

Semester IV
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
Category I
BA (Honors) Sociology
Sociological Thinkers-1

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE (DSC) 10: Sociological Thinkers-1

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (If any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
DSC-10 Sociological Thinkers-I	4	3	1	0	12th Class Pass	BA (H) DSC 04: Sociological Perspectives or equivalent course

Learning Objectives:

1. The course introduces students to the theoretical contributions of Emile Durkheim, Max Weber and Talcott Parsons.
2. It provides an understanding of the conceptual foundations of the positivist, interpretive and American Structural-Functional Schools of Sociology.

Learning outcomes:

Students will be able to:

1. *Outline* the key concepts and theoretical architecture of the sociological thought of Durkheim, Weber and Parsons.
2. *Apply* the concepts and theories to conceptualize research questions to study and analyses social realities.

SYLLABUS OF DSC -10: Sociological Thinkers-I

Unit I. Emile Durkheim (18 Hours)

This unit introduces the students to Durkheim's conception of Sociology as a scientific discipline and enables them to comprehend the relationships between individual and society through the writings of Durkheim.

a. Social Fact

b. Individual and Society

Unit II. Max Weber (18 Hours)

This unit introduces the students to basic concepts of Max Weber's interpretive sociology, his methodological tools and his substantive contribution to the study of social action and the relationship between cultural ideas and social change.

a. Social Action and Ideal Types

b. Ideas and Social Change

Unit III. Talcott Parsons (9 Hours)

The unit introduces the structural-functional theory of Talcott Parsons with a focus on social action, action frame of reference and pattern variables.

a. Action Systems

b. Pattern Variables

Practical Component: NIL

Essential/Recommended Readings:

Unit I. Emile Durkheim

a. Social Fact

Jones, Robert. A. (1986). 'Studying Social Facts: The Rules of Sociological Method' in *Emile Durkheim: An Introduction to Four Major Works*. London: Sage Publications. Ch 3. Pp. 60-81.

b. Individual and Society

Durkheim, Emile. (2005). 'How to Determine Social Causes and Social Types' in *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*. London: Taylor & Francis. Introduction and Book II, Chapter 1, Pp. xxxix-li, 97-104.

Durkheim, Émile. (1984). 'Mechanical Solidarity or Solidarity by Similarities and Solidarity Arising from the Division of Labour or Organic Solidarity' in *The Division of Labour in Society*. United Kingdom: Macmillan. Book 1 -Chapters 2 & 3. Pp. 31- 64, 68-86.

Unit II. Max Weber

a. Social Action and Ideal Types

Weber, Max. (1947). *The Theory of Social and Economic Organization*. New York: The Free Press. Pp. 87-123.

b. Ideas and Social Change

Weber, Max. (2012). *Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. New York: Routledge. Chapters. 1, 2, 3 & 5. Pp. 3-50, 102-125.

Unit III: Talcott Parsons

a. Action Systems

b. Pattern Variables

Parsons, Talcott. (1951). *The Social System*. London: Routledge. Ch. 1 & 2. Pp. 1-44.

Suggested Readings:

Bhambra Gurinder. and John Holmwood. (2021). *Colonialism and Modern Social Theory*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Durkheim, E. (1982). *The Rules of Sociological Method (W.D. Halls, Trans.)*. New York London Toronto Sydney: The Free Press.

Freund, J. (1970). *The Sociology of Max Weber*. Penguin Books.

Giddens, A. (1971). *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory: An Analysis of the Writings by Marx, Weber and Durkheim*. Cambridge University Press.

Lukes, S. (1985). *Emile Durkheim: His Life and Work: A Historical and Critical Study*. Stanford University Press.

Turner, J. (1995). *The Structure of Sociological Theory*. Jaipur: Rawat Publications.

Black, Max ed. (1961). *Parsons Sociological Theory in The Social Theories of Talcott Parsons: A Critical Examination*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ. Prentice Hall. pp. 1-63.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.