

P.G. 2nd Semester

Paper: SOC801C (Core)

Sociology Theories – II

Credits: 4 = 3+1+0 (48 Lectures)

The course examines the main theoretical perspectives in contemporary sociology. It introduces the students to the school of thoughts that shaped the sociological thinking in the latter half of the twentieth century.

UNIT 1

Talcott Parsons : System and Structure

Robert K. Merton: Models and relationships

Jeffery C. Alexander: Neofunctionalism

UNIT 2

Self and Other in the social act: Symbolic Interactionism, Dramaturgy

Multiple Realities: Phenomenology

'Doing' of social life: Ethnomethodology

UNIT 3

Claude Lévi-Strauss: Structuralism

Anthony Giddens: Structuration

Jurgen Habermas: Frankfurt School

UNIT 4

Berger and Luckmann: Social Construction of Reality

Michel Foucault: The emergence of the subject and disciplinary power

Pierre Bourdieu: Habitus, Capital and Social Field

Suggested Readings:

Alexander, J.C. *Neo-functionalism and After*. Malden MA. Blackwell, 1998

Berger, Peter L. and Thomas Luckmann. 1966. *The Social Construction of Reality*. London: Allen Lane The Penguin Press. Part 1.

Bourdieu, P. 1977. *Outline of a Theory of Practice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Craib, I. 1992. *Modern Social Theory: Parsons to Habermas*. London: Harvester Press.

De Certeau, Michel. 1984. *The Practice of Everyday Life*. trans. Steven Rendall, University of California Press. Berkeley. (Part III: Spatial Practices).

Garfinkel, Harold. 1984. *Studies in Ethnomethodology*. Cambridge: Polity Press. (Chapters: 1, 2, 5).

Giddens, A. 1984. *The Constitution of Society*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
Goffman, E. 1973. *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. NY: The Overlook Press.
Lane, M. (Ed.). *Introduction to Structuralism*. NY: Basic Books, 1970.
Levi-Strauss, C. *Structural Anthropology*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1993.
Mead, G.H. 1967. *Mind, Self and Society*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.
Parsons, T. 1951. *Social Systems*. New Delhi: Amerind.
Parsons, T. and E. A. Shils. 1952. *Toward a General Theory of Action*. NY: Harper and Row.
Rabinow, Paul ed. 1984. *The Foucault Reader*. London: Penguin Books.
Radcliffe-Brown A.R. 1971. *Structure and Function in Primitive Society*. London: Cohen and West.
Schutz, Alfred. 1970. *On Phenomenology and Social Relations*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (72-78). Selected Writings.

Paper: SOC802C (Core)
Sociology of Religion
Credits: 4 = 3+1+0 (48 Lectures)

This course seeks to familiarize the students with the conceptual and theoretical understanding of the relationship between religion and society. It presents the basic social philosophies of different institutional and non-institutional religions and discusses their changing nature in the contemporary times.

UNIT 1

Introduction to Sociology of Religion: Definitions and explanations of Religion, Belief systems, Magic and Religion

UNIT 2

Sociological perspectives on religion:

Durkheim,

Weber,

Marx,

Freud

UNIT 3

Sacred space and time,

Religious Symbols

Ritual and caste,

Gender and Religion

UNIT 4

Plurality and Pluralism in India

Secularism and Post-Secularism

Religion in the public sphere: Religious mobilization and the secular,

Religious violence

Suggested Readings:

Asad, T. 2003. *Formations of the Secular: Christianity, Islam, Modernity*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. (Selected Chapters).

Durkheim, E. 1915. *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. London: Allen and Unwin.

Eck, Diana. 1983. *Banaras: City of Light*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.

Engels, F. 1956. *The Peasant War in Germany*. Moscow: Foreign Languages Publishing House.

Evans-Pritchard, E.E. 1976. "The Notion of Witchcraft Explains Unfortunate Events" in *Witchcraft, Oracles and Magic among the Azande*. Oxford: Clarendon Press. Pp. 63-83.

Fischer, M.N.J. 1980. *Iran: From Religious Dispute to Revolution*. Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.

Freud, S. 1989. *The Future of an Illusion*. London: Hogarth Press.

Geertz, C. 1973. *The Interpretation of Culture*. New York: Basic Books. (Selected Chapters).

Malinowski, B. 1948. *Magic, Science and Religion: Selected Essays*. Massachusetts: Beacon Press.

Marx, K. 1962. "Introduction to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right" in *Selected Works*. Moscow: Foreign Languages Publishing House.

Mines, D. 2005. *Fierce Gods: Inequality, Ritual, and the Politics of Dignity in a South Indian Village*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. (Selected Chapters).

Peters, F.E. 1995. *The Hajj: The Muslim Pilgrimage to Mecca and the Holy Places*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Uberoi, J.P.S. 1991. "The Five Symbols of Sikhism". In T.N. Madan (ed.). *Religion in India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press. Pp. 320-333.

Weber, M. 2001. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. London: Routledge.

Weber, M. 1993. *The Sociology of Religion*. Massachusetts: Beacon Press.

Woodhead, Linda. Feminism and the sociology of religion: From gender blindness to gender difference. In Richard Fenn ed. *The Blackwell Companion to Sociology of Religion*, pp. 67-84. Oxford: Blackwell.

www.ssrc.org/programs/the-immanent-frame-blog. 2007. The Immanent Frame: Secularism, Religion and the Public Sphere. (Any one debate per year).

Paper: SOC803C (Core)
Political Sociology
Credits: 4 = 3+1+0 (48 Lectures)

This course introduces the students to the polity and society relationship. It also discusses the major concepts, theoretical approaches and perspectives of political sociology. It aims to familiarize the students to the emerging perspective in political sphere in contemporary times.

UNIT 1

Nature and Scope of Political Sociology: Approaches to the Study of Politics
Political Systems and Other Social Systems

UNIT 2

Some Basic Concepts: Power and Authority
Consensus and Conflict
Elites and Masses
State and Stateless Societies

UNIT 3

State and Society under Capitalism and Socialist
State, Citizenship and the Class Structure
State Control and Institutional Autonomy

UNIT 4

Local Structures of Power
State and Society in India

Suggested Readings:

Collins, R. 1988. "A Comparative Approach to Political Sociology" in R. Bendix (ed.). *State and Society*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pp. 42-67.

Dahl, Robert. 1961. *Who Governs?* New Haven: Yale University Press.

Dahrendorf, R. 1968. *Essays in the Theory of Society*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul. (Chapters 4 and 5).

Easton, D. 1957. 'An Approach to the Analysis of Political Systems', *World Politics*,9(3): 383-400.

Eisenstadt, S.N. (ed.). 1971. *Political Sociology: A Reader*. New York: Basic Books. (pp. 3-24).

Fortes, M. and E. E. Evans-Pritchard (eds.). 1940. *African Political Systems*. London: Oxford University Press. (Preface and Introduction).

Fuller, C J and V Benei. Eds. 2000. *The Everyday State and Society in Modern India*. New Delhi: Social Science Press.

- Lane, D.** 1976. *The Socialist Industrial State: Towards a Political Sociology of State Socialism*. London: George Allen and Unwin.
- Marshall, T. H.** 1964. *Class, Citizenship and Social Development*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (Chapters 4, 13 and 14).
- Miliband, R.** 1973. *The State in Capitalist Society*. London: Quartet Books.
- Mills, C. W.** 1956. *The Power Elite*. New York: Oxford University Press. (Chapters 12 and 13).
- Myrdal, G.** 1968/2008. *Asian drama: An Inquiry into the poverty of Nations*. New Delhi Kalyani Publishers. (one section)
- Orum, Anthony. M and Dale, John, D.** 2009. *Introduction to Political Sociology: Power and Participation in the Modern World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Parsons, T.** 1966 (2nd edition). "On the Concept of Political Power". in R. Bendix and S. M. Lipset (eds.). *Class Status and Power*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul. Pp. 240-66.
- Robinson, M. S.** 1988. *Local Politics: The Law of the Fishes*. Delhi: Oxford University Press. (Chapters 1, 2 and 3).
- Schapiro, L.** 1972. *Totalitarianism*. London: Pall Mall. (Chapters 2 and 3).
- Weber, M.** 1978. *Economy and Society*. Berkeley: University of California Press. (Vol.I, Chap.3).

Paper: SOC804C (Core)
Urban Sociology
Credits: 4 = 3+1+0 (48 Lectures)

UNIT1

Sociological perspectives on the City:
 Theories on city and urban life
 Globalisation and the City

UNIT 2

Politics and Urban Planning
 Urban Lives and Urban Violence
 Slums, Contested Space and Identity

UNIT 3

Urban Environment:
 Sacred landscapes, Water, Non-Humans
 Neighbourhoods and Social Networks

UNIT 4

The Underclass in the City, Plebians
 Changing Livelihoods, Work and Class
 Gendered City

Suggested Readings:

- Amit-Talai, V.** and Lustiger-Thaler, H.1994. (eds.). *Urban Lives: Fragmentation and Resistance*. Toronto: McLelland & Stewart.
- Appadurai, A.** 2004. "The capacity to aspire: Culture and terms of recognition" in Vijayendra Rao and Michael Walton (eds.) *Culture and Public Action*. Delhi: Permanent Black.
- Baumann, G.** 1996. *Contesting Culture: Discourse and Identity in Multiethnic London*, Cambridge: CUP.
- Bourdieu, P.** 2000. *The Weight of the World: Social Suffering in Contemporary Society*. Translated Priscilla Panrkhurst Ferguson, Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Canaan, J.** 1996. "One thing leads to another: Drinking, fighting and working class masculinities", in Martin Mac an Ghail (ed.) *Understanding masculinities, Social relations and cultural arenas*. Buckingham: Philadelphia: Open University Press. Pp. 114-125.
- De Certeau, M.** 1995. "Practices of Space", in Marshall Blonsky (ed.) *Signs*. Baltimore, MD: Johnson Hopkins University Press. Pp. 122-145.
- Duncan, J. S.** 1990. *The City as Text: The politics of landscape Interpretation in the Kandyan Kingdom*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Chapter 1).
- Duncan, J.** (with Nancy Duncan). 2004. *Landscapes of Privilege: The Politics of the Aesthetic in an American Suburb*. New York: Routledge.
- Espinoza, V.** 1999. "Social Networks among the Urban Poor: Inequality and Integration in a Latin American City", in Barry Wellman (ed.). *Networks in a Global Village: Life in Contemporary Communities*. Boulder, CO: West view Press, pp. 147-184.
- Feldman, A.** 1991. *Formations of Violence: The Narrative of the Body and Political Terror in Northern Ireland*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (Chapters 3 and 4).
- Fishman, R.** 1987. *Bourgeois Utopias: The Rise and Fall of Suburbia*. New York: Basic Books.
- Gullestad, M.** 1984. *Kitchen Table Society: A Case Study of the Family Life and Friendships of Young Working-Class Mothers in Urban Norway*. Oslo: Scandinavian University Press.
- Hannerz, U.** 1993. "The Culture Role of World Cities" in Cohen, Anthony P. and Fukui, Katsuyoshi (eds.) *Humanizing the City: Social Contexts of Urban Life at the Turn of the Millennium*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. Pp. 69-83.
- Hansen, T. B.** 2001. *Urban Violence in India: Identity, 'Mumbai', and the Postcolonial City*. New Delhi: Permanent Black. (Chapter 3).
- Hertel, B.** and Cynthia, A. H. (eds.). 1986. *Living Banaras: Hindu religion in cultural context*. New York: Suny Press.
- 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.

- Holston, J.** 1989. *The Modernist City: An Anthropological Critique of Brasilia*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Kaur, R.** 2003. *Performative Politics and the Cultures of Hinduism: Public Uses of Religion in Western India*. New Delhi: Permanent Black.
- Levy, R. I.** 1990. *Mesocosm: Hinduism and the Organization of a Traditional Newar City in Nepal*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990.
- Mort, F.** 1996. *Cultures of Consumption: Masculinities and Social Space in Late Twentieth-Century Britain*. London and New York: Routledge. (Part III: Topographies of Taste, Place, Space and Identity).
- Naidu, R.** 1990. *Old Cities, New Predicaments: A Study of Hyderabad*. Delhi: Sage.
- Phadke, Shilpa, Sameera Khan, Shilpa Ranade.** 2011. *Why Loiter? Women and Risk On Mumbai Streets*. Penguin.
- Reps, J.W.** 1967. *Monumental Washington: The Planning and Development of the Capital Center*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Sassen, S.** 2000. *Cities in a World Economy*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.
- Scott, C. James. 1999. *Seeing Like a State*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Susser, Ida. (ed.). 2002. *The Castells Reader on Cities and Social Theory*. USA: Blackwell Publishers.
- Zèrah, et al.** 2011. *Urban Policies and the Right to the City in India: Rights, Responsibilities and Citizenship*. New Delhi: UNESCO.

Paper: SOC805C (Core)
Sociology of North-East India
Credits: 4 = 3+1+0 (48 Lectures)

Course Objective:

This course aims to introduce the students to the social and political processes in the northeastern region of India. It historicises the concept of northeast India and the processes of political and socio-cultural formations of the region. It explains the traditional land relations in northeast India, the main axis of traditional social organisation in the region. It also discusses the changes in the traditional land relations, emerging social consequences and contemporary socio-political processes.

UNIT 1

Northeast India as a Region:

Geography, People, Religion and Culture

Historicising the term 'northeast'

Northeast India as a borderland

UNIT 2

Land Relations:

Traditional Land Systems and Agricultural Practices: Hills and Plains

Changing Land Ownership system: Colonial Intervention, Introduction of Cash Crop and Forest Conservation

Post-colonial interventions: Commercialization and Privatization of land

Impact on the tribal communities

UNIT 3

Identity and Ethnicity:

Ethnic Assertion

Homeland Politics

Immigration issue in Northeast

UNIT 4

Development question in northeast:

Nehruvian Vision

Changing discourse on development

Emerging Conflicts: Displacement, Ecological Hazards, popular resistance

Suggested Readings

Baruah, S. 2005. *Durable Disorder: Understanding the Politics of Northeast India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Nath, D. 2011. *Religion and Society in North East India*. Guwahati: DVS Publishers.

Baruah, S. 1999. *India against Itself: Assam and the Politics of Nationality*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Baruah, S. 2009. Separatist militants and contentious politics in Assam, India: the limits of counterinsurgency. *Asian Survey*, 49(6).

Baruah, Sanjib. 2012. Whose river is it anyway? The political economy of hydropower in the eastern Himalayas. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 47(29).

Biswas, P. and C. Suklabaidya. 2007. *Ethnic Life Worlds in Northeast India*. New Delhi: Sage.

Brunner, H. P. (Ed.) 2010. *Northeast India: Local Economic Development and Global Markets*. New Delhi: Sage.

- Chaube, S.** 1999. *Hill Politics in North-East India*. Delhi: Orient Longman.
- Dutta, B.B.** 1987. *Land Relations in Northeast India*. Delhi: People's Publishing House.
- Elwin, V.** 1947. *A Philosophy for NEFA*. Itanagar: Directorate of Research, Government of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Guha, A.** 1991. *Medieval and early Colonial Assam: Society, Polity, Economy*. Calcutta: Centre for Studies in Social Sciences.
- Joy L.K.** Pachuau, Willem van Schendel (ed). 2016. Borderland Histories, Northeastern India, Studies in History (Special Issue). Pp. 1–146, Sage (select essays)
- Karna, M. N.** 2004. *Agrarian Structure and Land Reforms in Assam*. Delhi: Regency.
- Krishna, Sumi.** (ed.) 2012. *Agriculture and a Changing Environment in Northeastern India*. New Delhi: Routledge.
- Misra, U.** 2000. *The Periphery Strikes Back: Challenges to the Nation-States in Assam and Nagaland*. Shimla: Indian Institute of Advanced Study.
- Nayak, P.** (Ed.). 2010. *Growth and Human. Development in North-East India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Scott, C. James.** 2009. *The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia*. New Haven: Yale University Press
- Sharma, C. K.** 2000. "Assam: Tribal Land Alienation: Government's Role" in *Economic and Political Weekly*, 36 (52), pp. 4791-4795.
- Sharma, C. K.** 2012. "The Immigration Issue in Assam and Conflicts around it" in *Asian Ethnicity*. 13 (3), pp. 306-7.
- Subba, T. B. & G.C. Ghosh** (Eds.). 2003. *The Anthropology of North-East India*. New Delhi: Orient Longman.
- Weiner, M.** 1978. *Sons of the Soil*. Delhi: OUP.
- Sharma, C K** and Sarma, I. 2014. "Issues of Conservation and Livelihood in a Forest Village of Assam". *International Journal of Rural Management*. Sage Publications. 10(1). Pp 47-68.
- Ramesh, J.** 2005. Northeast India in a new Asia. *Seminar*. No. 550.

Paper: SOC805C (SEC)

Action Research

Credits: 2 = 2+0+0 (32 Lectures)

UNIT I

What is action research?

The need of action research

Difference between action research and social research

UNIT 2

Outcome and functions of action research

Tools and Techniques of Action research

Steps in action research

Case study on action research

Suggested Readings

Day, Christopher et al (eds.) 2002 *Theory and Practice in Action Research: Some International Perspectives*, Oxford: Symposium Books