

Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Monsoon Semester (July-December 2017)

School: School of Undergraduate Studies

Programme with title: BA (Honours) Sociology

Semester to which offered: (I/ III/ V) III semester

Course Title: Sociological Theory

Credits: 4 Credits

Course Code (new): SC806

Course Code (old):

Type of Course: Discipline Compulsory

For SUS only (Mark an X for as many as appropriate):

1. Foundation (Compulsory)
2. Foundation (Elective)
3. Discipline (Compulsory) X
4. Discipline (Elective)
5. Elective

Course Coordinator and Team: Niharika Banerjea (CC) & Santosh K. Singh

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

Pre-requisites: NA

Aim:

This course is intended to familiarize students with the key concepts and ideas that are central to sociology and theories of the social.

Brief description:

This course will introduce key concepts and ideas that are central to sociology and theories of the social. The course is open to students majoring in other disciplines in the School of Undergraduate Studies. The students would be exposed to sociologists and their idea of the social and method of studying the social. The course will also help students orient with a few social theorists, particularly their reflections on modern society produced by the complex interplay of knowledge and power. This course will enable students to understand the time and social milieu they live in and locate their role as consumers and producers of key social ideas and practices.

Modules with reading list

Module I

Western Europe, enlightenment and the beginning of sociological theorising
Evolutionism and sociological theories: Saint Simon, Auguste Comte, Herbert Spencer, Ferdinand Tonnies

- Calhoun, Craig J., Joseph Gerteis, James Moody, Steven Pfaff, and Indermohan Virk, eds. 2007. *Classical Sociological Theory*. Second ed. Malden, MA, USA and Oxford, UK: Blackwell Publishing.

Module II

Durkheim and social solidarity

- Calhoun, Craig J., Joseph Gerteis, James Moody, Steven Pfaff, and Indermohan Virk, eds. 2007. *Classical Sociological Theory*. Second ed. Malden, MA, USA and Oxford, UK: Blackwell Publishing.
- Thompson, Kenneth. 2002. *Emile Durkheim* 2nd Edition Eds, *Key Sociologists*. London and New York: Routledge.

Module III

Weber and social as the expression of the rational

- Parkin, Frank. 2002. *Max Weber*. 2nd Eds, *Key Sociologists*. London and New York: Routledge.

Module IV

Marx and class society

- Worsley, Peter. 2003. *Marx and Marxism, Key Sociologists*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Fischer, Ernst and Marek, Franz. 1973. *Marx in His Own Words*. Translated by Anna Bostock. England: Penguin Books.

Module V

George Simmel and metropolis and mental life

- Turner, Jonathan. 2013. *Theoretical Sociology: 1830 to the present*. New Delhi: SAGE.
- Sennett, Richard. 1969. *Classic Essays on the culture of cities*. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall.

Module VI

Schutz, intersubjectivity and social construction

- Calhoun, Craig, et.al. 2012. *Contemporary Sociological Theory*. Malden:Blackwell.
- Berger, Peter and Thomas Luckmann. 1966. *The Social Construction of Reality: A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge*. New York: Doubleday.

Module VII

Foucault and power

- Smart, Barry. 2002. *Michel Foucault, Key Sociologists*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Graham Burchell, Colin Gordon and Peter Miller. 1991. *The Foucault Effect: Studies in Governmentality*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Faubion, James D. ed. 2001. *Foucault: Power. Essential Works of Foucault 1954-1984, Volume 3*. New York: The New Press.

Assessment schedule with details of weightage:

Semester exams

Twice during the semester, we will have in-class exams. Details, including dates, will be provided in class. Each exam will carry 35% marks.

Reading images

Toward the end of the semester, we will have an exercise called reading images, where we will attempt to ‘apply’ the concepts learnt in class to interpret everyday images around us. The objective of this exercise is to make a connection between theory and the everyday world. This exercise will carry 30% marks. This will be preceded by a workshop to facilitate the act of reading images. Further details, including dates will be provided in class.