M.A. in Sociology

Programme Structure

The M.A. in Sociology is a two-year, full-time course divided into two parts, consisting of four Semesters. Semester-1 and Semester-2 will form Part-I and Semester 3 and Semester 4 will form Part-II.

Each student will take a total of 16 courses out of which SOC 101-SOC 108 and SOC 209-SOC 211 will be compulsory. M.A. (Part-I) students will take courses SOC 101-SOC 108 (four in each of Semester I and II) and M.A. (Part-II) students will take courses SOC 209 – 210 in Semester III and SOC 211 in Semester IV. M.A. (Part-II) students will also take five elective courses, including at least four chosen out of courses SOC 212-SOC 226 (distributed over Semester III and IV). A student who takes course SOC 220 will be required to choose either course SOC 220(a), SOC 220(b) or SOC 220(c). Each student may take two courses, one in each of Semesters 3 and 4 of M.A. (Part-II), in any other department of the University. Such courses selected by a student must be of the same weightage as individual courses within the Department.

The Department will announce maximum of five elective courses to be taught in semesters III and seven elective courses in Semester IV semesters making up the M.A. (Part – II) year before the start of the academic year. Generally, an elective course will be taught only if at least five students decide to take the course. Students will be required to convey their selection of particular elective courses by prescribed dates. These dates will be displayed on the notice board and web-site of the Department. Ordinarily, no change will be permitted after these dates.

Interdisciplinarity

As mentioned above, students of the Department may take up to two courses in any other department of the University. One course taught in the III and IV semesters respectively M.A. Programme in the Department will be opened up as interdisciplinary courses to all full-time students registered in any regular masters programme of the University. The total of such students accepted in each semester, distributed over all the courses being taught in the department, will be more or less equivalent to the intake in the M.A. Sociology programme in any one year. The Department will post a last date (on its website) for receiving requests for enrolment by non-sociology students along with its teaching schedule. All non-sociology students wishing to take courses in the Department will be required to meet with the Departmental Interdisciplinary Advisory Committee before their enrolment in courses in the Department.
Department of Sociology  
University of Delhi

Syllabus Structure (According to Credit System) /MAY, 2018

**MA Program (4 semesters)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester I</th>
<th>Core Courses</th>
<th>Credit per course (Total credits mentioned)</th>
<th>Total Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 Compulsory Papers</td>
<td>5 credits</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester II</th>
<th>Core Courses</th>
<th>Credit per course (Total credits mentioned)</th>
<th>Total Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 Compulsory Papers</td>
<td>5 credits</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester III</th>
<th>Core Courses</th>
<th>Credit per course (Total credits mentioned)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Compulsory Papers + 2 Optional Papers</td>
<td>5 credits</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester IV</th>
<th>Core Courses</th>
<th>Credit per course (Total credits mentioned)</th>
<th>Total Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Compulsory Paper + 3 Optional Papers</td>
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| Total No. of Credits | 80 |

**Detailed break up of Semester Syllabi**

**MA (First Year)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester I</th>
<th>Core Courses</th>
<th>Credits per course</th>
<th>Total Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sociology of India I</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology of Kinship</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Religion and Society</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester II</th>
<th>Core Courses</th>
<th>Credits per course</th>
<th>Total Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economy and Society</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Sociology</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Stratification</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Methods in Sociology I</td>
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### MA (Final Year)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Core Courses</th>
<th>Credits per course</th>
<th>Elective Courses/ Open Elective Courses**</th>
<th>Total Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Research Methods in Sociology II</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sociology of India II</td>
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<td>Elective One</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Elective Two</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Sociological Theories: Some Conceptual Issues</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective One</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Elective Two</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Elective Three</td>
<td>5</td>
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**NOTE**

- A maximum of 5 electives will be offered in Semester 3 and a maximum of 7 electives will be offered in Semester 4, from the list below, given availability of teachers and/or minimum number of students.
- Any one of the list of courses mentioned below will be offered as Open-Elective in Semester 3 and 4
**List of Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses of Old Semester System</th>
<th>Courses of CBCS System (2018-19)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 101: Sociological Theories</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 103: Sociology of Kinship</td>
<td>SOC 102: Sociology of Kinship</td>
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<td>SOC 106: Economic Sociology</td>
<td>SOC 103: Religion and Society</td>
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<td>SOC 107: Sociology of India-I</td>
<td>SOC 104: Sociology of India-I</td>
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<td>SOC 104: Religion and Society</td>
<td>SOC 106: Economic Sociology</td>
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<td>SOC 105: Political Sociology</td>
<td>SOC 107: Political Sociology</td>
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<td>SOC 108: Sociology of India-II</td>
<td>SOC 108: Social Stratification</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 209: Methods of Sociological Research</td>
<td>SOC 209: Methods of Sociological Research -II</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 210: Social Stratification</td>
<td>SOC 210: Sociology of India II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 211: Sociology of Development</td>
<td>SOC 211: Sociological Theories: Some Conceptual Issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 212: Sociology of Symbolism</td>
<td>SOC 212: Sociology of Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 213: Industry and Society</td>
<td>SOC 213: Sociology of Symbolism</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 214: Gender and Society</td>
<td>SOC 214: Work, Industry and Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 215: Sociology of Education</td>
<td>SOC 215: Gender and Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 216: Sociology of Organizations</td>
<td>SOC 216: Sociology of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 217: Population and Society</td>
<td>SOC 217: Sociology of Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 218: Urban Sociology</td>
<td>SOC 218: Population and Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 219: Area Study: (a) South East Asia</td>
<td>SOC 219: Urban Sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td>(b) South West Asia or (c) China</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 220: Sociology of Science</td>
<td>SOC 220: Area Study: (a) South East Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 221: Agrarian Structure</td>
<td>(b) South West Asia or (c) China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 222: Sociology of Law</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 223: Medical Sociology</td>
<td>SOC 221: Sociology of Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 224: Sociology of Media</td>
<td>SOC 222: Agrarian Sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 225: Society and Ecology</td>
<td>SOC 223: Sociology of Law</td>
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<td>SOC 224: Medical Sociology</td>
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<td>SOC 225: Sociology of Media</td>
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<td>SOC 226: Society and Ecology</td>
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Course SOC 101: Sociological Theories

This course is designed with two main objectives in mind. Firstly, it presents an overview of how the discipline of Sociology emerged in the West. Secondly, the course introduces students to the writings of classical thinkers such as Marx, Weber, and Durkheim in order to show how they broaden the nature and scope of Sociology. The course has been revised from time to time with a view to add new texts and suitable commentaries.

1. The Development of Sociology in the 19th Century

2. Karl Marx:
   a) Transition from Pre-Capitalist to Capitalist Social Formations
   b) Capitalism and Commodity Production
   c) Class and Class Conflict

3. Max Weber:
   a) Social Action: Basic Concepts and Terms
   b) Methodologies of the Social Sciences
   c) Religion and Social Change

4. Emile Durkheim:
   a) Sociology as Science
   b) The Division of Labour and Forms of Solidarity
   c) Systems of Classification

Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


Course SOC 102: Sociology of Kinship

This course takes students through different approaches to the study of kinship, family, and marriage – key institutions of society, the study of which is a special prerogative of Sociology. The course content will expose students to classical as well as contemporary themes in the field. At the end of this course, students would be able to identify the key elements of kinship, family, and marriage and be able to appreciate their significance in ordinary as well as special circumstances in a range of societies.

1. What is kinship?
   (a) The formation of kinship as an object of study
   (b) Is kinship universal?

2. Studying kinship:
   (a) Descent, residence and inheritance
   (b) Marriage alliance
   (c) Official and practical kinship
   (d) Cultural constructions
   (e) Relatedness

3. Transformations in the family, marriage and property:
   (a) Family and marriage
   (b) Kinship and Property
   (c) Honour shame and violence

4. New areas in the study of kinship (any two in one semester):
   (a) Reproductive technologies and reconfigured kinship
   (b) Gay and lesbian kinship
   (c) Kinship and genetics
Select Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


Course SOC 103: Religion and Society

Sociology considers society as a moral system and religion becomes one of the most important sources of morality. The course is a blend of anthropological and sociological aspects of religion combining a study of communitarian affairs where religious beliefs and rites bring order in social life with a study of schisms and changes in religious doctrines and their relation with different classes and strata. The course is built around the notion that religion not only stabilises social life but also is a major source of ethics and values affecting economic and political domains.

1. Theoretical Perspectives
   a) Religion as Collective Representation
   b) Religion and Emotion
   c) Religion and Rationality
   d) Religion as Cultural system

2. Religious Practices
   a) Ritual and Sacrifice
   b) Magic and Witchcraft

3. Religious Organisation and Authority
   a) Church and Sect
   b) Prophet and Guru

4. Social Differentiation and Religion
   a) Secularisation and its discontents
   b) Civil Society and Public Sphere

5. Emergent forms of Religiosity
   a) Globalisation, Migration and Religious identity
   b) Spirituality and New Religious Movements

6. Critiques of Religion
   a) Religion and ideology
   b) Religion and desire
Select Readings:


Course SOC 104: Sociology of India-I

This course looks at the way in which the sociology and anthropology of India have been shaped by the colonial and post-colonial imperatives of science and politics. Students come to a critical and historically informed understanding of the standard tropes that are used to define Indian society – caste, kinship, village, tribe, and region.

1. Development of Sociology and Social Anthropology of India; Approaches to the Study of Indian Society.

2. Caste-Structure and Change:
   a) Tribe and Caste
   b) Nature and Forms of Caste
   c) Caste in Relation to Other Social Groups and Institutions (such as Religion, Economy and Polity)
   d) Caste and Locality (Village, Town and Region)

3. Aspects of Rural Social Structure:
   a) Nature of Village Community
   b) Change in Village Community
   c) Village, Region and Civilization

4. Family, Kinship and Marriage:
   a) Nature of Family and Kinship
   b) Marriage: patterns of Exchange and Presentation
   c) Family, Economy and Law

5. Religion in India:
   a) Ideology
   b) Social Organization
   c) Religious Movements

Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)

1. Articles under the title ‘For a Sociology of India’, Contributions to Indian Sociology. (Old series and New series).


Course SOC 105: Methods of Sociological Research I

This course is designed to acquaint students with the theory-in-practice of anthropology and sociology. After doing the course, students will understand the epistemological basis of different theories and different disciplines, and the way that disciplines are defined by their methods. In addition to traditional place-based ethnography, the students will become acquainted with a variety of different contexts in which ethnography can be carried out (e.g. virtual, visual) as well as a variety of different methods (e.g. archives, oral history, life histories, content analysis). Finally, the students will also explore ethical debates and controversies in sociology and anthropology.

1. Epistemology

2. Disciplines
   a) Cognate Disciplines
   b) History of Sociology/Anthropology

3. Ethnography
   a) Field and Fieldwork
   b) Ethics and Controversies

4. Other Methods
   a) Archives
   b) Oral History
   c) Life histories
   d) Visuality
   e) Content analysis
   f) PRA

Evaluation

50% of the evaluation in this course will be based on research projects carried out by the students, whether singly or in groups as part of the internal evaluation system, and 50% on an examination.
Suggested readings (a final reading list will be provided at the beginning of each semester)


Course SOC 106: Economic Sociology

In this course the aim is to make students aware about the sociology of economic life. The economic man for the economists is largely an isolated individual, who works with the notion of profit maximization and has access to all the information necessary for sound decision making. In this view social and cultural factors act as obstacles to the individual in pursuing his economic endeavours. For the economic sociologist, however economic activities are embedded in social relations and his or her economic activities are conditioned by the overall social domain in which he or she lives. The main thrust of the course is to understand the tension between the logic of the economy as a self-referential system and its relation with other socio-cultural institutions.

1. Introduction: Economy in Society
   a) Classical and New Economic Sociology
   b) From Embeddedness to Networking

2. Production and Reproduction
   a) The Production Process
   b) The Structure and Experience of Work

3. Exchange and Consumption
   a) Gift and Market
   b) Status and identity

4. Economy and the State
   a) Transition Economies and Welfare State
   b) Globalisation and Neo-liberalism

5. Emergent forms of Economies

Readings:


SOC 107: Political Sociology

This course, revised recently to include new readings and topics, introduces students to the emergence of, and the theoretical debates, and basic concepts in the field of Political Sociology. It covers themes such as local-level politics, citizenship and welfare state and politics and society in India, and offers comprehensive readings that deal with the political system over time and space. Students will be able to learn complexities in the Indian political system. The revised course is being sent to the appropriate bodies for approval.

1. Nature and Scope of Political Sociology
   (a) Approaches to the Study of Politics
   (b) Political Systems and other Social Systems

2. Some Basic Concepts:
   (a) Power and Authority
   (b) Consensus and Conflict
   (c) Elites and Masses
   (d) State and Stateless Societies

3. Local Structures of Power:
   (a) Varieties of Local Power Structure
   (b) Local Power Structures and the wider Political System

4. State and Society:
   (a) Capitalism and Socialism
   (b) Welfare State
   (c) Democracy and Fascism

5. Politics and Society in India:
   (a) Social Movements and State Institutions
   (b) Nationalisms and the Nation-state

Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester).


Course SOC 108: Social Stratification

This course examines the concepts of difference, hierarchy, equality, and inequality and the different forms in which they manifest. It explores both classical and emerging theories of class, race, and patriarchy, and examines their intersections. At the end of this course, students will come to appreciate the manner in which seemingly naturalised identities like race, caste, gender, and sexuality are constructed through the lens of political economy and particular forms of governmentality.

1. Understanding Social Stratification:
   a) Social Stratification and Social Inequality
   b) The Problem of Ethical Neutrality
   c) Difference, Equality, and Inequality
   d) The Structuring of Inequalities: The Significance of Ideas and Interests

2. Occupation, Social Stratification, and Class:
   a) Classes as Non-antagonistic Strata
   b) Classes as Antagonistic Groups
   c) Social Mobility and Class Structure

3. Race and Ethnicity:
   a) Natural Differences and Social Inequality
   b) Identities, Nationalities, and Social Inequality

4. Gender and Stratification:
   a) Patriarchy and the Subordination of Women
   b) The Family as a Site of Inequality
   c) Gender, Work, and Entitlements
   d) The Community, the State and Patriarchy

Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


SOC 209: Methods of Sociological Research-II

This practice-oriented course introduces students to those aspects of quantitative methods that they are most likely to use and encounter as sociologists. The course involves two lecture classes and a two-hour practicum each week (where attendance is mandatory). The practicum will include exercises and an introduction to commonly used statistical software (such as MS-Excel, and Stata or R). The emphasis is always on practical application and appreciation for the underlying logic and rationale. The core themes are description, presentation and argumentation in statistical/quantitative contexts.

1. Introduction: Qualitative/Quantitative, Analytical/Descriptive
   a) Questioning dichotomies
   b) The emergence of statistics as a major 20\textsuperscript{th} century discipline

2. Statistical Description:
   a) The ‘distribution’ as the core concept of statistics
   b) Data reduction
   c) Averages for central tendency and dispersion

3. Presentation of Statistical Data:
   a) Statistical tables: Reading, interpretation & design
   b) Graphical presentation: ‘Data-ink’ and ‘Chart-junk’

4. Statistical Analysis & Argument:
   a) Comparisons: How to make and evaluate them.
   b) Relationships: Association, correlation, analysis of variance.
   c) Regression Models and their rationale (OLS, Multivariate, Logistic)
   d) Statistical Inference, Tests of Significance

5. Sampling and Survey Research
   a) The logic of sampling
   b) Sample Survey Research: History and significance in sociology;
   c) Sample selection & survey design
6. Data Base on Indian Society:

a) Handling Aggregate Data: Issues in inference, interpretation and comparison.
b) Census, NSSO, NFHS and other large data sets (eg: NCRB, AISHE etc).

Themes for the Practicum (approx. 12-14 weeks):

A. Tables: Reading, Interpreting, Designing
B. Graphs and Charts: Data-ink ratios; avoiding chart-junk
C. Introduction to Excel & Stata/R: Data entry to analysis & presentation.
D. Questionnaire design: Survey design from sampling to data entry & coding
E. Exercises with Census, NSSO, NFHS etc. (3)

Evaluation

50% of the evaluation in this course will be based on research projects carried out by the students, whether singly or in groups as part of the internal evaluation system, and 50% on an examination.

Suggested Readings:

(This is not a reading-intensive course; most of the reading/searching will be built around the practicum assignments/problem sets and the following list of classic works, which may be supplemented or changed if needed.)


SOC 210: Sociology of India II

The course introduces students to the debates on key areas of contemporary Indian society and the making of the Indian nation. Analysis of industrial townships, biotechnological changes in agriculture, the making of technological and commercial institutions pay attention to the process of nation and nationalism. The concept of self-reliance is ethnographically examined through a case study. Resistance to, critiques of and fractures in national plans are a key to the analysis of contemporary India. Secularism, analysed at specific cultural locations and contexts locates concepts of a secularising nation within society. Migration, and migrant settlements and the issue of belonging are examined through ethnographic attention to imagined boundaries of the nation. Visualising the nation through material heritage and visual media acquaints students with different sources for the study of contemporary India.

1. Blueprints for the Indian nation
   a) Urban Plans
   b) Agrarian policies, markets and mobilities
   c) Corporate cultures and technological innovation
   d) Self-reliance as national model: The Case of Khadi

2. Failed Blueprints
   a) Displacements and city spaces
   b) Disparity and dispossession in the countryside
   c) Critiques of Business India
   d) Social and Political Movements

3. Siting the Secular in the everyday
   a) Regulating the family
   b) Standardising livelihood
   c) Ingesting identity

4. Borders and Boundaries Within
   a) Debating home and belonging
   b) Citizens and Others
   c) Migration and memory
5. Portraits of the Nation
   a) Scripting the nation
   b) National Heritage
   c) Case Study: *Mother India* [1957] Dir. Mehboob Khan

**Selected Readings:**


13. Lisa Trivedi *Clothing Gandhi’s Nation: Homespun and Modern India* Bloomington: Indiana University Press 2007. [Chaps 1, 3 and 5].


35. Renaud Egreteau, India’s Vanishing “Burma Colonies”. Repatriation, Urban Citizenship, and (De)Mobilization of Indian Returnees from Burma (Myanmar) since the 1960s *Moussons*, No. 22 2013, 11-34. URL: http://journals.openedition.org/moussons/2312; DOI: 10.4000/moussons.2312.


Course SOC 211: Sociological Theory: Some Conceptual Issues

This is an advanced course on conceptual issues in Sociology and Social Anthropology. It introduces students to the various conceptual approaches that have been predominant in sociological work. From approaches like that of classical structural-functionalism to later developments in structuralism, post-structuralism, postmodernism and spatial approaches, the course lays down the theoretical ground for sociological research.

1. Self, Interaction, Event:
   (a) Self and other in the social act
   (b) Multiple Realities
   (c) The ‘doing’ of social life

2. System and Structure:
   (a) From action to systems
   (b) Models and relationships

3. Discourse, Genealogy, Practice:
   (a) The emergence of the subject and disciplinary power
   (b) Habitus and embodiment
   (c) Spatial practices

Select Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


Course SOC 212: Sociology of Development

Preamble:

The main thrust of the course is to familiarize students with some of the foundational as well as critical questions as regards the ‘problems’ and ‘prospects’ of development. We begin with the way in which the contemporary ‘discourse of development’ takes off, with the Truman Design of 1949. The course then maps out the dynamics of development in terms of how it has been conceptualized by various development thinkers, how various Perspectives on development have given rise to newer ways of looking at the phenomenon as well as the processes of development (and underdevelopment) and follow it up with certain case studies taken from Asian, African and Latin American countries. Finally, we examine the case of the Indian economy and its development, growth, and poverty and analyze them in terms of different phases. Having gone through such a course, students would not only be able to understand various complex and contentious issues of development and underdevelopment but will also be able to pursue professional careers as development academics, planners, managers, policy makers, etc.

1. Idea(s) of Development:
   a) Concepts, Definitions and Indicators
   b) Epistemological Critiques of Development

2. Perspectives on Development
   a) Mainstream Perspectives
   b) Alternative Perspectives
   c) Post-Development Perspectives

3. Models and Strategies of Development
   a) Developmental State and State - Directed Development
   b) Capitalist Development in the era of Colonialism and Globalization
   c) NGOs, Civil Society and Community Development

4. Doing Development: Comparative Studies
   a) Asia
   b) Africa
   c) Latin America
5. Development in India

a) Planning for Development
b) Growth vis-à-vis Poverty
c) Exclusion, Discrimination and Inclusive Development

Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


Course SOC 213: Sociology of Symbolism

The course is designed to enable students to learn the concepts necessary to conduct a semiotic analysis of texts or objects and then to study the different areas in which these concepts can be applied. Thus the four main topics in the course are designed to progress from a discussion of concepts to different fields in which they can be applied. The fields range from narrative texts, to scientific projects and ethnographic experience, to different types of visual media; this gives students a sense of how concepts are constantly modified and amplified as they are applied to different fields of study. The emphasis is on reading a selection of original texts that combine theory and its application so that students may be able to conduct such an analysis themselves.

1. Principles of Semiology:
   a) Sign and Value
   b) Types of Symbols
   c) Relations of Signification

2. Narrative Forms:
   a) Structure of Narratives
   b) Code and Message

3. Language, Text and Culture:
   a) Ethnography as Text and Practice
   b) Symbol, History, Event

4. Visuality and the Symbol:
   a) Visual Symbols
   b) Media, Technology, Representation

Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


SOC 214: Work, Industry and Society

This reading-intensive elective course introduces students to the rapidly changing world of work. It charts the structural transformation of industry in response to technological change and the process of globalisation. Special attention is paid to questions of gender, caste, precarity and informalisation, and to the Indian contexts for these questions.

Syllabus:

1. Work and Society: Introduction
   a) The transition from pre-capitalist to capitalist contexts of/for work
   b) Sociology of work in India, past and present

2. Work, Technology and Capitalist Transformations
   a) Accumulation and the labour process in the 19th and 20th centuries
   b) Informalisation and the precariat
   c) Surplus populations and the “outside” of capital

3. Durable Divisions: Gender, Caste, Race, Region
   a) Trends and puzzles in “feminisation” and gender segmentation
   b) Caste discrimination, exclusion and opportunity hoarding
   c) Race, ethnicity, region and nation as regulatory mechanisms

4. The Future of Work
   a) Philosophical foundations of “work”: Is reification reversible?
   b) “Multitude”, “corrosion of character” and emancipatory prospects

Suggested Readings


Course SOC 215: Gender and Society

Originating as one of the first postgraduate papers on gender and society – this department was among the first to introduce this field at the MA level – this course starts from the premise that gender is not only about women. The course has a three-fold aim. Firstly, it takes students through a gendered reading of both classics and contemporary texts in sociology and anthropology. Secondly, it focuses on specific and substantive concerns in gender studies. The course then integrates these discussions to forward its third outcome, namely, to acquaint students with older and current debates and new areas of research in the field.

1. Gender in Sociological Analysis:
   a) Approaches to the Study of Gender
   b) Gender Studies as a Critique of Ethnography and Theory

2. Reproduction, Sexuality and Ideology:
   a) Biology and Culture
   b) Concepts of Male and Female
   c) Life Cycle

3. Family, Work and Property:
   a) Production and Reproduction
   b) Work and Property
   c) Family and Household

4. The Politics of Gender:
   a) Complementarity, Inequality, Dependence, Subordination
   b) Feminist Theories and Feminist Politics

Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


Course SOC 216: Sociology of Education

This course provides an understanding of the place and value of education in society, of the hegemonic processes that embed educational discourse, and of the institutional processes in which education is located. Through ethnographies of different social and cultural contexts and comparative analyses, students will understand the intersections of categories contributing to the reproduction of inequality in education, the state and civil society interventions in education, as well as the transformative aspects of education, and the role of agency and resistance in the educational process.

1. The Idea of Education:
   a) What is a ‘Good’ Education?
   b) Basic Education
   c) Democracy and Education
   d) Education and Liberation
   e) Education in contemporary times

2. Education and Society:
   a) Socialization and Education
   b) Cultural and Social Reproduction
   c) Hegemony and Domination
   c) Agency, Resistance and Relative Autonomy

3. Schooling practices:
   a) An Autobiographical Approach
   b) School Culture
   c) Curriculum and Classroom Practices
   d) Counter-School Culture

4. The State, Education and Equality:
   a) Education and Social Stratification
   b) Privatisation of Education
   c) Right to Education
   d) Aspects of Higher Education

Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


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Course SOC 217: Sociology of Organisations

This course is based on comparative studies of different types of organizations ranging from factories, NGOs to hospitals and government bureaucracies. The selection choice of case studies is guided by the nature of the problems thrown up by the nature of the organization itself and the interests that it serves. Since organizations are supposed to be rational systems the attempt is to demonstrate the many ways in which subjective, i.e. emotional aspects add to the complexity of systems as different kinds of rational goals collide with each other. As with all other courses in the MA syllabus, the attempt is to teach theoretical concepts through their elaboration in ethnographies.

1. Introduction - Sociology and Organisation Studies:
   (a) Tracing a History
   (b) Modes of Classification

2. Models of Rationality:
   (a) Types of Rationality
   (b) Styles of Bureaucratic Organisation
   (c) Organisations as Systems of Communication

3. Work, Interaction, Organisation:
   (a) Organisations as Systems of Interaction
   (b) Formal and Informal
   (c) Self and the Organisational System

4. Organisation and Culture:
   (a) Universal and Local Dimensions
   (b) Critiques of Organisational Culture: Gender, Emotions, and Indigenous Perspectives

Select Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


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Course SOC 218: Population and Society

This course takes students through the key concepts, approaches, and debates in the field of population studies. By focusing on basic features of population structure and population dynamics, it will enable students to understand the importance of demography in social life. A key feature of the course is exposure to the critical sociological debates as well as policy related debates is. At the end of the course, students will be conversant with the significance of demography in social life and will have developed a critical orientation to public debates and policies regarding population.

1. Introduction to population studies and classical approaches:
   a) Relation with sociology and anthropology.
   b) Population structures and population dynamics
   c) Malthus and Marx
   d) Durkheim and Halbwachs

2. Fertility:
   a) Demographic transition theory
   b) Approaches to Fertility
   c) Reproductive technologies, sex selection and Infertility

3. Mortality:
   a) Epidemiological transition Model
   b) Approaches to mortality

4. Migration:
   a) Migration as a demographic process
   b) Approaches to migration

5. Population politics and policies:
   a) Governmentality and biopower
   b) Census and identity
   c) Gender and religion
The Course teacher may add a few extra ethnographic Studies to the reading list every year. The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester.

Readings:


17. Marcia C. Inhorn and Frank van Balen 2002 *Infertility around the globe: New thinking on childlessness, gender and reproductive technologies* (Selected chapters).


34. Sumit Guha 2013 Beyond caste: Identity and power in south Asia, past and present, Leiden: Brill, Chapter 5, (Ruling, identifying and counting: Knowledge and power in eighteenth century India.


Course SOC 219: Urban Sociology

Drawing from recent and classical research, this course lays down the foundation for a sociological study of the city or the urban. In addition, it introduces students to the multidisciplinary nature of contemporary urban studies by taking them through relevant theories from across the social sciences, including cultural geography, history, political science, and memory studies. Using a cross-cultural approach, the city is studied as part of global and transnational networks, spatial and cultural maps, formations of class, urban dislocation, and violence.

1. Sociological perspectives on the City:
   a) Globalisation and the City
   b) Politics and Urban Planning
   c) Urban Lives
   d) Urban Violence

2. Sacred landscapes and Urban life:
   a) The Sacred in the City
   b) Formations and Transformations of Space
   c) Ritual Processions and Urban Networks

3. Geographies of Space, Place, Identity:
   a) Neighbourhoods and Social Networks
   b) Contested Space and Identity
   c) Aesthetics and Architecture

4. The Underlife of Cities:
   a) The Underclass in the City
   b) Sexual Geography of the City
   c) Urban Street Cultures

Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


Course SOC 220 (a): Area Study: South-East Asia

1. Ecological Background of South-East Asia.
2. Traditional Kinship and Social Organization.
3. Comparative Sociology of Plural Society and Economy.

Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)

Course SOC 220 (b) South West-Asia

1. South-West Asia as an Object of Enquiry:
   a) Ecology: Boundaries, Frontiers, Fields
   b) History and Politics
   c) Local Societies and Universalising Religion

2. Political Ideology and Religious Practices: Orthodox and Heterodox:
   a) Textual Analysis
   b) Text and Practice

3. Religious Ideology and Social Change:
   a) Political Islam and Problems of State Formation
   b) Islam and Resistance: Afghanistan and Iran
   c) Islam and Legitimacy: Iran and Pakistan

4. Feud and Violence:
   a) Deeds and Words
   b) Segmentary Theory
   c) Honour and Shame

Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


Course SOC 220 (c): Area Study: China

1. Sociological theories and the study of China
   a) Approaches to China: Marxist and Weberian
   b) Mao’s Conception of Society, Social Science and Social Change

2. Kinship and Family:
   a) Changes in Land and Lineage Structure
   b) Redefining Social Roles

3. Rural-urban continuum:
   a) Restructuring Village Communities
   b) De-urbanization and the Role of Cities

4. Stratification:
   a) Readjustment of Class Hierarchy
   b) New Status Symbols

5. Values and Society:
   a) Religious Symbols: Old and New
   b) China’s Model of Development, Evolution and Revolution

Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


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Course SOC 221: Sociology of Science

This course engages with the field of science and technology studies from a sociological point of view. It starts with the historical development of scientific knowledge production, proceeds to understand various theoretical approaches and debates, and moves on to understand the relationship between science and technology. The course takes up sociological engagements with a range of empirical sites such as laboratories and information networks, as well as the related political and ethical implications. It allows students to understand how science and society interact, and aids them in developing a clear understanding of important everyday concerns.

1. Introduction to Problems of the Sociology of Science
2. Origin of Modern European Science: Society and the Relation of Man and Nature
3. Functionalist Theory of Science: Norms, Productivity and Rewards
4. Marxist Theory of Science and Society: A Case Study
5. Structuralist Theory of Science: Paradigm or Gestalt
6. Ethnography of the Laboratory

Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


Course 222: Agrarian Sociology

This course introduces students to debates on the development of capitalism in agriculture, and on feudalism, commercialization of agriculture, and the impact of globalization on peasant studies. It familiarises students with recent debates and discussions on agrarian structure in India and other countries, and takes them through issues such as agrarian crises, farmers’ suicides, and the consequences of the introduction of GM crops.

1. Understanding Agrarian Sociology:
   (a) Ideas, interests and theories
   (b) Issues of classification

2. Pre-capitalist forms of production and the transition debate:
   (a) Surplus appropriation
   (b) Transition from Feudalism to Capitalism

3. Commercialisation of agriculture, agrarian crisis and food sovereignty:
   (a) Technology and production
   (b) Labour and work-discipline
   (c) Inequalities (GM seeds, farmer's suicides and food sovereignty)

4. Colonial land settlements and reforms:
   (a) Colonial land settlements
   (b) Redistributive and Market-led reforms

5. Agrarian Conflict:
   (a) Forms of resistance
   (b) Peasant organizations and ideologies
   (c) 'Land-grabs' and dispossession

Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


Course SOC 223: Sociology of Law

This course familiarises students with the sociology and anthropology of law and fundamental concepts in jurisprudence. Students will engage with different theoretical perspectives on the law and with key debates in the field. The course examines how the law operates in a variety of empirical settings, and focuses on the different actors involved in the operation of the formal legal system. It also provides a political economy approach to law, and explores ways in which law becomes an arena of struggle. From historical and anthropological studies on crime, students learn about the creation of regimes of truth through law and the definition of crime and criminals. The course also examines law's relation to contemporary concerns in India, and aids students to critically analyse judgements from a sociological perspective.

I. Introduction to Jurisprudence:
   a) Legal Positivism and Natural Law Theory
   b) Philosophies of Law/Justice
   c) Critical Legal Studies, Feminist Jurisprudence, etc.

2. Sociological and Anthropological Jurisprudence:
   a) Legal Evolutionism
   b) Relativism and Law
   c) Legal Pluralism

3. The Political Economy of Law:
   a) Law and Ideology
   b) Law and Power
   c) Property and Law
   d) Courts as Social Institutions

4. Law and Society in India:
   a) Historical Processes
   b) Contemporary Concerns
   c) The Indian Constitution in Practice
   d) Critical Analysis of SC Judgements
Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


Course SOC 224: Medical Sociology

The course addresses a range of questions that are significant in this sub discipline and develops a critical perspective on social issues pertaining to gender, disability, and aging through the lens of chronic illness. The course also addresses questions relating to the state and the market through case studies on pharmaceuticals and immunization schemes. As with most other courses in the MA syllabus, this course too is comparative in nature, with ethnographic studies chosen from different parts of the globe.

1. Body, Medicine and Society. Theoretical Perspectives:
   a) The Cultural Construction of Medical Reality
   b) Governing Bodies and Bio Power

2. Narrating Health and Illness:
   a) Illness Narratives
   b) Care and Interpersonal Relations

3. Culture and Medical Practice:
   a) Medical Taxonomies
   b) The Normal and Pathological

4. The State and Medicine:
   a) Epidemics and Immunization
   b) Pharmaceutical Practices

Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


Course SOC 225: Sociology of Media

This course will provide a close reading of some of the key theoretical concepts, paradigms, and debates within Media Studies. It examines the media from a sociological perspective, focusing on three key areas - one, the medium, two, the mediation of subjectivities and three, the relationship between the media, the public sphere, and democracy.

1. Introduction and Theoretical approaches to media studies
   a) Cultural studies
   b) Public sphere
   c) Semiotics

2. The politics of media
   a) Media and political processes (elections, citizenship etc)
   b) Media as a supporter or watchdog of the state
   c) Media and the construction of political reality

3. The Media Industry
   a) Media as business: ownership, profits
   b) State ownership and influence

4. Media and Globalisation
   a) Neoliberalism and its implications
   b) Transnational and diasporic visual culture

5. Media and Identity
   a) Construction of subjectivities
   b) Audience reception

6. New media
   a) New media as technology
   b) New media and alternative identities, politics

Note: In any one year, four out of topics (2-6) will be taught.
Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


SOC 226: Society and Ecology

This course will introduce students to sociological approaches to understanding the relationship between society and ecology. The scope ranges from philosophical engagements with the distinction between nature and culture, to understanding perceptions and impacts of environmental change, to examining institutions and social structures that shape our engagement with nature. The course will familiarize students with the wide range of issues that animate the field, and examine some of the key debates by engaging with ethnographic work and specific case studies.

1. Social ecology
   a) Mapping the field
   b) Ideas of Natures

2. Explaining environmental degradation
   a) Population, consumption, development
   b) Disasters, hazards and risk

3. Environmentalism
   a) Environment and social movements
   b) Environmental justice: gender, class, caste, race

4. Environmental governance and Institutions
   a) State, community, commons
   b) Global environmental governance (problems, institutions, policies, politics)

Suggested Readings:


