Course SOC 101: Sociological Theories

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: Sociological Theory: Some Conceptual Issues

1. Self, Interaction, Event:
   a) Self and Other in the Social Act
   b) The 'Doing' of Social Life

2. System, Structure, Rationality:
   a) Relationships, Institutions, Models
   b) System and Life-World

3. Discourse, Genealogy, Practice:
   a) The Emergence of the Subject and Disciplinary Power
   b) Habitus and Embodiment

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 103: Sociology of Kinship**

1. The discourse of kinship:
   a) What is Kinship
   b) The Formation of Kinship as an Object of Study
   c) The Incest Taboo
   d) Honour, Shame and Violence

2. Cultural Configurations of Kinship:
   a) Descent, Residence and Inheritance
   b) Social and Cultural Constructions
   c) Transformations of African Kinship and Marriage
   d) The Culture of Anglo-American Kinship

3. Marriage Patterns:
   a) Marriage as an Expression of Exchange and Alliance
   b) Bride-wealth and Dowry
   c) Strategies of Social Reproduction
   d) Monogamy and Plural Marriages

4. Transformations of kinship (any two in one semester):
   a) Kinship and Modes of Production and Reproduction
   b) Questioning Patriarchy
   c) Reproductive Technologies and Reconfigured Kinship
   d) Gay Perspectives
Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)

Course SOC 104: Religion and Society

2. Religion, Culture and Systems of Collective Representation
4. Religion, Social Movements and Secularism
5. Critiques of Religion

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


Course SOC 105: Political Sociology

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

4. State and Society under Capitalism:
   a) State and the Class Structure
   b) Citizenship and the Welfare State

5. State and Society under Socialism:
   a) State Control and Institutional Autonomy
   b) Ideology and Consensus

6. State and Society in India

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


Course SOC 106: Economic Sociology

1. Introduction: Economy in Society
2. Production and Reproduction:
   a) Concepts of Value, Labour, Property, Money and Rationality
3. Consumption and Exchange:
   a) Gift Exchange
   b) Markets
   c) The Commodity Form
   d) Consumption
4. Economy and the State:
   a) Planned Economies
   b) Welfare Systems
   c) The State and Global Markets
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 107: Sociology of India-I**

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 108: Sociology of India-II

1. Social Organization of Agriculture:
   a) Ownership, Control and Use of Land
   b) Organization of Production
   c) Agrarian Reform and Social Change
   d) Agrarian Movements

2. Aspects of Urban India:
   a) Nature of Urban Society
   b) Emergence of New Occupations
   c) Occupation and Social Class

3. Aspects of Politics and Society in Contemporary India:
   a) Nationalism, Secularism, Communalism and Regionalism
   b) Positive Discrimination: Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes
   c) Women in Indian Society
   d) Continuity and Change: Tradition and Modernity

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 209: Methods of Sociological Research

This is a revised version of an existing course, which converts it from a text oriented to practice oriented course. The aim is to enable students to frame a research question, fashion appropriate methods to address it, and derive relevant conclusions. At the same time, they will be exposed to different readings of the archive, of ethnography, visual anthropology etc, which will help them to understand the diversity of practice and critical thinking behind every method. For instance, in the section on archives, they will be exposed to different ways of constructing archives (colonial records, photos, pamphlets), subaltern versus Marxist readings of colonial records, and so on. In the second half of the course, they will be acquainted with different data sources on Indian society, and taught how to use them to research a particular question or geographical area.

1. Research Methods
   a) Ethnography
   b) Archival Methods
   c) Oral History
   d) Interviews/ Case Studies
   e) Content analysis
   f) Survey Research
   g) Statistical Methods
   h) Social Experiments
   i) PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal)
   j) Visual ethnography
2. Major Data Sources on Indian Society

a) Archives  
b) Census  
c) National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO)  
d) National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and other large data sets  
e) Gazetteers, District handbooks, People of India Project  
f) Film and Visual artifacts

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 exam.

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


**Course SOC 210: Social Stratification**

1. Understanding Social Stratification:
   
   (a) Social Stratification and Social Inequality  
   (b) The Problem of Ethical Neutrality
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 Enequality
   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)


Course SOC 211: Sociology of Development

I. Perspectives on the study of Development:
a) Definitions and Indices
b) Liberal and Marxist Perspectives
c) Epistemological Critiques of Development

2. State and market: Institutions and ideologies:
   a) Planned Development and Society
   b) Globalisation and Liberalization

3. The micro-politics of development:
   a) Transforming Communities: Maps and Models
   b) Knowledge and Power in Development
   c) Re-inventing Development: Subaltern Movements

**Suggested 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 Symbolism

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 of 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)

Course SOC 213: Industry and Society

1. Industrialisation, industrialism and post industrial society.
2. Employee organizations: Blue Collar, White Collar and Managers.
3. Work organization and Alienation:
   a) Machine Tending, Assembly Line, and Process Industry
   b) Job Re-design and Enrichment
   c) New Technologies: Emerging Forms of Work and Trade Union Response
4. Industrial Conflict and its Resolution:
   a) Nature of Industrial Conflict
   b) Collective Bargaining
   c) Participation: Simpler Forms; Codetermination; Self Management and Cooperation

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

Course SOC 214: Gender and Society

I. 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 215: Sociology of Education

(Minor Modification)

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

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) The Formation of the Modern Education System
   b) School Culture
   c) Curriculum and Classroom Practices
   d) Counter-School Culture

4. The State, Education and Equality:
   a) Education and Social Stratification
   b) Mobility and Equality of Educational Opportunity
   c) Affirmative Action
   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)


Course SOC 216: Sociology of Organisations

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

Course SOC 217: Population and Society

1. Demography and Sociology.

2. Elements of Population Analysis:
   a) Major Variables: Fertility, Mortality and Migration
   b) Population Structures-age and Sex

3. Interaction between Demographic variables and Social Structure and institutions:
   a) Fertility and Culture
   b) Migration
   c) Urbanization

4. Population and Society of India.

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 218: Urban Sociology

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 219 (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 219 (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 219 (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 220: Sociology of Science**

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 SOC 221: Agrarian Structure**

1. Agrarian structure in Historical Perspective: Feudal, Colonial and Capitalist.


3. Agrarian reform in principle and practice:
   a) Ideology of Agrarian Reform
   b) The Politics of Agrarian Reform

4. Commercialization of agriculture:
   a) Introduction of Cash Crops
   b) New Technology and Production
   c) Commercialization and Differentiation

5. Agrarian conflicts
   a) The Role of Ideology
   b) Problems of Organization
   c) Everyday Forms of Resistance

**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 222: Sociology of Law**

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

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

III. 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)


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**Course SOC 223: Medical Sociology**

This course is intended to provide students with an overview of the sociology of health, illness and medicine in different social and cultural settings. It aims to offer the students basic orientation in major theoretical perspectives in medical sociology that examine the construction of medical knowledge, cross-cultural comparisons of notions of body, health/illness and practices of health care. It seeks to familiarize the students with key issues and debates around methodologies, ethics and politics of health in a global context. The final list of readings will be handed out to the students by the course teacher on the first day of the class, annually. Teachers teaching in a specific year can choose to do one of the debates listed in section 4 (b).

1. **Body, Medicine and Society: Theoretical Perspectives**

   a) Cultural Construction of Medical Reality
   b) Experiences of Body, Health and Illness
   c) Governing Bodies and Bio Power

2. **Narrating Health and Illness**

   a) Patients, Practitioners, Media
   b) Representation
   c) Narrative as evidence

3. **Culture, Medicine and Medical practice**

   a) Biomedicine in cross-cultural contexts
   b) Pharmaceutical Practices
   c) Syncretic Medical Reality
4. Politics of Global Health and Health Policies
   
a) State and Medicine
b) Health, Politics and Ethics: Global Debates
   o Death and Dying: Debates around Euthanasia
   o Organ Donations and Transplant
   o Chosen Bodies: Debate around abortions

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

Course SOC 224: Sociology of Media

This course will provide a close reading of some of the key theoretical concepts, paradigms, and debates within Media Studies. We will look at media from a sociological perspective, approaching mass media as a tool that aids in constructing the political realm, the public sphere, and subjectivities. We will examine different traditions within the discipline and within sub disciplines such as film and cultural studies. Three major sub-themes will guide us throughout the course: a) Cultural studies b) Public sphere c) Semiotics. We will interrogate these dominant paradigms for what they might offer to our contemporary political, social and cultural moment and in particular to readings of media in India and throughout the global south.

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)