Course Objectives:

1. Urbanisation is an important aspect of modern society. This course is will provide an exposure to key theoretical perspectives for understanding urban phenomena in historical and contemporary contexts.

2. It also reflects on vital concerns of urban living while narrating the subjective experiences of urban communities. With case studies from India and other parts of the world this course will help students understand and relate to the complexities of urban living.

3. The course seeks to evolve critical thinking and develop a policy perspective on the urban.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. To appreciate the significance of the city and the process of urbanisation and its consequences across the globe, through cross disciplinary texts and ethnographic studies.

2. To understand the urban in the historical as well as modern contexts - the idea of urbanism and urban space and the intersections in these of institutions, processes and identities. This is to be achieved by exposing students to critical theoretical debates which help them to gain a deeper understanding of city life and urban environment which can also help them understand their own social environment better.

3. To learn about key urban processes such as migration, displacement and urban slums, as well as critical contemporary issues such as resettlement and rehabilitation and also engage in issues of public policy, urban transformation and change. Knowledge of such themes will help students pursue further studies in academic areas such as development and also engage in research on public policy, urban transformation and change.

4. To develop critical thinking and a reflective perspective through exposure to multicultural thought; to enhance disciplinary knowledge, research-related skills and develop a problem-solving competence.

Course Content:

Unit 1: Introducing Urban Sociology: Urban, Urbanism and the City

Unit 2: Perspectives in Urban Sociology

2.1. Ecological

2.2. Political Economy
2.3. Network

2.4. City as Culture

Unit 3: Movements and Settlements

3.1. Migration

3.2. Community

Unit 4: Politics of Urban Space

4.1. Caste, Class and Gender

4.2. Culture and Leisure

Unit 1: Introducing Urban Sociology: Urban, Urbanism and the City: (3 Weeks)


Unit 2: Perspectives in Urban Sociology: (4 Weeks)

2.1. Ecological


2.2. Political Economy


2.3. Network


2.4. City as Culture

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Unit 3: Movements and Settlements: (2 Weeks)

3.1. Migration


3.2. Community


Unit 4: Politics of Urban Space: (5 Weeks)

4.1. Caste, Class and Gender

Nair, Janaki “Battles for Bangalore: Reterritorialising the City”, Pp 1-21 http://opencity.in/documents/battles-for-bangalore-reterritorialising-the-city-janaki-nair


4.2. Culture and Leisure


References:

Compulsory Readings:


Nair, Janaki “Battles for Bangalore: Reterritorialising the City”, Pp 1-21 http://opencity.in/documents/battles-for-bangalore-reterritorialising-the-city-janaki-nair


Additional Resources:

a. Books & Articles


b. Audio Visual Material:

2. Giovanni Vaz Del Bello 2006. A Convenient Truth: Urban Solutions from Curitiba, Brazil
3. Anand Patwardhan. 1985 Bombay: Our City
4. Sanjiv Shah. A Place To Live
5. Gouri Patwadhan. Bin Savlyanchya Gavat (In a Shadowless Town)

Teaching Learning Process:

The sociology of the urban is simultaneously theoretical and yet deeply experiential. The teaching learning for this course necessarily has to be deliberative, drawing from the multicultural exposure to city living. There will be an emphasis on blended learning supported by debates and discussions. Classroom lectures shall be supplemented by power
point presentations and film screenings on various contemporary urban issues. Invited lectures by policy makers, activists, practitioners and other stakeholders would be integral to the curriculum. Students would be encouraged to set out into the field to grasp issues with greater clarity. City walks will be encouraged to enrich the experiential understanding of the urban. Learning would also involve a multi-disciplinary perspective, collaborating with other social sciences that engage with the urban as well as the disciplines of urban planning and architecture, in order to enhance problem solving and critical thinking ability.

**Assessment Methods:**

Assessment for this paper would be in the form of tests, written assignments, projects’ reports and presentations.

**Key Words:**

Urban, Urbanism, Urbanisation, City, Migration, Settlement, Space, Ecology.