



WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY

UNDERGRADUATE SYLLABUS FOR SOCIOLOGY

B.A. 3 Year General Course

Part I

Paper I: *Basic Concepts in Sociology*

Part II

Paper II: *Sociological Thought*

Paper III: *Society in India*

Part III

Paper IV: *Social Problems in India*

Scheme of Examination

Sociology B.A. 3 Year General

1. All the papers will have full marks of 100; and will have theoretical examination at the end of each part with full marks of 100;
2. Each Module in each paper will have 25 Marks
3. Each Question paper will be divided into five groups, four (A, B, C, D) groups in consonance with the Modules, and one (E) group on full paper;
4. There will be two long questions in each group (A, B, C, D) out of which one has to be answered (1000 words) from each group with 15 marks each;
5. There will be two short questions in each group (A, B, C, D) out of which one have to be answered (400 words) from each group with 05 marks each;
6. In the fifth group (E), there will be 15 very short questions from the full paper out of which 10 have to be answered (50 words) with 02 marks each
7. Abrogation of the above prescribed format while answering (group A, B, C, D), the last answer(s) will not be evaluated;
8. Answer beyond the limit prescribed while answering (group E), the last answer(s) will not be evaluate.

SOCIOLOGY GENERAL (Part I)

PAPER – I

TITLE *Basic Concepts in Sociology*

DESCRIPTION This paper is introductory in nature, and is intended to acquaint the students with sociology as a social science and the distinctiveness of its approach among the social sciences.

REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS Students are expected to acquire sociological knowledge by understanding basic concepts in sociology; for students belong to other disciplines this will be an initiation to develop sociological imagination and to look beyond their immediate surrounding.

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach: James M. Henslin, Pearson; 11th edition 2011
2. An Introduction to Sociology: Ken Browne, 3rd edition, Polity, 2005
3. Contemporary Sociology: An Introduction to Concepts and Theory, M. Francis Abraham, OUP India, 2006
4. Sociology: Essays on Approach and Method: A. Beteille, OUP India 2002
5. The Concise Encyclopedia of Sociology: George Ritzer and J. Michael Ryan (Edits), Blackwell Publishing, 2011
6. Samakalin Samajtatwa: Ganguly & Moinuddin, 2nd Edition, Reena Books: Kolkata, 2013
7. Alex Inkeles: What Is Sociology, PHI Learning, 1964

COURSE OUTLINE

Module I

14 Classes

1. Sociology-The Discipline: Sociology as a science and as an interpretative discipline; impact of industrial and French Revolution on the emergence of sociology; sociology and its relationship with history, economics, political science, psychology and anthropology.
2. Scientific Study of Social Phenomena: Problem of objectivity and value neutrality; issue of measurement in social science; elements of scientific method-concepts, theory and fact, Character of sociological explanations; Understanding and meaning in sociological analysis; Micro and macro studies, Quantitative and Qualitative Method

Module II

14 Classes

3. Basic Concepts: Society, community, association, institution. Culture-components, culture change, diffusion, Cultural-lag, Cultural universals and relativism, ethnocentrism, acculturation; Social Groups-primary, secondary, Formal-Informal, In group-Out group, and reference groups; Social structure, social system, social action; Status and role, role conflict, role set; Norms and values-conformity and deviance; Law and customs; Socialization – theories and agencies; Nature-Nurture Debate, Social interaction
4. Marriage and Family: Types and forms of marriage; family-structure and function; personality and socialization; Social control; family, changing structure of family

marriage and sex roles in modern society; divorce and its implications; gender issues; role conflicts.

Module III

14 Classes

5. Social Stratification: Concepts-hierarchy, inequality and stratification; forms and functions; class-different conceptions of class; class-in-itself and class-for-itself; caste and class; caste as a class, Social justice-equal opportunity and special opportunity; positive discrimination; Social Mobility
6. Social Institutions: Economy, Polity, Education and Religion

Module IV

14 Classes

7. Social Movements: Concepts of social movements; genesis of social movements; ideology and social movement; social movement and social change; types of social movements: Peasant Movement, Women's Movement
8. Social change and Development: Continuity and change as fact and as value; directed social change; social policy and social development.

SOCIOLOGY GENERAL (Part II)

PAPER – II

TITLE *Sociological Thought*

DESCRIPTION This paper will investigate and assess the ideas of classical theorists whose works are foundational for sociology.

OUTCOMES AND EXPECTATIONS This paper is intended to familiarize the students with the social, political, economic and intellectual contexts in which sociology emerged as a distinctive discipline. Its objective is to help students gain an understanding of some of the classical contributions in sociology, and their continuing relevance to its contemporary concerns.

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Masters of Sociological Thought: Lewis A. Coser, Rawat: Jaipur, 1977
2. A Short History of Sociological Thought: Alan Swingewood, PHI Learning, 1991
3. Classical Sociological Theory: George Ritzer, McGraw Hill, 1996
4. How to Read Karl Marx: Ernest Fischer, Aakar: New Delhi 2008
5. The Communist Manifesto (21 February 1848), Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels, Echo Library, 2009
6. Tatwo O Chintarshe Samokalin Samajtatwa: Ramanuj Ganguly, 2nd Ed, Reena Books: Kolkata 2013 (in Bengali)

COURSE OUTLINE

Module I

14 Classes

1. From Social Philosophy to the Emergence of Sociology: Intellectual Context of Enlightenment, and the French and Industrial Revolutions.
2. The pioneers: Comte: positivism
3. The pioneers: Spencer: Social Darwinism, Superorganic Evolution.

Module II

14 Classes

4. The classical thinkers: Durkheim: social solidarity, and suicide
5. The classical thinkers: Weber: authority, and The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism
6. The classical thinkers: Marx: materialist conception of history, and class struggle

Module III

14 Classes

7. School of sociological theory: Functionalist Perspective
8. School of sociological theory: Conflict Perspective
9. School of sociological theory: Social Interaction Perspectives.

Module IV

14 Classes

10. Overview of Social thought in India
11. Overview of Approaches to the Study of Indian Society: a) Structural-Functional Approach; b) Marxist Approach; d) Macro and Micro approaches.

SOCIOLOGY GENERAL (Part II)

PAPER – III

TITLE *Society in India*

DESCRIPTION Presumably the students have familiarity with Indian society by virtue of the fact that mostly they are member of it and that they have observed and experienced some facets of it. However, this familiarity is likely to be superficial, selective and rather fragmentary. The course is aimed at rectifying these limitations by presenting a comprehensive, integrated and empirically-based profile of Indian society.

OUTCOMES AND EXPECTATIONS It is hoped that the sociological perspective on Indian society presented in this course will also enable students to gain a better understanding of their own situation and region.

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Indian Society: Institutions and Change: Rajendra K Sharma, Atlantic Publishers & Dist, 2004
2. Tradition, Rationality, and Change: Essays in Sociology of Economic Development and Social Change: M.S.A Rao, Popular Prakashan, 1972
3. Family and Social Change in Modern India: Giri Raj Gupta, Vikas Publishing House, 1976
4. Social Change in India: B Kuppaswamy, Vikas Publications, 1972
5. Samakalin Bharatiya Samaj: Ganguly & Moinuddin, PHI Learning 2008 (in Bengali)
6. Bharatiya Samaj Prasangey: Aniruddha Choudhury, Chatterjee Publishers, 2001
7. Family, Kinship and Marriage in India: Patricia Uberoi, OUP India, 1994
8. Society in India: Change & Continuity: D.G Mandelbaum, University of California Press, 1970
9. Social Stratification: Dipankar Gupta, OUP India 1991
10. Development and Civil Society: Biswajit Ghosh (Ed), Rawat, 2012
11. On Civil Society: Issues and Perspectives: N.Jayaram, Sage, 2005
12. Understanding Contemporary India: Critical Perspectives: Achin Vanaik & Rajeev Bhargava, Orient BlackSwan, 2010
13. The Furies of Indian Communalism: Religion, Modernity, and Secularization: Achin Vanaik, Verso, 1997
14. The everyday state and society in modern India: C.J. Fuller and Veronique Benei (eds), C. Hurst & Co. Publishers, 2001
15. Social Background of Indian Nationalism (6Th-Edn): A. R. Desai, Popular Prakashan, 2005
16. Tribe, Caste and Religion: R. Thaper (ed.), New Delhi: Macmillan 1977
17. Tribal India today: Nadeem Hashain, (2nd Ed.), Harnam Publications, New Delhi, 1991
18. Religion in India: T. N. Madan, OUP India, 1992
19. Contemporary India: Economy, Society, Politics: Neera Chandhoke & Praveen Priyadarshi, Pearson Education India, 2009
20. India's Agony over Religion: Gerald James Larson, Suny Press, 1995
21. Handbook of Indian Sociology: Veena Das, OUP India, 2006

COURSE OUTLINE

Module I

14 Classes

1. The structure and composition of Indian society: villages, towns, cities; rural-urban linkages; population profile and related issues.

Module II

14 Classes

2. Cultural and ethnic diversity: historically-embedded diversities in respect of language, caste, religious beliefs and practices and cultural patterns; nation-building and national identity.
3. Vulnerable Groups in India: tribes; weaker section, dalits, women and minorities

Module III

14 Classes

4. Basic institutions of Indian society: caste, kinship, family, marriage, religion; caste and class; changing dimensions.

Module IV

14 Classes

5. Convergence and integration: the sharing of material traits, cultural space, language and regional ethos; the evolution of composite cultural legacy; change and transformation in Indian society; Panchayat and Rural Development; Civil Society Organizations.

SOCIOLOGY GENERAL (Part III)

PAPER – IV

TITLE *Social Problems in India*

DESCRIPTION This paper is designed to identify and analyze some of the areas of emerging social problems in Indian society from sociological perspective. They have been classified into four sets: structural, familial, developmental and disorganizational.

REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS It is expected the paper will allow students to go beyond the commonsense understanding of the prevailing social problems, and empower them with the understanding of their linkages and interrelationships to their socio-structural context of India.

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Contemporary Social Problems In India: Sibnath Deb, New Delhi, Anmol, 2006
2. Social Problems in India 2 Edition: Ram Ahuja, Rawat, 2011
3. Indian Social Problems: Volume 1, G. R. Madan, Allied,
4. Social problems in India: issues and perspectives: Sunil Kanta Bhattacharyya, Regency Publications, 1994
5. India's social problems: analyzing basic issues: Brij Mohan, Indian International Publications, 1972
6. Contemporary Social Problems of India: Biswanath Ghosh, Himalaya, 1995
7. Social Problems of India: G S Purushothama, Himalaya, 2001
8. Ecology and Equity: The use and Abuse of Nature in Contemporary India: Gadgil, Madhav and Guha, Ramchandra. New Delhi.: OUP, 1996
9. The Pathology of Corruption: Gill, S.S. New Delhi: Harper Collin Publishers 1998
10. Kothari, Rajani (Ed.). 1973. Caste in Indian Politics: Kothari, Rajani, Orient Blackswan, 1973
11. Region, Religion, Caste, Gender and Culture in Contemporary India: Satya Murty, T.V. New Delhi: OUP, 1996
12. Population, Poverty and Sustainable Development: S.R. Mehta (Ed.), Jaipur: Rawat 1997
13. Land, Labour and Rural Poverty: Bardhan, P. New Delhi: OUP, 1984

COURSE OUTLINE

Module I

14 Classes

1. Structure: poverty, inequality of caste and gender, disharmony – religious.

Module II

14 Classes

2. Family: dowry, domestic violence, divorce, problem of elderly

Module III

14 Classes

3. Development: regional disparities, development induced displacement, ecological degradation and environmental pollution, consumerism, crisis of values

Module IV

14 Classes

4. Disorganization: crime & delinquency, white collar crime, corruption, drug addiction, suicide.

