B. A (H) Sociology

Generic Elective 05

Sociology of Social Movements

Course Objectives:

1. The course seeks to introduce students to one of the most urgent and prolific areas of sociological research that has direct bearing on the course of social, political, cultural and economic changes. It explores how, when and why groups mobilize with what results.
2. This course is designed to equip students with diverse disciplinary trainings to understand the conceptual, theoretical and methodological issues involved in the study of social movements, as well as the historical and descriptive analyses of collective action. It also draws attention to an important aspect of the analysis of social movements: their articulation with states, societies and cultures.
3. Through case studies drawn from comparative contexts, this course demonstrates the vital connectedness between collective action in social movements and other forms of institutional and cultural contexts. Particular case studies will be used as illustrations to understand more general patterns of social movements.
4. The course will also equip students to visualize the transition from traditional to contemporary social movements. The course envisages that studying social movements would ultimately foster an understanding of the dynamics of power, justice and human agency in transforming societies and cultures. To that extent it is a course that has a universal relevance and appeal.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. At the end of the course, students should be able to distinguish the central principles of different theoretical perspectives in the sociology of social movements and relate them to specific historical and empirical contexts.
2. Learn to use sociological theories on social movements to identify a phenomenon as one. Further, students should be able to distinguish a phenomenon as social movement from other cognate political phenomena.
3. Understand the dynamics and motivations of individuals and groups participating in social movements and identify reasons for success (or failure) of social movements.
4. Discuss and ask questions about social movement theories and methodologies with insight and precision.
Course Content

Unit 1. Social Movements: Concepts, Theories and Methods of Study (Weeks 1-5)

Unit 2. States, Social Movements and Politics (Weeks 6 -8)

Unit 3. Society, Culture and Social Movements (Weeks 9-11)

Unit 4. Contemporary Social Movements (Weeks 12-14)

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Unit 2. States, Social Movements and Politics (Weeks 6 -8)

Tarrow, Sidney. 1996. “States and Opportunities: the Political Structuring of Social Movements”. In Doug McAdam, John D. McCarthy and Mayer N. Zald, eds, Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements, MA: Cambridge University Press, p. 41-61.


Unit 3. Society, Culture and Social Movements (Weeks 9-11)


Unit 4. Contemporary Social Movements (Weeks 12-14)


References:

Compulsory Readings:


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Additional Resources:

a. Books & Articles:


b. **Audio Visual Resources:**

- Documentary Series ‘Eyes on the Prize’
- ‘The Factory’, by Rahul Roy

**Teaching-Learning Process:**

Apart from lectures, teaching learning process in this course has to be primarily interactive. It is a course that lends enormously for self-learning and coming into awareness and action research. The teaching learning could deploy the wide range of cultural resources mobilized by social movements worldwide to make the classes more interesting and engaging.

**Assessment Methods:**

Evaluation for this paper will consist of one assignment that tests the conceptual grasp of the issues involved and a class presentation of detailed case study of a movement or a theme emerging out of social movements.

**Keywords:**