BA (H) Sociology
Core Course 09
Sociology of Kinship

Course Objectives

1. Impart a comprehensive study of the concepts relevant for understanding kinship, marriage and family.
2. Evolve a better understanding of family, marriage and kinship both in historical and evolutionary perspective.
3. Look beyond the surface of issues to discover the "why" and "how" of kinship.
4. Explores the new possibilities and critical insights offered by reproductive technologies in revisiting kinship.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Grasp the historical evolution of kinship theories from a biological deterministic approach to culture of relatedness
2. Develop an analytical perspectives on concepts relevant for understanding kinship
3. Comprehend the coexistence of multiple perspectives in the study of family, marriage and kinship
4. Acknowledge the significance of the emergence of new reproductive technologies on recasting kinship

Course Outline:

Unit 1. Introduction:

1.1 Key Terms: Descent, Consanguinity, Filiations, Incest Taboo, Affinity, Family, Residence

1.2 Approaches

1.2.1 Descent

1.2.2 Alliance

1.2.3 Cultural

Unit 2. Family, Household and Marriage

Unit 3. Re-casting Kinship

3.1 Relatedness

3.2 Kinship and Gender
3.3 Re-imagining Families

3.4 New Reproductive Technologies

3.5 Surrogacy

Course Content:

Unit 1. Key terms and approaches (Weeks 1-5)


[Readings marked * are repeated in Unit 2]
Unit 2. Family, Household and Marriage (Weeks 6-10)


Uberoi, Patricia, 1995, ‘When is a Marriage not a Marriage? Sex, Sacrament and Contract in Hindu Marriage’, Contributions to Indian Sociology, n.s. 29, 1&2: 319-45

Unit 3. Re-casting Kinship (Weeks 11-14)

3.1 Relatedness


3.2 Kinship and Gender

Gold, Ann Grodzins, 1994, ‘Sexuality, Fertility, and Erotic Imagination in Rajasthani Women’s Songs ‘, in Listen to the Heron's Words: Re-imagining Gender and Kinship in North India by Gloria Goodwin Raheja and Ann Grodzins Gold, Delhi: OUP, Pp 30-72

3.3 Re-imagining Families


3.4 New Reproductive Technologies


3.5 Surrogacy
References:

Compulsory Readings:


Gold, Ann Grodzins, 1994, ‘Sexuality, Fertility, and Erotic Imagination in Rajasthani Women’s Songs’, in *Listen to the Heron’s Words: Re-imagining Gender and Kinship in North India* by Gloria Goodwin Raheja and Ann Grodzins Gold, Delhi: OUP, Pp 30-72


Uberoi, Patricia, 1995, ‘When is a Marriage not a Marriage? Sex, Sacrament and Contract in Hindu Marriage’, *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, n.s. 29, 1&2: 319-45


**Teaching Learning Process**

1. Interactive session with students to enable them to broaden their understanding of family, marriage and kinship.
2. Reading classical theories and ethnographies and apply them to understand what’s happening around.
3. Movie screening on issues related to reproductive technologies, surrogacy, divorce etc.
4. Project work in which students get a chance to use their understanding of theories and approaches to their surroundings.

**Assessment Methods**

1. Internal assessment through regular assignments and class test
2. Project assessment through field work, writing report and presentation
3. Final end term assessment through external examination

**Key Words:**

Kinship, Family, Marriage, Biology, Culture, Relatedness, Assisted Reproduction, Maternity And Motherhood.