Course Code: SDS2DS102

Title: Introduction to Theoretical Perspectives

Type of Course: Core (MA Development Studies)

Cohort for which it is compulsory: MA Development Studies

Cohort for which it is elective: None

No of Credits: 4

Semester and Year Offered: 1st Semester (Monsoon Semester 2018)

Course Coordinator and Team: Anirban Sengupta (Course Coordinator) and Ivy Dhar

Email of course coordinator: anirban@aud.ac.in

Pre-requisites: None

Aim: How we comprehend any phenomenon depends upon the perspective from where we seek to understand them. To take the example of development, its meaning changes depending on the perspective from which it is looked at. It is also important to explore how one's view of processes, events, and causes differs depending on the lens through which one approaches them. This course will introduce students to crucial theoretical ideas that will allow them to critically reflect upon social realities which the process of development seeks to transform or upon the development process itself. The course seeks to fulfil this aim by using modernity as its central theme given that social theory, in a large way, developed around this concept. The course is divided into three units that are organized chronologically around the central theme of modernity. It begins with developments in social theory during the rise of modernity. It proceeds to transformations in social theory in response to contradictions of modernity and finally moves to theorization about the conceptual phase beyond modernity.

The course is meant for beginners in social theory. The primary aim of this course is to enable the students to identify theoretical background of texts they read and also use diverse theoretical perspectives to analyse the social realities they experience in the field during their internship and also during their dissertation.

Upon completion of this course the students are expected to build up an ability to comprehend and apply theoretical perspectives in general and particularly develop a sound knowledge about foundations

of Liberalism, Modernism, Positivism, Marxism, Post-modernism, and Subalternism. They are also expected to develop a clear understanding about political currents like Communism, Maoism and Naxalism and at the same time comprehend the politics around culture and knowledge.

Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

1. Enlightenment and rise of Liberalism
2. Modernity and Modernism
3. Positivism and its development
4. Marxism and the contemporary world
5. Conflicts in the contemporary world
6. Deconstruction
7. Postmodernism and global plural society
8. Subaltern perspectives: Revisiting identities

Assessment Details with weights:

S.No	Assessment	Date/period in which Assessment will take place	Weightage
1	Assessment 1	Fourth week of August	10 per cent
2	Assessment 2	Second week of September	20 per cent
3	Assessment 3	First week of October	20 per cent
4	Assessment 4	Third week of October	10 per cent
5	Assessment 5	Third week of November	Part 1: 20 per cent and Part 2: 10 per cent

Reading List:

Hamilton, Peter. (1995). The Enlightenment and the birth of social science. In *Formations of Modernity* (pp. 17-70) Edited by Stuart Hall and Bram Gieben. Cambridge: The Open University Press and Polity Press.

Held, David. (1998). *Political theory and the modern state* (Chapter 1: Central perspectives on the modern state, pp. 11-55). New Delhi: Maya and Polity Press.

Vincent, Andrew. (2010). Modern political ideologies (Chapter 2: Liberalism, pp. 23-55). Chichester, UK: Wiley-Blackwell.

Sztompka, Piotr. *The Sociology of social change* (Chapter 5: Modernity and Beyond, pp. 69-85). Oxford, UK: Blackwell.

Ritzer, George. 2008. *Sociological Theory* (Chapter 15: Contemporary Theories of Modernity, pp. 547-573). New York: McGraw-Hill.

Wilson, John. 1983. *Social Theory* (Chapter 2: Positivism, pp. 11-18). Englewood Cliffs, USA: Prentice-Hall Inc.

Benton, Ted and Craib, Ian. (2001). *Philosophy of Social Science: The Philosophical foundations of social thought* (Chapter 2: Empiricism and Positivism in Science and Chapter 3: Some problems of Empiricism and Positivism, pp, 13-49). Hampshire, UK: Palgrave.

Wilson, John. 1983. *Social Theory* (Chapter 11: Historical Materialism and Chapter 12: Historical Materialism Considered, pp. 176-213). Englewood Cliffs, USA: Prentice-Hall Inc.

Jayaram, N. (2008). Why read Marx now? (Dr. Debiprasad Chattopadhyaya Memorial Lecture). Bengaluru: Ma-Le Prakashana.

Noble, Trevor. (2000). *Social Theory and Social Change* (Chapter 4: Theories of revolutionary change, pp. 71-100). Hampshire, UK: Macmillan Press Ltd.

Bidyut Chakrabarty and Rajat Kumar Kujur, "Introduction" in Maoism in India: Reincarnation of Ultra left Wing Extremism in the Twenty-first Century (London and New York: Routledge, 2010); pp. 1-16.

Bela Bhatia, "The Naxalite Movement in Central Bihar" in Economic and Political Weekly, April 9, 2005, pp. 1536-1549.

Arthuro Escobar, "Introduction: Development and the Anthropology of Modernity" in Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World (New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1995); pp. 3-20

Gustavo Estava, "Development" in Wolfgang Sachs ed. The Development Dictionary: A Guide to Knowledge as Power, 2nd Edition (London and New York: Zed Books, 1992); pp. 1-23.

Stuart Hall, David Held and Tony McGrew, "Social Pluralism and Post Modernity" in Modernity and its Futures (Cambridge: Polity Press, 1992); pp. 117-255

Peter Kivisto, "Postmodernity as an Internal Critique of Modernity" in Postmodernism in a Global Perspective (New Delhi: Sage, 2014); pp. 92-115.

Dipesh Chakrabarty, "Minorities History and Subaltern Past" in Saurabh Dube ed, Postcolonial Passages: Contemporary History-writing on India (New Delhi: OUP, 2004); pp. 229-242

Kancha Illaih, "Productive Labour, Consciousness and History: The Dalit Bahujan Alternatives" in Shahid Amin and Dipesh Chakrabarthy ed, Subaltern Studies: Writings on South Asian History and Society (Oxford: OUP, 1996); pp. 165-200.

 ADDITIONAL REFERENCE:

Joseph S. Wu, "Understanding Maoism: A Chinese Philosopher's Critique" in Studies in Soviet Thought, Vol. 15, No. 2, Jun., 1975, pp. 99-118

Aditya Nigam, 'The Rumour of Maoism', Seminar, No.607 (March 2010), www.india-seminar.com, accessed on 20.01.13

Bernard D'Mello, "What Is Maoism?" in Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 44, No. 47, Nov.21-27, 2009, pp. 39-48.

Majid Rehnema and Victoria Bawtree, ed., The Post Development Reader (New Jersey: Zed Books, 1997).

Wolfgang Sachs, ed. The Development Dictionary: A Guide to Knowledge as Power, 2nd Edition (London and New York: Zed Books, 1992).

David Harvey, "Postmodernism" in The Conditions of Postmodernity: An Enquiry into the Origins of Cultural Change (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1990); pp. 39-65

Gustavo Esteva and Madhu Suri Prakash, "From Global to Local" in Grassroots Postmodernism: Remaking the Soils of Culture (New York: St.Martin's, 1998); pp. 19-49

Arif Dirlik, "Formations of Globality and Radical Politics" in Postmodernity's Histories: The Past as Legacy and Project (Oxford: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2000); pp. 99-118.

Ludden, David, "A brief history of Subalterneity" in Reading Subaltern Studies: Critical History, Contested Meaning and Globalisation of South Asia (London: Anthem Press, 2002); pp. 1-39

Sanjay Kumar et.al., "Representation, Resistance and Identity: The Mushahars of Middle Gangetic Plains" in Federique Apffel-Marglin et.al, ed, Interrogating Development: Insights from the Margins (New Delhi: OUP, 2010); pp. 151-171

Shahid Amin, "Representing the Musalman: Then and Now, Now and then" in Shail Mayaram, M.S.S. Pandian and Ajay Skaria ed, Muslims, Dalits and Fabrications of History (Delhi: Permanent Black, 2005); pp. 1-35.