

B.A. (H) Sociology
Discipline Specific Core (DSC) 11
Economic Sociology

Discipline Specific Core Course -11 (DSC-11) : Economic Sociology

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 11 Economic Sociology	4	3	1	0	12 th Class Pass	BA (H) DSC 01: Introduction to Sociology or equivalent course

Learning Objectives:

1. To familiarise students with the key concepts and theoretical perspectives in Economic Sociology.
2. To provide an understanding of the social and cultural bases of various dimensions of the economy such as production, distribution, exchange, consumption and markets.
3. To enable students to comprehend economic processes at all levels as embedded and interconnected.

Learning outcomes:

Students will be able to:

1. *Understand* the key concepts and theories of economic sociology as a specialised branch of knowledge.
2. *Identify* the diverse ways in which the economy is embedded in other aspects of society and culture.
3. *Use* sociological concepts and theories to understand and analyse the transformations of the economy and its key processes and institutions from a comparative perspective.
4. *Generate* research questions and arguments about the intersections of economy and society.

SYLLABUS OF DSC-11: Economic Sociology

Unit I: Introduction to Economic Sociology (15 hours)

This unit provides an understanding of the key concepts and theoretical perspectives of Economic Sociology as a specialised branch of knowledge.

- a. What is Economic Sociology?
- b. Perspectives in Economic Sociology

Unit II: Economic Action and its Locations (24 hours)

This unit provides an understanding of the various dimensions of economy such as production, distribution and consumption while highlighting their sociocultural bases.

- a. Production and its Logics
- b. Distribution and its Reach

Unit III: Contemporary Directions in Economic Sociology (6 hours)

This unit provides an understanding of the changing economic processes and institutions in contemporary times.

- a. Informal Economy
- b. Platform Society

Practical Component: NIL

Essential/Recommended Readings:

Unit I. Introduction to Economic Sociology (15 hours)

a. What is Economic Sociology

Martinelli, Alberto. 2023. 'The conception and definition of economic sociology' in *The Routledge International Handbook of Economic Sociology*. New York: Taylor & Francis, 2023. Pp. 57-74.

Portes, Alejandro. 2010. 'The Assumptions That Ground the Field' in *Economic Sociology: A Systematic Inquiry*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press. Chapter 2. Pp. 10-26.

b. Perspectives in Economic Sociology

Polanyi, Karl. 1992. 'Economy as an Instituted Process' in M. Granovetter and R. Swedberg (eds.) *The Sociology of Economic Life*. Colorado: West View Press. Pp. 27-50.

Granovetter, Mark. 1985. 'Economic Action and Social Structure: The Problem of Embeddedness'. *American Journal of Sociology*. 91(3). Pp. 481- 507.

Unit II: Economic Action and its Locations (24 hours)

a. Production and its Logics

Sahlins, Marshall. 2017. 'The Original Affluent Society' in *Stone Age Economics*. New York: Routledge. Chapter 1. Pp. 1-37.

Scott, James C. 1976. 'The Economics and Sociology of Subsistence Ethics' in *The Moral Economy of the Peasant: Rebellion and Subsistence in Southeast Asia*. Chapter 1. New Haven, Yale University press. Pp. 13-34.

Wallerstein, Immanuel. 1983. 'The Commodification of Everything: Production of Capital' in *Historical Capitalism*. London: Verso. Chapter 1. Pp. 13-46.

b. Distribution and its Reach

Mauss, Marcel. 1966. 'The Gifts and Obligation of Return Gift' and 'Distribution of the System: Generosity, Honour and Money' in *The Gift: Forms and Functions of Exchange in Archaic Societies*. (tr. Ian Cunnison). London: Cohen and West. Chapters. 1, 2. Pp. 1-46.

Patterson, Thomas C. 2005. 'Distribution and Redistribution' in James G. Carrier (ed.) *A Handbook of Economic Anthropology*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar. Pp. 194-209.

Weiss, Brad. 1996. 'Coffee Breaks and Coffee Connections: The Lived Experience of a Commodity in Tanzanian and European Worlds' in David Howes (ed.) *Cross-Cultural Consumption: Global Market, Local Realities*. London and New York: Routledge. Pp. 93-105.

Unit III: Contemporary Directions in Economic Sociology (6 hours)

a. Informal Economy

Light, Donald W. 2004. 'From Migrant Enclaves to Mainstream: Reconceptualizing Informal Economic Behaviour' in *Theory and Society*. 33(6). Pp. 705-737.

b. Platform Society

Dijk, Jose Van. et al. 2018. 'The Platform Society as a Contested Concept' in *The Platform Society: Public Values in a Connected World*. New York: Oxford University Press. Chapter 1, Pp. 1-30.

Suggested Readings:

Appadurai, A. 1986. *The Social Life of Things: Commodities in Cultural Perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Carrier, James G. 1995. *Gifts and Commodities*. London: Routledge.

DiMaggio, Paul. 2019. 'Cultural Aspects of Economic Action and Organization' in R. Friedland and A. F. Robertson (eds.) *Beyond the Market Place: Rethinking Economy and Society*. New York: Routledge. Pp. 113-136.

Graeber, David. 2001. *Toward an Anthropological Theory of Value: The False Coin of Our Own Dreams*. New York: Palgrave.

Hann, Chris and Keith Hart. 2011. *Economic Anthropology*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Hirst, Paul and G Thompson 1999. *Globalization in Question*. 2nd Edition. Cambridge, Oxford: Polity Press.

Sahlins, Marshal. 1974. *Stone Age Economics*. London: Tavistock.

Smelser, Neil. J. and Richard Swedberg. 2005. *The Handbook of Economic Sociology*. New York: Russel Sage Foundation.

Tonkiss, Fran. 2006. *Contemporary Economic Sociology*. London: Routledge.

Verdery, Katherine. 1996. *What Was Socialism, And What Comes Next?* New Jersey: Princeton University Press.

Zelizer, Viviana A. 1989. 'The Social Meaning of Money: Special Monies'. *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 95 (Sept.). Pp. 342-377.

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