Name of the Course: Sociological Theories (Core Course, 3 credits)

Course Code: HS 821

Instructor: Dr. Lekshmi V Nair

Objectives

- To introduce the students to the substantive, theoretical issues.
- To enable the students to understand the influence of sociological thinking and the concern of the practitioners of sociology.
- To understand the different approaches and its decline from functionalism to conflict theories.
- This course gives a detailed description of the theoretical and methodological issues which are shaped the sociological thinking in the latter half of the 20th centuries. It helps the students to understand the structural, functional and conflict theories its methodologies, theoretical relevance and analytical utility of the premises.

Outcome

The student is able to understand the historical, socio economic background of the emergence of Sociological theories and its evolution in different stages. The student gets a comprehensive understanding of the various contributions made by the Sociological thinkers to the discipline of Sociology.

Content

Module 1
Introduction • Social thought and Social theory • Levels of theorization in sociology • Central problems of Sociological theory • Sociological theory and Sociological research

Module 2
Functionalism • Postulates of functionalism • Functional theory of Talcott • Functional theory of R. K. Criticism of functional theory

Module 3
Structuralism • Postulates of Structuralism • Radcliff Brown-Structure and function • Claude Levi-Strauss- Linguistic Origin-Totemism-Myth-Kinship
Module 4
Marxism and Conflict tradition.
Critical theory Neo–Marxism • Frankfurt School • Habermas- • L.Althusser

Module 5
Exchange Theory • Peter.M.Blau • George.CHomans Interactionist perspective • Symbolic Interactionism- G.H Mead, Blumer • Phenomenological Sociology A Schutz • Social construction of reality –P. Berger and Luckman

Module 6
Ethno-Methdology • H.Garfinkel, Structuration –Anthony Giddens • Post structuralism and Post Modernism- Derrida- M. foucalut

Reading list
Name of the Course: Foundation of Social Research Methodology (Core Course, 3 credits)

Course Code: HS 822

Instructor: Dr. Lekshmi V Nair

Objectives:
This is a practice oriented sociological research methods course aimed at enabling students to frame ethnographical research question, fashion appropriate methods to address it, and derive relevant conclusions.

Outcome:
Students will understand the diversity of practice and critical thinking behind every qualitative method through an exposure to different readings of the archive, ethnography, and visual anthropology etc. They are acquainted with different data sources on Indian society, and taught how to use them to research a particular question or geographical area.

Content
1. Qualitative Methods
   - Ethnography
   - Archival Methods
   - Oral History
   - Interviews/ Case Studies
   - Content analysis
   - Survey Research
   - Statistical Methods
   - Social Experiments
   - PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal)
   - Visual ethnography

2. Major Data Sources on Indian Society:
   - Archives
   - Census
   - National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO)
   - National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and other large data sets
   - Gazetteers, District handbooks, People of India Project
   - Film and Visual artifacts
Suggested Readings:


Evaluation

50 marks for End Sem Examination
30 marks for Q1 and Q2
20 marks for the Seminar Presentation (4 Seminars Will Be Given)

Name of the Course: Tribes of India (Core Course, 3 credits)

Course Code: HS 823

Instructor: Dr. Lekshmi V Nair

Course Objective:

Course Objective
The aim of this course is to provide a comprehensive understanding of tribal tradition and tribal situations in India. Comprising about eleven percent of India’s population the tribes are attracting considerable attention from scholars, administrators, politicians and NGOs. Anthropological interest on tribes is not only academic but also engaged and development oriented. Considering the ongoing fast changes within and globalisation process invading India, it is pertinent to examine these traditional and comparatively simple societies for a comparative and diachronic assessment of socio-cultural changes.

Outcome:
It will help the students to know the challenges and opportunities in effective implementation of tribal livelihood related Acts/policies and draw out possible strategies for implementation. It could help in understanding policies and programmes about the tribal population of India.

**Content**

**Studies on Indian Tribes**

**Module 1**

Introduction The concept and the characteristic features of Tribe, Adivasis, Indegenous Communities

**Module 2**

Distribution of Tribes in India - Geographical, Linguistic and Racial classification; their distribution. Social Structure, Political Organisation, Economic Organisation Tribes

**Module 3**

Theories and approaches of Tribal Transformation - Theories and approaches of Tribal Transformation Economic and Socio-cultural Transformation Programmes and Protective Policies

**Module 4**

Developmental Policies - Role of ICT, Sustainable Tribal Development, National Tribal Policy Guiding Principles, Objectives, Strategies and Approaches PESA Act (Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Area) Forest Rights Act and Forest Policies

**Module 5**

Problems of the tribal population in India - Land alienation and indebtedness, illiteracy, problems of employment, malnutrition Problems of Denotified/Criminal Tribes Impact of Industrilization and Urbanization Role of anthropology in tribal development

**Recommended Readings**

Elwin, V. 1960. A Philosophy for NEFA. Shillong: Governor of Assam.

**Evaluation**

50 marks for End Sem Examination
30 marks for Q1 and Q2
20 marks for the Seminar Presentation (4 Seminars Will Be Given)

**Name of the Course : Technology, Culture and Society (Core Course, 3 credits)**
Course Code: HS824
Instructor: Dr. Lekshmi V Nair

Course Objective:

The course aims to introduce the sociological perspectives on technology society interface. It focuses on the dialectics of social conditions that shape technology and technological conditions that influence social formations and cultures in a comparative analytical framework.

Outcome:

Students are exposed to varied theoretical understandings of the relationship between technology and society; and science, technology and society. Situating technology in the contemporary social realm the course critically engages with the evolving nature of technology that has political, economic and ethical connotations.

Content

Module 1

Perspectives on the relations between science and technology

Agassi, Joseph. 1985 Technology: Philosophical and Social Aspects, Dordrecht: D. Reidel


**Module 2**

**Technological determinism**


Simpson, I. H. 1999. ‘Historical Patterns of Work Place Organization: From Mechanical to Electronic control and Beyond’, *Current Sociology*, 47(2):47-75


**Module 3**
Social shaping of technology


Module 4

Social construction of technology


Module 5

Sociological analysis of technological advances and information and communication technology


**Module 6**

**Technology and structural considerations**


**Evaluation**

50 marks for End Sem Examination
30 marks for Q1 and Q2
20 marks for the Seminar Presentation (4 Seminars Will Be Given)