discourse
Knowledge/Power

4. Trends in Political Thought and Action in India
Readings:

6. Machiavelli: The Prince
Course Objective:

The aim of this course is to situate economy in the wider discipline of sociology and anthropology in order to understand that economy is not an autonomous institution divorced from the ‘social’ context. This course strives to engage students in an in depth understanding of all those processes within economic realm that are also simultaneously affected by and implicated in the social, political and cultural institutions. In order to explicate this, the course has been divided into four distinct modules. The first module entails discussion on approaches that have developed within economic sociology and anthropology. In the second module ‘production’ as a socio-economic process is explored. Production is central to economic phenomena, hence it is imperative to look at the theoretical and empirical explication of production of services and goods in society. Political economy of production would form the background of the corpus of understanding production in this module.

In the third module idea of exchange and consumption is situated in the spatio-temporal realm in order to see the nuances it entails. Theoretical distinction between gift and commodities which appeared in the works Bronislaw Malinowski and Marcel Mauss is crucial to understand the entire process of exchange. Transitions in modes of exchange from barter system to modern price making markets and consequent changes in the notion of value are also explored in detail in this module. Consumption is embedded in the social and cultural context of different societies but modernity and globalisation is striving to generate a homogeneous understanding of consumption, is it actually happening? This question is integral to understand theoretical and practical conception of consumption. How class culture and consumption are produced in societies is another thought provoking question which is deliberated upon in this module. In the fourth module globalisation of economy is elaborated and it is through this module the discourse of economy and society is discussed in terms of flows and circulation of commodities, labour, technology.
Modules

1. Approaches towards understanding economy and society

   (a) perspective from economic sociology
   (b) perspective from economic anthropology


2. Production

   (a) Modes of production
   (b) Labour, value and accumulation of surplus in production
   (c) Production in formal and informal economy


**3. Exchange and Consumption**

(a) Gift, barter, market

(b) Consumption as culture, fetishism of commodities


4. *Globalization of Economy*


Semester 2  
SOCL: 0801  
Philosophy and Social Sciences

- Rationalism and empiricism: The Cartesian-Baconian paradigms
- Kant: Knowledge and the external world
- Idea and history: Hegel
- Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty: Experience and the subject

**Basic Readings:**


SOCL: 0803
Religion and Embodiment

Course Objective:

Moving ahead of understandings of religion as belief only, this course foregrounds religion as a necessarily embodied practice and experience. So it engages with simultaneous new perspectives in studies of religious traditions and embodiment. It addresses debates on theology and phenomenology in their distinct influences on conceptions of religious truth. In addition to Hindu, Islamic, Christian, and Buddhist practices for instance, it includes contemporary references to popular religious thought. It asks following kinds of questions: what goes into the making of a religious subject? Do the mind and body receive or produce religious truth? What are the relations among religious emotions, aesthetics, and power? What are the different kinds of classical representations of the religious body (especially in India)? How do the sacred and the embodied intersect with the political, in formations of religious and secular statehood? Do the senses, affect, and material dispositions maintain autonomy for the religious, in relation to theology and the state? Taken together, the course sensitizes students to the possibility of theorizing religion with and beyond texts, beliefs, and appropriations.

Modules

1. Basic conceptual debates


Csordas, T.J. 1990. ‘Embodiment as a Paradigm for Anthropology’, *Ethos* 18/1, 5-47.


### 2. Sacred Emotions


3. Mind, Body, and Political Religiosity


4. (Indian) Religious Traditions and Embodiment


SOCL: 0804

Indian Society

2. Institutions: Family, Marriage, Kinship, Caste
4. Identities: Rural, Urban, Cosmopolitan, Civilian, Citizenship, Consumer Class.

Basic Readings:

Bose, N.K ( ), The Structure of Indian Society.

Chatterjee, P 91997), The Nation and Its Fragments: Colonial and Postcolonial Histories. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.


Desai, A.R (1948), Social Background of Indian Nationalism. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Dube, S.C ( ), Indian Society.


Mandelbaum, D.G (1972), Society in India, Bombay: Popular Prakashan.


Semester 3
Field Methods
SOCL: 0901

- Observation method: Participant and Non Participant Observation
- Interview Method: Open, Semi Structured and Structured
- Case Study: Strategies, techniques and issues of values
- Archives, Visual Ethnography and Discourse analysis

Readings:


Davies, James & Spencer, Dimitrina (2010), Emotions in the Field: The Psychology and Anthropology of Fieldwork Experience, Stanford, California, Stanford University Press, p. 1-26


SOCL: 0903

Subject and Method

- Structuralism and post-structuralism: An introduction
- Structuralism and anthropology: Levi-Strauss
- Structuralism and History: Foucault
- Post-structuralist perspectives: Derrida, Deleuze

Basic Reading


Semester 4

SOCL: 1001

Gender and Sexuality

- Intersections: Gender, Sexuality, Class, Race, Nationality, Post-colonialism and Diaspora
- Intimacies: Heterosexuality, Homosocial Friendships and Homoerotic Bonds.
- Performitivity: Gender Borders and Transgressions
- Materiality: The Gender and Sexuality of Objects and Objectification of Gender and Sexuality.

Basic Readings:

Optional Course

Sociology of Media

- What is Mass Media
- Understanding the Language of Media: Media as a ‘text’, Visual methodology, Syntax, Phenomenological understanding of media
- Theorizing Media: Production of ‘Texts’, Consumption of ‘Texts’, Ideology, Politics of Representation, Feminism and Media
- Media and Everyday Life: Understanding Audiences, The Impact of New Media, Media and Social Change, Reality within Hyper-reality

BasicReadings:

Sociology of the Body

- The Mind: Representationalism and Cognitive Anthropology
- The Body: Practice and Embodiment
- Sensory Anthropology and Affect
- India and Emotion

BasicReadings:


The Sociology of Knowledge

- Historical Background of Wissenssoziologie prior to Mannheim; Karl Mannheim’s contribution to the Sociology of Knowledge; The Sociology of Knowledge Dispute
- Intellectuals and Epistemological Locations
- Knowledge, Power and Practice
- Contemporary Developments in the Sociology of Knowledge

Basic Readings:


Sociology of Childhood

Course Objective:

This is an optional course developed to introduce students to certain dominant debates in the Sociology of Childhood. It teaches a number of core texts from Sociology and history spanning the development of the concept of childhood as a particular biographical phase, to theoretical debates about socialization and agency as well to popular discourses about the end of childhood. Through debates and research within Anthropology from the 1980s, the course also trains students to think of possible directions of research on childhood in their social context. It problematizes the concept of “generationing” by introducing students to very contemporary theoretical debates on childhood and gender. Finally, Childhood Studies as it has emerged in the Nordic Countries and British Sociology has no counterpart in South Asia. This course looks at some of the recent historiography on childhoods in colonial India, other academic works, and to an extent at fiction to locate childhood and children in the South Asian context, particularly the concerns and anxieties around this ambiguous category during many legal proceedings about child marriage in the nineteenth century.

Modules:

1. Childhood as a Conceptual Category

1.1 Childhood: A Historical Overview
1.2 Ways of Seeing Childhood: From Socialization Theories to the ‘new’ Childhood Studies.
1.3 Constituting the Child in Childhood Studies


2. Children and Childhoods in Different Contexts

2.1. Can there be an Anthropology of Childhood?
2.2. Childhood across a spectrum of developing and developed contexts


3. Contemporary Concerns in Childhood Research

3.1 Children, Agency and Capability

3.2 Generational Order

3.3. Childhood as Moratoria

3.4 Childhood, Gender and the Intersectional Approach


4. Locating Childhood in India

4.1 Debates about children, law and sexuality in pre-colonial and colonial India

4.2 Dominant representation of children during the Raj

4.3 Children, Schooling, Family and Public Sphere in contemporary India


Intimate Relations

- Theorising intimate relations
- Friendship, Kinship and Adda
- Courtship, Conjugality and Illicit love
- Cultural artefacts, memory, diaspora and belongingness

Basic Readings:

Industrial Society

- Understanding Industrialism
- Nature of Work and Organisation in Industrial society
- Industrial Conflict and modes of resolution
- Restructuring of Industrial society under the impact of globalisation

**Basic Readings:**

Medical Sociology

Introduction to Medical Sociology: Basic Concepts and Emerging Trends

Theories in Medical Sociology: Structuralism and post-Structuralism

Health and Disease: Pre-modern, Modern and Post modern Era

Age, Ageing and Dying: Problems of Old Age; Care System and Health issues

**Basic Readings:**

5. Cohen, Lawrence (1998), No Ageing in India; Modernity, Senility and the Family, New Delhi, Oxford University Press.
Social Statistics

Introduction to Social Statistics: Basic Concepts, Terminologies, Parametric and Non-parametric statistics (An Overview)

Application of Statistics in Social Research: Measures of Central Tendency, Dispersion, Statistical Test

Graphical Interpretation: Introduction to Basic Terms, Plotting of Graph, Interpreting Graph.

Data Interpretation and Data Analysis: Interpretation of Secondary Data.

**Basic Readings:**


Vaus, D. A De, (1985), Surveys in Social Research, Australia, Allen & Unwin


Agrarian Societies

- Classical political economy and the agrarian question in the nineteenth century
- Marxism and the peasantry: Russia and China
- Limits of economism: Culture and agriculture
- From village as India to village in India: politics of a category

Basic Readings:


Hussain, A. & Tribe, K. 1981. Marxism & the Agrarian Question, Volume 1: German Social Democracy and the peasantry, 1890-1907

--------Marxism & the Agrarian Question, Volume 2: Russian Marxism and the peasantry, 1861-1930.


Trawick, M. 1994. ‘Wandering lost: A landless laborer’s sense of place and self’ in A. Appadurai, F.

Corom, & M. Mills (eds.), Gender, Genre and Power in South Asian Expressive Traditions, Motilal Banarsidass.


Sociology of Science

- Histories of European sciences: emergence of a scientific culture (18th & 19th century)
- Debates in Epistemology: Kuhn, Popper, Lakatos, Feyeraband
- Science, politics, technology: Beyond the blame game
- Science and the social: Bruno Latour, Ian Hacking and others

Basic Readings


Globalization and Indian Society

- Historical Development of Globalization
- Globalization and Indian Economy
- Society, Culture and Globalization
- State, Politics, Civil Society and Globalization

**Basic Readings**


Sociology of Education

Introduction to the Sociology of Education: Sociology of Knowledge, Emergence, Social Implication of Schooling.

Theoretical Perspective: Functionalism, Conflict, Interactionist, Sub-altern.

Education: Inclusion and Exclusion; Caste, Class and Gender.

Education and the Nation: Policies and the Growth of Nations

Basic Readings:


Grusky, David & Szelenyi, Szonja(2011), The Inequality Reader: Contemporary and Foundational Readings in Race, Class, and Gender, Westview Press, USA


Kumar, Krishna (2005), Political Agenda of Education: A Study of Colonialist and Nationalist Ideas, New Delhi, Sage Publications.

Environmental Sociology

1. Contextualising the subject matter (society ecology interface)
2. Ideas of nature
3. Eco-feminism
4. Development discourse and Environmental Movements

1. **BasicReadings:**

Social Movements

Course Objective

This course aims to equip students to understand social movements conceptually, locating them in historical contexts. It introduces students to contemporary forms and practices of resistance in political and cultural spaces. It moves beyond categorizations of social movements based on issues and actors by looking at forms and meanings of resistance. The first module covers theoretical approaches to the study of social movements and conceptually understands resistance, power and subjectivity. The second module moves on to ethnographies of social movements, especially from India, while locating them in historical contexts. This module introduces students to questions of rights, identity and processes of claim-making by marginalized groups. The third module explores transnational networks of social movement actors in the context of neoliberal globalization, and possibilities of emergent solidarities between actors located in particular ‘places’ with diverse identities and ideologies. The fourth module maps everyday forms of resistance and expressions through literature, performance and music to conceptualize and broaden the understanding of resistance, politics and culture.

Modules:

1. Approaches to the Study of Social Movements


Pickett, Brent L. 1996. ‘Foucault and the Politics of Resistance’, Polity, 28(4)


2. Mapping Social Movements


Chandra, Uday and Daniel Tagioff (eds.) 2016. Staking Claims: Politics of Social Movements in Contemporary India, New Delhi: OUP.


3. Transnational Spaces and Networks


4. Modes of Protest and Everyday Resistance


Mukharji, Manjita 2012. ‘Ek Rajye Hale Dujona Raja, kar hukume gata hoy praja: metaphors of everyday peasant resistance in Baul songs of colonial Bengal’, South Asian History and Culture, Vol. 3(1)
