

MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY

Ph.D. course work in Sociology

Course II – Current Perspectives in Sociology

OBJECTIVES: To equip the students with latest sociological knowledge pertaining to various sub-fields within the discipline of Sociology and to orient the students for comprehending, analyzing and critically assessing the social reality from Sociological perspective.

I. The study of Sociology

- Sociology as a reasoned and rigorous study of social life
- The relationship between sociology and other social science subjects
- Sociology as a science: positivist, interpretive and post modernist perspectives
- The uses of Sociological knowledge; the role of values in Sociology
- Sociology and social policy; the differences between sociological problems and social problems

II. Recent trends in Sociological Theory

- Ethnomethodology (Garfinkel's contribution; criticisms on Traditional/mainstream sociology)
- Phenomenology (Edmund Husserl's Phenomenology, contribution of Alfred Schutz, Peter Berger and Luckmann)
- Structuralism, Structure and Agency (Major ideas of Structure and Claude Levi-Strauss, Anthony Giddens's Structuration Theory, Bourdieu and the idea of Reflexive Sociology)
- Modern and Post Modern Theory (Nature and Roots of Modern and Post Modern Theory)
- Jacques Derrida, Jean-Francois Lyotard and Michel Foucault
- Criticism on and relevance of Modern and Post Modern Theory

III. Gender-

- Theories of gender difference; Functionalist, Marxist and the various feminist approaches; biological, psychological and social elements of sex and gender differences.
- Gender socialization in the family, education, employment and the media; masculinity and femininity as social constructs; patriarchy and male power
- Gender difference in occupations and rewards; changes in the social position of women; the impact of equal opportunities policies

IV. Education in Social Context

- Different theories of the links between education, the economy and social inequality
- Debates about the relationship between education and the State
- Education and social mobility; educational achievement and intelligence
- Explanations of inequality and educational achievement according to social class, gender, ethnicity, regional differences, cultures and identities.

V. Sociology of Mass Communication and Information Society

- Basic concepts-Communication and mass communication, functions and importance
- Folk media and Mass Media-characteristics of folk society and Information society, impact of globalization on folk media, mass media-types and development
- Globalization and mass media
- Information Communication Technology

VI. Sociology of Migration

- Concept of migration, Types, Streams, Migration in pre-industrialised societies
- Theories of Migration (Theories of general principles of migration:E.G Ravenstein and Everett Lee, socio-economic theories of migration:Zelinsky, Hoffman-Nowotny)
- Migration and society, migration and urbanization, Impact of migration on society, Causes and effects of migration, Push and pull factors, trends and projections, migration and social change

Recommended Readings:

- Ritzer,George, (2000): Sociological Theory (International Editions 2000).New York, McGraw-Hill,
- Turner, Jonathan H,(2005): the structure of Sociological Theory (4th edition) Jaipur and New Delhi, Rawat
- Wallace Ruth A. and Alison Wolf(1986): Contemporary Sociological Theory: Continuing the Classical Tradition (Second Edition) Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey
- Tim Delaney Contemporary Social Theory: Investigation and Application,(2008) Pearson Education, Delhi,
- Alexander, Jeffrey C.:Twenty Lectures: Sociological Theory since World War II. New York: Columbia UniversityZeitlin,
- Irving M.:Rethinking Sociology: A Critique of Contemporary Theory (Indian edition). Jaipur and New Delhi: Rawat.

- Austin Harrington (Ed) Modern Social Theory:An Introduction,(2005) Oxford university Press,
- Collins, Randall:Sociological Theory(Indian edition)(1997). Jaipur and New Delhi: Rawat
- Craib, Ian:Modern Social Theory: From Parsons to Habermas (2nd edition)(1992). London: Harvester Press
- Avid Barrat (1986):Media Sociology. London and Newyork, Routledge.
- David Holesmes (2005):Communication Theory; Media Technology and Society. New Delhi, SAGE Publications.
- Denis McQuail (2005):Mass Communication Theory. New Delhi, Vistaar Publications.
- Uma Joshi (2005):Mass Communication and Media. New Delhi. Anmol Publications.
- Vilanilam J.V (2005):Mass Communication in India: A Sociological Perspective. New Delhi, SAGE Publications.
- Vincent Mosco (1996):The Political Economy of Communication. New Delhi, SAGE Publications
- Bhide, Asha A and Kanitkar Tara. (2000):Principles of Population Studies. Bombay, Himalaya Publishing House, pp 346-380.
- Kaul, Ravender Kumar.(2005):Migration and Society.Jaipur .Rawat Publication.
- Rao, M.S.A. (1981)Some aspects of Sociology of Migration, Sociological Bulletin, 30(1), pp, 30-35.
- Datta,Amal(2003)Human Migration: A social phenomenon. New Delhi, Mittal Publication.
- Oakley, ann (1972)Sex, Gender and Society, New York, Harper and Row
- Forbes,G.(1998) Women in Modern India, Cambridge University Press
- Dube,Leela(1997) Women and Kinship:Comparative perspective on Gender in South and South-East Asia,Tokyo,United Nations University Press.
- Pramila Joshi (2001)Women's Law:Rajesh Publications.
- Altekar, A. :The Position of Women in Hindu Civilization(1983). Motilal Benarasidass, Delhi
- Desai, Neera and M. Krishnaraj(1987) : Women and Society in India, Ajanta, Delhi
- Collins, Randall:Sociological Theory(Indian edition)(1997). Jaipur and New Delhi: Rawat,
- Alexander, Jeffrey C.:Twenty Lectures: Sociological World War II. New York: Columbia UniversityZeitlin,