

**BA (H) Sociology**  
**Generic Elective 02**  
**Family and Intimacy**

**Course Objectives**

1. To introduce students to a range of contemporary concerns pertaining to family as a social institution from a sociological perspective and with an interdisciplinary orientation.
2. To situate family in its historical, cultural, social and comparative contexts and alert students to widely prevalent misunderstandings about it and make them aware of the sheer diversity of family forms and reconstitute it as a possible arena of justice.
3. To familiarize students with different phases and facets of family and intimate life using ethnographic accounts from different regions of India.
4. To examine institution of family and experience of intimacy with empathy and detachment.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

1. An ability to examine the institution of family and reality of intimate experiences from a sociological perspective.
2. Knowledge of diverse forms of the family within their appropriate historical contexts and comparative appreciation of their features.
3. Ability and disposition to constitute quotidian space of family and intimacy as an arena of democracy, gender justice and empowerment.
4. Awareness of symbiotic relationship between conceptual, ethnographic and critical literatures in social sciences and demonstrate how they work in close tandem.
5. To alert next generation policy makers to take the questions of the intimate sphere of the family with appropriate seriousness and make them integral to public reason and conversation.

## **Course Outline**

### **Unit 1: What is Family? (4 Weeks)**

### **Unit 2: Family and Intimacy: Themes and Accounts (6 Weeks)**

### **Unit 3: Family and Intimacy: Critiques and Transformations (4 Weeks)**

## **Course Content:**

### **Unit 1. What is Family? (4 Weeks)**

Mitterauer, Michael, and Reinhard Sieder. *The European Family*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982. Chapters 1 & 4. Family as a Historical Social Form & Has Family Lost its Functions? Pp. 1-21, 71-90.

Worsley, Peter. *Introducing Sociology*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1984. Chapter 4. The Family. Pp. 165-209.

Lévi-Strauss, Claude. 'The Family' in Harry L Shapiro (ed.) *Man, Culture and Society*. New York: Oxford University Press, Pp. 261 – 285.

Okin, Susan Moller. *Justice, Gender, and the Family*. New York: Basic Books, 1989. Chapter 2. The Family: Beyond Justice? Pp. 25 – 40.

Weston, Kath. *Families We Choose*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1991. Chapter 2. Exiles from Kinship. Pp. 21 – 42.

### **Unit 2. Family and Intimacy: Themes and Accounts (6 Weeks)**

Lannoy, Richard. *The Speaking Tree*. London: Oxford University Press, 1974. Part Two, Chapters. 1, 2 & 4. The Child, Family Relationships & Change in the Family System. Pp. 83 – 112 & 124 – 131.

Goody, Jack. *The Oriental, the Ancient and the Primitive: Systems of Marriage and the Family in the Preindustrial Societies of Eurasia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (With Esther Goody) Chapter 6. Marriage and the Family in Gujarat. Pp.157-178.

Trawick, Margaret. *Notes on Love in a Tamil Family*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1996. Chapters. 3 & 5. The Ideology of Love & Siblings and Spouses. Pp. 89 – 116 & 187 – 204.

Raheja, Gloria Goodwin, and Ann Grodzins Gold. *Listen To The Heron's Words: Reimagining Gender and Kinship in North India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1996. Chapter 2. Sexuality, Fertility, and Erotic Imagination in Rajasthani Women's Songs. Pp. 30 – 72.

Lynch, Owen M. (Ed.) *Divine Passions: The Social Construction of Emotion in India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1990. (Sylvia Vatuk) Chapter 3. "To be a Burden on Others": Dependency Anxiety among the Elderly in India. Pp. 64 – 88.

### **Unit 3. Family and Intimacy: Critiques and Transformations (4 Weeks)**

Barrett, Michèle, and Mary McIntosh. *The Anti-Social Family*. London: Verso, 1991. Chapter 2. The Anti-Social Family. Pp. 43 – 80.

Cartledge, Sue, and Joanna Ryan. *Sex & Love: New Thoughts on Old Contradictions*. London: Women's Press, 1983. Chapter 7 'Is a Feminist Heterosexuality Possible?' Pp. 105 – 123.

Coontz, Stephanie. *Marriage, A History*. New York: Viking, 2005. Pp. 15 – 49.

Shah, A. M. *The Writings of A. M. Shah: The Household and Family in India*. Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan. 2014. "Changes in the Indian Family: An Examination of some Assumptions". Pp. 329 – 341

Uberoi, Patricia. (Ed.) *Social Reform, Sexuality and the State*. New Delhi: Sage Publications, 1996. Chapter 14. When is a Marriage not a Marriage? Sex, Sacrament and Contract in Hindu Marriage. Pp.319 – 345.

Hochschild, Arlie Russell. *So how's the Family? And other Essays*. Berkley: University of California Press, 2013. Chapter 4. So how's family? Pp. 47- 60.

### **References**

#### **Compulsory Readings:**

Barrett, Michèle, and Mary McIntosh. *The Anti-Social Family*. London: Verso, 1991. Chapter 2. The Anti-Social Family. Pp. 43 – 80.

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Uberoi, Patrica. (Ed.) *Social Reform, Sexuality and the State*. New Delhi: Sage Publications, 1996. Chapter 14. When is a Marriage not a Marriage? Sex, Sacrament and Contract in Hindu Marriage. Pp.319 – 345.

Weston, Kath. *Families We Choose*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1991. Chapter 2. Exiles from Kinship. Pp. 21 – 42.

Worsley, Peter. *Introducing Sociology*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1984. Chapter 4. The Family. Pp. 165-209.

### **Additional Resources:**

#### **Books & Articles**

Ahmad, Imtiaz. *Family, Kinship, and Marriage among Muslims in India*. Delhi: Manohar Press. 1976.

Beck, Ulrich and Elisabeth Beck-Gernsheim. *The Normal Chaos of Love*. Oxford: Polity Press. 1995.

Becker, Gary S. *A Treatise on the Family*. Harvard: Harvard University Press.

Dasgupta, Sanjukta. *The Indian Family in Transition: Reading Literary and Cultural Texts, Delhi: Sage. 2007.*

Engels, Frederick. *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*. New York: Penguin. 2012.

Goody, Jack. *Development of the Family and Marriage in Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1983.

Laslett, Peter. *Family Life and Illicit Love in Earlier Generations: Essays in Historical Sociology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1977.

Madan, T. N. *Family and Kinship: A Study of the Pandits of Rural Kashmir*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1989.

Ross, Aileen D. *The Hindu Family in its Urban Setting*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. 1967.

Stone, Lawrence. *The Family, Sex and Marriage in England 1500 – 1800* (Abridged Edition), Harmondsworth: Penguin.

**Teaching-Learning Process:**

Besides conventional lecturing for communicating concepts, the teaching-learning process for this paper seeks to draw extensively on the diverse cultural competences, observations and experiences of the class to make the issues involved more vivid. Group discussions providing a space for students to voluntarily share their observations and experiences of family life are integral part of the teaching-learning process. Given that family and intimate experiences are also a staple of popular culture, teaching - learning seeks to mobilize those resources to make classes more engaging.

**Assessment Methods:**

Recommended evaluation is one assignment that tests the conceptual competence and one project that puts the conceptual learning into empirical practice.

**Keywords:**

Family, Intimacy, Life Cycle, Childhood, Marriage, Old Age, Gender, Emotions, Sexuality, Love, Law, Justice, Democracy