

**B.A. (H) Sociology**  
**Discipline Specific Core (DSC) 15**  
**Understanding Ethnographies**

**Discipline Specific Core Course -15 (DSC-15) : Understanding Ethnographies**

**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 15 Understanding Ethnographies	4	3	1	0	12 <sup>th</sup> Class Pass	BA (H) DSC 03: Introduction to Sociological Research or equivalent course

**Learning Objectives:**

1. To familiarise students with ethnography as a genre of writing and representing sociological research.
2. To make them aware of the various issues involved in the process of ethnographic writing through a close reading of ethnographic texts.

**Learning outcomes:**

Students will be able to:

1. *Inculcate* interdisciplinary thinking between sociology, philosophy and literature, through reading classic and contemporary ethnographies.
2. *Understand* the construction and representation of the ethnographic field.
3. *Critically engage* with the research and data presented in ethnographic texts.

**SYLLABUS OF DSC-15:**

**Unit I: Ethnographic Enquiry and Representation (9 Hours)**

*This unit attempts to define ethnography and the construction of the research object.*

- a. What is Ethnography?
- b. Constructing the Ethnographic Object

**Unit II: Types of Ethnography (15 Hours)**

*This unit engages students with the many techniques involved in ethnographic research.*

- a. Fieldwork**
- b. Visual Ethnography**
- c. Digital Ethnography**
- d. Auto-ethnography**

**Unit III: Compulsory text for use in the syllabus (21 Hours)**

*This unit takes up a single ethnographic text to encourage students to build the patience to read, understand and critically analyse full-length texts that are often about another, unfamiliar culture, based on the premises outlined in the earlier sections.*

**Practical Component: NIL**

**Essential/Recommended Readings:**

**Unit I: Ethnographic Enquiry and Representation**

**a. What is Ethnography?**

Clifford, James and George E. Marcus, eds. 'Introduction' in *Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography: A School of American Research Advanced Seminar*. University of California Press, 1986. Pp. 1-19.

Nader, Laura. 'Ethnography as Theory' in *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 1, no. 1, 2011, Pp. 211-219.

Blasco, Paloma Gay, and Huon Wardle. 'Introduction' in *How to Read Ethnography*. Routledge, 2007. Pp. 1-12.

**b. Constructing the Ethnographic Object**

Kumar, Nita. *Friends, Brothers, and Informants: Fieldwork Memoirs of Banaras*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992. Chapter 2 and 22, Pp. 36-47 and 216-225.

**Unit II: Types of Ethnography**

**a. Fieldwork**

Srinivas, M.N. 'The Insider Versus the Outsider in the Study of Cultures.' In *Methodology and Fieldwork*. Edited by Vinay Kumar Srivastava. Oxford University Press, 2002. Pp. 413-420.

**b. Visual Ethnography**

Abraham, Janaki. 'Wedding Videos In North Kerala: Technologies, Rituals, And Ideas About Love And Conjugality' in *Visual Anthropology Review* 26.2 (2010), Pp. 116–127.

### **c. Digital Ethnography**

Pink, Sarah, Heather Horst, John Postill, Larissa Hjorth, Tania Lewis, and Jo Tacchi. 'Researching Experience' in *Digital Ethnography: Principles and Practice*. Sage Publications, 2016. Chapter 2: 19-39.

### **d. Auto-ethnography**

Narayan, Kirin. 'How Native is a 'Native' Anthropologist?.' in *American Anthropologist* 95, no. 3, 1993. Pp. 671-686.

## **Unit III: Compulsory text for use in the syllabus**

### **Option 1**

Mead, Margaret. *Coming of Age in Samoa: A Psychological Study of Primitive Youth for Western Civilization*. New York: Harper Collins, 1928.

### **Option 2**

Whyte, William Foote. *Street Corner Society: The Social Structure of an Italian Slum*. University of Chicago Press, 1943.

### **Option 3**

Taussig, Michael. *The Devil and Commodity Fetishism in South America*. Chapel Hill: University of Carolina Press, 2010 (1980).

### **Option 4**

Gold, A. G., Gujar, B. R. (2002). *In the Time of Trees and Sorrows: Nature, Power, and Memory in Rajasthan*. United Kingdom: Duke University Press.

In the Times of Trees and Sorrows

### **Suggested Readings:**

Srinivas, M. N. (1980). *The Remembered Village*. United Kingdom: University of California Press.

Viramma, Racine Josiane and Racine, Jean-Luc. *Viramma: Life of an Untouchable*. Translated by Will Hobson. Paris: Verso UNESCO Publishing, 1997.

Blasco, Paloma Gay, and Huon Wardle. *How to Read Ethnography*. Routledge, 2007.

Wulff, Helena. "Writing Anthropology". In *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Anthropology*, edited by Felix Stein, 2021.

Abu-Lughod, Lila. "Can there be a Feminist Ethnography?" *Women & Performance: A Journal of Feminist Theory* 5, no. 1, 1990: 7-27.

Alsop, Christiane Kraft. "Home and Away: Self-reflexive Auto-/ethnography." In *Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung/Forum: Qualitative Social Research*, vol. 3, no. 3, 2002: 1-18.

Buber, Martin. *I and Thou*. Hesperides Press, 2008.

Mines, Diane P., and Sarah Lamb, eds. *Everyday Life in South Asia*. USA: Indiana University Press, 2010. Chapter 17 and 18: 219-249.

Sarangapani, Padma M. *Constructing School Knowledge: An Ethnography of Learning in an Indian Village*. New Delhi: Sage Publications, 2003.

Winddance Twine, France. "Visual Ethnography and Racial Theory: Family Photographs as Archives of Interracial Intimacies." *Ethnic and racial studies* 29, no. 3, 2006: 487-511.

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